

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

City Council met in special session on July 23, 2019. Mayor Timothy A. Kaumo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present included Councilors Glennise Wendorf, Keaton West, David Halter, Billy Shalata, Rob Zotti, and Jeannie Demas. Councilors Tim Savage and David Tate were absent from the meeting. Department heads present included Matthew L. McBurnett, Dave Lansang, Paul Kauchich, and Richard Beckwith. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Kaumo welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Councilor West. Councilor West went over the timeline and process for the specific purpose ballot process and welcomed everyone. Councilor West stated that we will give each of the entities an opportunity to speak, starting with the incorporated municipalities with the least populated first and then open it up for any outside agencies.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE TAX DISCUSSION

Town of Bairoil

Sue Ann Rigano, Mayor of the Town of Bairoil stated that they missed out on the last round of 6th cent projects and there are some they would still like to pursue including the paving of a truck route and water and sewer issues. Councilor West asked if they had any cost estimate for those projects. Mayor Rigano stated that last time it was \$1.7 million for the road. For a new water tank it may be \$350,000. Also, old sewer lines have had breaks and need repairs.

Town of Granger

Starr Sloan, Clerk/Treasurer from the Town of Granger stated that the Mayor couldn't attend. Granger is going to focus on infrastructure. Previous specific purpose tax funded a level 4 wastewater treatment plant. They struggle with maintenance of the plant and have infrastructure needs including a backwash pond replacement/repair and intake pipeline from the Green River, fencing and security around the plant and a tank with security/controls. Bulk water station relocation is necessary. Sewer lagoon needs updated. Town of Granger owns lots of lands and can't find surveys and it needs them done in case they want to sell land. Need a back hoe and skid steer. County road 16 needs to be raised and elevated in two areas to help with ice jamb flood protection. Need continued maintenance for previous and current 6th penny projects. Water treatment plant is in bad shape. They are spending the last of 6th penny money to fix that. Mayor Kaumo summarized the requests and stated that the tax can't be used for operations and maintenance. Ms. Sloan stated that they were aware of that. She also forgot to mention that they want to look at paving. Focus is on infrastructure. Granger doesn't provide services. Heavy focus on investors providing services. Councilor West asked if there was a cost estimate. Ms. Sloan stated that they estimate it to be \$10 million plus. Have to have services before you can have population boom.

Town of Superior

Dominic Wolf, Mayor of Superior stated they were looking for a few extra roads because school buses have trouble sometimes. Sewer lagoon upgrades could be needed, as well. Water operations needs new plumbing and valves, but hopeful AML will approve grants for those projects. No cost estimate for projects yet. Mayor Kaumo asked if road upgrade would be north or south of superior. Mayor Wolf stated that it is the

road off of Main Street up the hill. Mayor Kaumo asked if they were working on pathway. Mayor Wolf stated that WYDOT is doing that.

Town of Wamsutter

Joseph Erickson, Mayor of Wamsutter stated that they have a large list of projects that their general fund can't cover. Town shop needs to be finished. There is an industry loop that needs concrete and repaving work. Water and sewer projects need to be upgraded. Need to expand and do town hall upgrades. Need garage for ambulances. Need money for a rec center. Two bathrooms that need upgrades. Could use a loader and dump truck to move sand. Councilor West asked for cost estimates. Mayor Erickson stated that it would be around \$10 million dollars. Councilor Shalata asked what the population of Wamsutter is. Mayor Erickson stated that Wamsutter fluctuated because of energy projects. There are around 800 or so, now. If they had something that was more community involved, they would get people to stay in their community.

City of Green River

Mayor Kaumo thanked Pete Rust, Mayor of Green River for getting individuals together to start this process. Mayor Rust, stated that he was the one to start the discussion and start this process and he feels that some of the Mayors are at a disadvantage because he thought that this would be an informal meeting between the Mayors and something like this meeting would be the next meeting. He wasn't prepared to discuss the projects and his council hasn't gotten together to discuss them. One of the projects they always talk about is a \$30 million sewer plant that in four years will be \$40 million, have rec center that is old and hasn't been remodeled in a long time. They have lots of projects and he hasn't talked to council about them. Thought they were going to be in quiet room and just get to know each other a little bit. Other people were not invited. Doesn't want conflict between Rock Springs and Green River, however this wasn't what he was expecting. Not going to represent what City of Green River would want. In their form of government, the City Administrator deals with day to day needs. He would have him and the public works director to discuss projects. No new funding tools came out of legislature. Green River's road systems are badly in need. Maintenance hasn't existed in last five years. Mayor Kaumo said people aren't expected to have numbers together tonight. Just getting an idea of what projects are out there and what the process is. The intention is for cities and towns to meet with their respective with councils and then come back for another meeting. Councilor West stated that he just wants to be open about it and during the last 6th cent discussions, the County Commissioners were in the dark a little bit. He thought that it would be better to get it in the open. Mayor Rust stated that anything to start out is a good step. Councilor Zotti asked when he would be prepared to have something. Mayor Rust stated that it would be a couple of weeks. Councilor Wendorf asked if these were new projects or a continuation of existing projects. Mayor Rust stated that pretty much all were new. Plans are to have a street inventory to determine what roads need work next. The rec center is one that has come back. The Green River Chamber has members of management for Trona. Discussed that it is important to cover quality of life issues in order to recruit employees. Project discussion should involve industry.

City of Rock Springs

Mayor Kaumo stated that we have some preliminary ideas from council and staff running at about \$25 million. \$4 million for the water reclamation facility to eliminate smell, which would be number one project. Construct detention basins on northeast end Rock Springs for \$2 million, which will take care of flood control. Many miscellaneous sewer projects for about \$5 million, water projects for about \$5 million, and storm water projects for \$5 million dollars. College drive widening project about \$2 million and Dewar drive widening project for \$1.5 million. A grant for the bitter creek project is coming up shortly. City of Rock Springs is still having discussion about what is needed. County Commissioners will decide the ballot

items. Councilor West stated that infrastructure has taken a toll on these requests, and that he would like to see quality of life projects to improve the entrances to Rock Springs. Councilor Zotti stated that we need to set what we need to get out of this meeting, and asked what entities out there need projects. He stated that figuring out how to present this to the County Commissioners would be next. Councilor West said that he thought prioritizing the list would be good. Bonding is another issue that they will need to discuss.

YWCA

Melinda Baas, executive director for the YWCA stated that they are trying to expand their child care, because there is not much child care in community. The YWCA can only take eight infants. Came to City because 90% of property is owned by City. Would like to expand ability to take in more children. After school program is biggest need. Have to borrow space from Overland school to take older children. Can only take 13 in building. Started with siblings and what to do with them. Boys & Girls club is great service, but they have limit and they fill up fast. If doubled, could take in 16 infants and offer a sliding fee scale. Funds availability is limited because of this. Ms. Baas went over a diagram of buildings, and then showed rate charts. Very costly to care for infants because of staff needed. Talked about benefits of early education. Mayor Kaumo stated that we need contact information for everyone to maintain communication. Ms. Baas said cost would be \$3.5 million for building and \$4 million if furnishings are included. Councilor Shalata asked what estimates would be on operations. Ms. Baas stated that after school programs could offset costs of infants. Talking about 158 kids up from 74. Have ability to look for other sources. The YWCA does all maintenance on the building other than landscaping.

Sweetwater Events Complex

Kandi Pendleton from the Sweetwater Events complex stated that their project would normally come through commission, but that they want to renovate their current building. Remodel is very expensive. Need second water tap and estimate would be about \$1.1 million. They would like to modernize the Exhibit Hall to compete with other venues. Indoor Arena has two plans to renovate existing arena or putting second arena out there. In total looking at \$20 to \$24 million. Basic estimate at this point. Separate from water tap. Mayor Kaumo stated that he was sad that project has failed in past. Just approached by potential land donor if City would sponsor building. Would support expansion project. Ms. Pendleton stated that renovation would work well because it is in a good location.

Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport

Devon Brubaker from the airport stated that the terminal is the priority of sixth cent funding. Would need funding if federal funding is not approved. Would need around \$5 million if federal funding is not approved. Total cost for project would be around \$18 million dollars. To do anymore expansion at airport, they have to do \$500,000 in improvements to gas line. The airport would also like to be included in any water or sewer related projects related to the area around the airport.

Recycling Center

Devon Brubaker stated that he would like to work with various entities to determine how to regionalize recycling in the area. The Recycling Center lends itself to quality of life issues. Want to make sure recycling is on the list so they can be part of the conversation as it relates to specific purpose tax funding.

General discussion regarding steps forward

Councilor West stated that the City of Rock Springs does not carry the purse for this. It takes two thirds of communities to move forward. Next step would be to go back to communities to determine priorities.

Representative Clark Stith stated that he served as liaison to 6th cent board before. Want to squeeze as much value as possible out of this. Bonding for the 2013 specific purpose tax raised \$92 million, \$6 million of that went to pay for underwriting fees, legal fees, and interest. Projects didn't move quite as fast as expected and money could have been saved if a pay as you go approach had been taken. Bonding makes sense if you have an emergency need to have money upfront. Please consider bitter creek project as part of ballot because SLIB board won't be able to afford to do the whole project. Long-term, economic development needs to be considered, so we may want to consider a portion of sales tax for that purpose. Councilor West stated that bonding had been discussed towards the end of the 2013 board meetings. He suggested setting up a future meeting. Mayor Kaumo tallied what we do have as about \$120 million, which could change. This gives idea of what a valuable tool this is and importance of next meeting. Discussed handout which related to the process going forward and how projects would be handled. Mayor Kaumo discussed having next meeting and suggested having a change in venue. Dates were discussed and it was decided that the next meeting would be August 27th at 4:00 p.m., at the Sweetwater Events Complex. Councilor Zotti suggested communities look at urgency of projects to determine if bonding is necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

By: _____
Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor