

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

City Council met in special session on August 27, 2019 at the Sweetwater Events Complex. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present included Councilors Glennise Wendorf, Keaton West, David Halter, Billy Shalata, Rob Zotti, Tim Savage, and Jeannie Demas. Councilor David Tate was absent from the meeting. Department heads present included Matthew L. McBurnett, Dave Lansang, Jim Wamsley, Paul Kauchich, and Richard Beckwith. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Town, City, County Presentations of Their Individual Proposed Sixth Penny Projects**

**Bairoil**

Bairoil is requesting \$4,500,000, an increase from \$2 million, which includes valve replacements and major street replacements. There are portions of concrete sinking, which need to be fixed. An AML grant was applied for in the amount of \$620,000, and if not successful, is included in the new total.

**Granger**

Granger has 6 projects and the total is \$8,773,886. The Hams Fork River Extension is part of the request and it was 60% complete, but was tabled due to lack of funds. Another project is compliance related, as their detention pond is not compliant according DEQ standards. A free-standing staircase needs to be installed to access their potable water tank. Water meter replacements need to be done, which are aging and don't work as well anymore. Street paving/curbing is needed – a project was done recently and the contractor did not leave the street in the condition it was in prior to the project.

**Green River**

Reed Clevenger, City Administrator for Green River, stated that infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life basics are all included as part of their request. There has been a major downturn in the past 5 years, which means that funding is still not sufficient to take care of road replacement, sewer replacement, recreation center updates, and more. The request has been pared down to meet prioritized needs, which totals \$84,790,000. This includes 2/3 of the cost of the sewer replacement plant, street replacements, a Parks & Recreation facility, and cast iron/line replacements during the street replacement to improve water infrastructure.

**Rock Springs**

Mayor Kaumo stated that Rock Springs has already appointed a liaison for our Specific Purpose Tax Committee, Keaton West. Mr. West stated that there are infrastructure requests such as a \$4 million Water Reclamation Facility odor control and improvement project, a \$2.5 million project for the Northeast Detention Basins, \$5 million to miscellaneous sewer projects, \$5 million to miscellaneous water projects, \$5 million to miscellaneous storm water projects, \$2 million for a College Drive widening project, \$1.5 million for a Dewar Drive widening project, and \$15.8 million for the East Belt Route Phase I project, which includes a Century parking lot project. Rock Springs' total request is \$40,800,000.

**Reliance**

It was stated that 10 years ago Reliance was informed by the DEQ that the wastewater system is in disrepair, and that it requires significant annual maintenance to continue operating. DEQ has identified several problems with the lagoon system that Reliance utilizes, and repairs are required to bring it up to regulatory requirements. This project has been mandated by the DEQ. Reliance's total request is \$3,700,000. Mayor Kaumo asked who Reliance is requesting to be the sponsor of the project. The Reliance representative stated that he is not sure who the sponsor should be. It was decided that Sweetwater County should be the sponsor.

### **Superior**

The Superior representative stated that the road project going up Sage Street has been removed from the request. One project on the list is a pond for discharges. BLM awarded the land for the project, but it has not been completed. The estimate for this project is \$160,000. Another project is to drill two new wells for public water, to include casing and pumps, as the two original wells are aging. Well project is \$320,000. Total request is \$480,000.

### **Wamsutter**

The Wamsutter representative stated that the Maintenance Shop has settling issues that must be handled, the industrial loop needs to be re-paved, water and sewer must be upgraded, a new Fire Hall and Ambulance Barn must be built, Rec Center and Town Hall Library facility, employee housing is needed, as well as new equipment. Wamsutter's total request is \$21,985,566.

### **City/County Organizations Presentations of Their Individual Proposed Sixth Penny Projects**

#### **Sweetwater Events Complex**

Lena Warren, Sweetwater Events Complex requested a new water tap from the City, a new indoor arena, renovation of the exhibit hall to extend the front and the back. Total request is \$24,000,000. Mayor Rust asked who the sponsor would be for this project, and Ms. Warren stated that it would be the County.

#### **Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport**

Devon Brubaker, Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport, handed out a copy of the Commercial Terminal Modernization Project, stated that there is \$3,360,000 needed to complete the project. Mr. Brubaker stated that the Airport is expecting the City of Rock Springs to sponsor this project. Councilor Rob Zotti asked if the \$3.36 million is also dependent upon the grant monies being awarded, and how certain is the airport to receive the funds. What happens if the funds are not awarded from the FAA. Mr. Brubaker stated that they will know for sure by March of 2020 whether the grant monies will be awarded. He added that there is a prior precedent established by previous funding of terminals in our area.

#### **Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County**

Irene Richardson, Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, stated that the building is over 41 years old, and infrastructure is aging. Request will include deferred maintenance. Project total is \$10,000,000. Sponsor will be the County. This would leave options to expand dialysis, medical imaging. Expansion plus infrastructure would total \$20 million. Commissioner Lauren Schoenfeld asked for a list of the projects that have been deferred.

#### **YWCA**

Melinda Baas, YWCA, stated that the City of Rock Springs owns the property that the facility sits on. Serving needs of the community for child care necessitates expansion. A proposed project would be to expand the facility where Springland Pool sits today, which is not in use. Grant funding is being researched as well. Project will total \$3,500,000. There is no engineering diagram drawn up yet, but will be done next. The City will be the sponsor of the project, as it sits on City property.

### **Heather Anderson**

Heather Anderson, a private citizen in Rock Springs, would like to put together a multi-use facility that would be adjacent to the Family Recreation Center. The vision for the project is similar to the Fieldhouse in Laramie, but smaller. It is a quality of life issue. Practices, tracks, classes would be in the facility. Aging recreation areas are in need of supplemental facilities for accommodate sports and recreational activities. Estimates and options have been done. Total cost is \$13 million. Mayor Kaumo asked if for all of these costs during these presentations, if everyone is taking into account the architecture, engineering, and design costs. Ms. Anderson stated that her project in particular does include all of those costs. Keaton West asked if there were any fields designed in this project, Ms. Anderson stated that the design could be re-done to include turf instead of courts, and that it would be accommodating to seniors who have trouble accessing facilities as it is. Mr. West stated that he has an idea of using Lincoln School as a consideration for this project and to see what the School District is thinking. Ms. Anderson stated that combining efforts would be favorable, if it is for everyone and not just school sports activities. Discussion took place regarding court shortages. Ms. Schoenfeld asked if the facility would be connected to the Rec Center what staffing would look like, and Ms. Anderson stated that it would be the City Parks & Recreation staff. Mayor Kaumo stated that one additional maintenance and janitorial person would be hired, and that the Recreation Programs Superintendent feels that this would be successful. Grant information is not available until there is funding secured. Teaming up with the school district was discussed. \$150,000 per year is estimated as a cost to the City for operations & maintenance.

### **Discussion/Appointment of Each Town/City/County's Representatives to Sixth Penny Committee**

Mayor Rust stated that each governmental entity must appoint their own representative as part of the Specific Purpose Tax Committee. A finalized list must be put together soon. Mayor Kaumo stated that total request for all entities and organization is currently \$228,889,452. Councilor West asked how long should the people be taxed, and with this total, it would take 12 years. Lisa Maes, Councilor for Green River, stated that her constituents were upset when the last specific purpose tax projects didn't go through, because they know that this is what fixes their streets and completes big projects.

Councilor Zotti stated that governmental entities are asking our constituents to pay a very large amount of money in tax for citizens and that communities need to start taking a closer look at what is being requested. Gary Killpack, Councilor for Green River, asked who decides what projects are on the list. Commissioner Schoenfeld confirmed that the County will decide what projects are on the ballot. Discussion took place regarding what the citizens will feel is important to be on the ballot and long term cause and effect of building new facilities will be. The County must agree with the amount of time that citizens will be taxed on the total amount requested. Commissioner Schoenfeld replied that the information will be passed on to the Commissioners for their consideration and to pare down the list as much as possible. Discussion took place regarding revenue streams and the priorities for each city and town and the catching up that must be done to recover from budget cuts coming from the State Legislature in past years. Generational differences were discussed and what is currently expected from the average-aged voter in each community.

Mayor Kaumo encouraged discussion amongst each governing body to discuss the outside agency requests that were presented today, and find out from the Commission what would be acceptable for term lengths and request amounts.

Re-organization of requests was discussed, to be split into infrastructure priorities and quality of life priorities.

Mayor Kaumo asked about bonding and if everyone agrees with the process. Different bonding options were discussed.

A follow-up meeting was scheduled with representatives of each entity for September 10, 2019 at 5 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor