

City of Rock Springs)
County of Sweetwater)
State of Wyoming)

City Council met in special session on April 24, 2019. Mayor Timothy A. Kaumo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present included Councilors Glennise Wendorf, Keaton West, Tim Savage, Billy Shalata, Rob Zotti, and Jeannie Demas. Councilors David Halter and David Tate were absent from the meeting. Department heads present included Matthew L. McBurnett, Dave Lansang, Paul Kauchich, Jim Wamsley, and Dwane Pacheco. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Kaumo stated that to-date, there is about \$1.3 million left to balance the budget. Several budget increases have been submitted from outside agencies, and answers will hopefully surface tonight.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUESTS

Young-at-Heart Senior Center – \$92,700

Ryan Rust, Director of the Young at Heart Senior Center stated that the Center started in 1973, and since has expanded services to young children as well as disabled individuals. Meals on Wheels is still active and provides opportunity for socialization and for security that family members know their loved one is being checked on. The Center's In Home Services Program helps individuals remain in their own homes. The average cost of nursing homes is \$85,000 per year, at minimum, and Mr. Rust added that the Center hopes to keep its members out of nursing homes. This year, YAH is asking for 100% of utility repair and expenses, due to the fact that Wyoming was the most rapidly aging state in the nation in 2018. The hope to provide an increase in low cost, effective services that Young at Heart provides will help to serve this growing age group. Additional funding will be used to rebuild after recent year budgets being smaller than normal. Currently, \$1,500 per month is being saved on heating and cooling costs due to improvements being made, and recently the Rocky Mountain Power program was taken advantage of, which is saving on lighting costs. Mayor Kaumo stated that the possibility of asking for additional funding from the County Commissioners has been mentioned to the Sweetwater Board of County Commissioners, and that they seem supportive of additional funding. Ryan Rust stated that they have also increased their request by \$30,000 this year to the County Commissioners, so hopefully both increases will be successful. The reality is that 95% of patrons served at the Center are from Rock Springs. Councilor West stated that the request increased by \$7,000 between 2017-2018, and asked for an explanation. Mr. Rust replied that the HVAC system was replaced 4 years ago, which savings will not show in these budgets. Councilor Savage asked if money could be matched through federal grants, and Mr. Rust confirmed that with extra funding, a larger match must be provided for certain services. With an increasing need in our community, capitalizing on extra funding is important.

Community Fine Arts Center - \$25,400

Deborah Soule, Director of the Community Fine Arts Center stated that recently, there has been an increase in an average of patrons, which is up to 720 per month. Expanding the type of programming has been making a difference, as well as tours for elementary, college, and boy/girl scouts. By showing patrons through classes that they can create, it is working to help attract them to other parts of the Center. Performances that have been sponsored include Blues n' Brews and bands, a unique guitarist, an Irish group, and more. With ticket sales being successful, an additional performance has been added in May. The URA has been helpful with co-sponsoring events at the Broadway Theater. New this year is the small gift shop that focuses on local artists' work. This year is the 80th year for the school district art collection, which

started in 1939, so work is being done on that. Mayor Kaumo stated that he appreciates the work the Fine Arts Center does.

Rock Springs Library - \$23,085

Lindsey Travis, Assistant Library Director stated that the Library System's mission is to improve the quality of life in Sweetwater County. Request is for \$23,085, which does not have increases from last year. There are three categories to the request, the first category being Youth Services Programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, which is vital to prevent learning loss through the summer. The second category is building maintenance, such as repairing the HVAC system and plumbing issues, and the continual maintenance of the elevator. The third category is technology, which helps the library keep computers updated and accessible, as some patrons don't have internet at home. Approximately 8,000 patrons attend each library each month. Mayor Kaumo stated that the library is an anchor in Rock Springs and thanked her for the efforts made.

Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce and Sweetwater Economic Development Coalition - \$39,501 and \$30,000

Ben Hansen, Past President of the Rock Springs Chamber Board stated that Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce operates the Visitors center in Rock Springs, and that 26,000 people visited last year. The Chamber also does many things to educate and support the businesses in Rock Springs. Monthly luncheons and other events are put on by the Chamber to try to generate some funding for the Chamber on their own. The Chamber is asking the same amount that was funded last year, which will cover a little less than 10% of expenditures for the year. Cindy Bailey, Current President of the Chamber Board added that the marquis is active and that maintenance and repair on it is expensive, along with the flag maintenance. Mayor Kaumo thanked the Chamber for their service and stated that the big flag on Dewar Drive will be fixed tomorrow, April 25, 2019.

Kayla McDonald, the Business Development Manager for the Sweetwater Economic Development Coalition, stated that this year is a smaller request than past years. This funding will continue to facilitate efforts with retail and restaurant development, and other initiatives. National Economic Development Week is coming up in May, which the SEDC will celebrate for the whole month of May. Councilor West stated that there are rumors that SEDC may split from the Chamber, and that if this is true, asked where the funding would stay. Ms. McDonald stated that it will stay with the SEDC. Cindy stated that the Board is open to the SEDC staying or going, and added that the Chamber is primarily a funding mechanism, and that the SEDC is mostly separate, except in extreme cases. Mayor Kaumo stated that the board will be comprised of 2 members from Rock Springs and Green River, and 3 from Sweetwater County, and that job descriptions will be reviewed, and that there will be other efforts made to make it an official board.

STAR Transit Authority - \$42,911

STAR Transit is requesting the same amount as last year, which is 19.5% of matching funds needed to secure federal dollars, and 10% to Green River and 60% from Sweetwater County. 82% of the patrons either go to Rock Springs from Green River, or stay in Rock Springs. There were 49,000 rides given in 2018. Councilor Shalata asked whether the maintenance was done on the buses by the City, and Ms. Owens confirmed that they do the maintenance, but STAR pays for it.

Sweetwater Events Complex - \$60,000

Kandi Pendleton with the Sweetwater Events Complex stated that the Complex has an annual economic impact of \$10,155,000, excluding national events. Ms. Pendleton added that a new annual Barrel Racing event will take place over Memorial Day weekend and will last for 4 days, which will bring attendees from 6 surrounding states. The fair takes place annually in August, and 26% are visiting from out of the county and are spending, on average, \$85 per sale. Much time and money is spent by the Complex to recruit large events. It was stated that the direct return for horse racing is estimated to be \$500,000.00 at the end of fiscal year end 2019. In order to keep a simulcast license, there must be 16 race dates, currently there are 9 events scheduled in Evanston and 7 events in Rock Springs. Councilor Wendorf asked when volunteer opportunities would be sent out for the National High School Finals Rodeo, and Kandi stated that those would be sent out by the middle of May.

Red Desert Roundup Rodeo - \$12,000

Kari Wilkinson, Sponsorship Director for the Red Desert Roundup Rodeo, stated that the Rodeo is a non-profit organization, made-up of only 8 volunteers and that 2019 will be the 42nd rodeo. The event is for all ages and there is a golf tournament and a parade in addition to the rodeo. Additional funds are being requested to provide affordable entertainment for the community. The 5K run and mini broncs have been cut from the event due to cost. The National High School Finals Rodeo years put strain on the Red Desert Roundup Rodeo's event, so with this being a National High School Finals Rodeo year, an increase has been submitted. Councilor Shalata asked about attendance, and Ms. Wilkinson stated that in 2018, there were 1,800 tickets sold and usually fluctuates due to National High School Finals Rodeo.

Treatment Court of Sweetwater County - \$7,000

Augusta Davis, Leader for Treatment Court of Sweetwater County, stated that court attendance numbers have more than doubled, and a system has been established for multi-disciplinary partnerships. Theresa Thibo, prosecutor assigned to Treatment Court and President of the Foundation Board, stated that Treatment Court creates active and productive members of the community. Laura Schmidt-Pizzato, Treasurer, stated that there is a small increase in the request this year, because there have been some deficiencies with treatment, as an example, currently there are 22 funded slots and there are 32 actually in the program. It was added that opioid addiction is a growing problem in our community. Councilor Demas asked how the patients are categorized, and it was discussed that methamphetamine and alcohol are the largest contributors, as 8 of 30 were recently in court for an opioid addiction. Councilor Savage asked how many people go through the program in the average year. Laura stated that there has been a large rise in program participants and that the program runs from 12-18 months, so years overlap with program requirements. Councilor Shalata stated that alcohol, methamphetamine, opioids were mentioned, but asked whether there are program participants with marijuana addiction by itself. It was discussed that with multiple addictions, marijuana is generally present, but not usually by itself. Chief Dwane Pacheco stated that when relapsing, the City pays \$85 per day for incarceration, and that treatment court is the way to go. Judge Scott Nelson stated that the amount contributed to the treatment court is worth it and that the money goes to a good cause.

Joint Powers Combined Communications Board - \$1,415,202.93

Rick Hawkins, Director of the Joint Powers Combined Communications Center stated that their request is subject to being a public safety answering point in Sweetwater County. The Center is valuable to the citizens because it is a 24 hour center, and that they have partnered with other businesses to reduce costs of towers, among other things. The costs are paid on a pro-rated basis by the Cities of Rock Springs, Green River, and Sweetwater County. The increase is 16.6%, of which, 14% is related to the move of the backup communication center to the new County Complex. The remaining 2.6% is to implement a salary scale for employees. Councilor Zotti asked if next year's request will be lower than this year, since the move is a one-time cost. Mr. Hawkins stated that there is no guarantee that the request will be lower, since reserves

are currently being used for this purpose. Mayor Kaumo asked Mr. Hawkins to explain the cost of the move to the new Communications Center and whether this is the responsibility of the City of Rock Springs to pay for the move. Mr. Hawkins stated that the Commissioners seem to be positive regarding paying for the move, and that the Commissioners asked that their budget requests be submitted separately, one for their regular request and one for the move itself. Councilor Savage asked what the biggest expense is of moving the equipment, and Mr. Hawkins stated that it's not only the move, it's an upgrade because this equipment is at the end of its life. Councilor West asked Mr. Hawkins to confirm the amount of reserves being \$1.3 million, and that they are being tapped into, and asked Mr. Hawkins to explain. He stated that the reserve account would drop to \$525,000 to pay for the move now, and that the \$1.3 million amount is a bit more than 90 days of operating expenses in case of emergency. Mayor Kaumo stated that WyoLink is also making improvements and asked whether it may be expected that the City help with WyoLink's improvements. Chief Dwane Pacheco stated that the Public Safety Commission is trying to find other funding mechanisms so that surcharges are not passed to cities and towns. Discussion ensued regarding surcharges for communications. It was discussed whether the request is binding, and discussion took place regarding the possibility of negotiating the request.

Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport - \$261,819

Devon Brubaker, Director of the Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport, discussed paperwork in the Airport's budget that was handed out to the Governing Body. The Air Service Funding does not go directly to the Airport, it goes to the County and the County remits payment to the airline. Every line item request is decreased this year, with a total decrease adding up to 12.6%. Operating revenues are expected to increase in the near future. A lease to own agreement has been agreed upon by the Board to purchase a new fuel truck. A 3% adjustment on the step and grade scale has been proposed for employees, which would be \$.66 per hour per employee, which has not been done for a few years. The Airport has reduced their request over the past years and hopes to become self-sustained in the future. Air Service funding is decreasing by 8.8%, with an increase in flights, which is positive. The conceptual design phase for the new commercial terminal is nearing completion. Mayor Kaumo asked whether the County Commissioners will be contributing their portion, and Mr. Brubaker stated that they will hear the request at their May 7 meeting.

Rock Springs Recycling Center - \$189,000

Devon Brubaker, President of the Rock Springs Recycling Center Board stated that there has been a request submitted to the Solid Waste District Board to use the full amount of mill levy available to it to fund the Center. With that, a request has been presented to the Governing Body this evening in the full amount that is needed to keep the Center open. In 2018, 1.253 million pounds of product were processed, and this year it is projected to be 1.5 million pounds. Mr. Brubaker hopes to find a reliable, level source of funding so that grant funding can be pursued. Mayor Kaumo stated that he is thankful that the Solid Waste District Board is trying to get the Center through the fiscal year and that they understand the importance of keeping the Center open, with recyclables staying out of the landfill. Councilor Shalata asked what the response was of the Solid Waste District Board to the request to increase the mill levy. Mr. Brubaker stated that Solid Waste District Board explained the mill levy expands past the City of Rock Springs, and that the Center only serves citizens of Rock Springs. Mr. Brubaker clarified that there are recyclables dropped off on a regular basis from the Farson/Eden area, along with other outlying areas. He stated that anyone who has an interest in the solid waste field should get together and think big to combine efforts. Councilor West stated that he is concerned about the general attitude and that relationships must be maintained in order to keep funding active with the Solid Waste District Board. Mr. Brubaker responded that there were accusations made at the Solid Waste District Board meeting that he did not agree with.

RECESS

Mayor Kaumo stated that there will be a 10 minute recess at 7:49 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Kaumo called the meeting back to order at 7:59 p.m.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

Municipal Court

Mayor Kaumo stated that the Municipal Court Budget is fairly straightforward.

Parks & Recreation

Councilor West asked about the golf carts that were replaced last summer, and whether there is a reserve for \$40,000 for carts this upcoming fiscal year. Dave Lansang, Director of Parks & Recreation stated that the replacement schedule for golf carts is every 7 years, so the Parks & Recreation department is starting right away with a reserve account to be prepared for a fleet rollover. Matthew L. McBurnett, Director of Administrative Services, stated also that a lease was contemplated, but that it made more sense to pay from reserves and replace the money as time goes on. Councilor Zotti asked about the golf simulator that is currently in the budget for purchase in the amount of \$50,000, to which Mr. Lansang replied that this is a possibility for something that would be a resource to the golf population during the off-season. It is hoped that this will generate revenue and improve facilities and offerings. With charges estimated to be \$15-20 per person, it would pay for itself, and there are plans by the Civic Center programs division for leagues to be created and tournaments conducted.

Engineering & Operations

Mayor Kaumo outlined the consulting & technical line item, which includes necessary GIS updates. Paul Kauchich, Director of Engineering/Operations & Public Services stated that any of the Governing Body can contact him at any time with budget questions. Mr. McBurnett added that there will be many opportunities to ask questions about the budget. Mr. Kauchich included details about equipment, equipment replacement, and storm sewer/water line installation projects. The possibility of treating storm sewer systems as an enterprise account was discussed. Councilor Shalata asked what the sixth penny overage money will be spent on. Mayor Kaumo replied that the Bitter Creek is a main focus, and starting on Phase I would be realistic for obtaining SLIB funding and possibly using the overage money on.

Fire Department

A Feasibility Study is proposed for Police and Fire, as well as a remodel of Fire Department Headquarters.

Police Department

As with the Fire Department, a Feasibility Study is proposed for Police and Fire. New equipment was discussed. Sweetwater County purchased radios from the Rock Springs Police Department and as payment, prisoner boarding fees will be credited through December of 2019.

Finance & Administrative Services

Mr. McBurnett discussed the Council Chambers audio upgrade, which is in the works. Equipment requests come from other departments, which are located in the Information Technology budget. The Historical

Museum is in need of building upgrades, and the Urban Renewal Agency is asking for a permanent part time position.

OPEN DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS

Madhu Anderson, a resident of Rock Springs, discussed the cost of lethal injections vs. gas chambers. Ms. Anderson added that overtime is paid for staff to clean kennels and not to purchase humane drugs for animals. Discussion ensued regarding different techniques for euthanasia and gas chambers and the efforts being made at Animal Control with a spay and neuter program, which should reduce euthanasia rates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

By: _____
Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor