

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF WORLAND

February 16, 2016

A regular meeting of the City Council of Worland, Wyoming convened in the Council Chambers in City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 16, 2016. Mayor Dave Duffy presided and the Councilmembers in attendance were: Loresa Brinkerhoff, Bud Callaham, Jim Gill, Michele Rideout, Mandy Horath, Marcus Sanchez, Lisa Fernandez, Dennis Koch and Keith Gentzler (via telephone). Also present were: Superintendent of Public Works, Brian Burky; City Attorney, Kent Richins; Airport Manager, Lynn Murdoch; City Engineer Representative, Mike Donnell; Chief of Police, Gabe Elliott and Clerk/Treasurer, Tracy Glanz.

There were nine (9) visitors present for this meeting of the City Council.

Tayleigh Widdison, Pheobe Fowler, Natalie Bishop, Imogen McCarney and Ashlyn Hamer with Daisy Troop #1181 led the Council and Visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Duffy declared a quorum present and asked for review and approval of the agenda.

Motion: to approve the agenda.

By: Councilmember Rideout.

Second by: Councilmember Koch.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously

The minutes of the February 2, 2016 regular meeting were approved as published.

Motion: to approve all vouchers and authorize payment for payroll, utility charges, refunds for City Services, recording fees, postage and other miscellaneous items, during the month of February, before normal City Council approval on the first Tuesday of March and approve the Consent Agenda with Council Work Session Minutes for February 8, 2016 and Payroll Voucher for period ending January 31, 2016; PAYROLL 1/31/16 - \$66,396.17.

By: Councilmember Callaham.

Second by: Councilmember Rideout.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #831 was presented for third and final reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WORLAND, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING, PERTAINING TO THE SANITATION AND SPRAY FEE SCHEDULES BY AMENDING SECTION 11-16 OF THE WORLAND CITY CODE. ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE HEREBY REPEALED.

Motion: to pass, approve and adopt Ordinance #831 on third and final reading.

By: Councilmember Callaham.

Second by: Councilmember Koch.

Vote: Members voting AYE: Koch, Gentzler, Brinkerhoff, Sanchez, Callaham, Duffy, Horath, Fernandez, Gill; Members voting NAY: Rideout; Members ABSTAINING: None; the motion passed by a vote of 9-1-0.

Ordinance #832 was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WORLAND, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING, PERTAINING TO CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS BY REPEALING, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE WORLAND CITY CODE. ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE HEREBY REPEALED.

City Attorney Kent Richins explained that this Ordinance is to clean up the parking ordinance by eliminating sections that are outdated and clarifying definitions. Discussion followed about inoperable vehicle determination; Chief of Police Gabe Elliott stated that this part of the ordinance deals with abandoned vehicles not inoperable due to a flat tire. The police department will work with residents to make sure that the ordinance is followed without issuing citations.

Motion: to approve Ordinance #832 on first reading.

By: Councilmember Horath.

Second by: Councilmember Sanchez.

Vote: Members voting AYE: Koch, Brinkerhoff, Sanchez, Callaham, Duffy, Horath, Fernandez, Gill, Rideout; Members voting NAY: None; Members ABSTAINING: Gentzler; the motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1.

Mayor Duffy brought up the idea of the city extending the decorative lights from 10th Street to 15th Street in conjunction with a WYDOT project to rebuild the curbs and curb cuts in that area. If the City decided to put in the decorative lights, then it would be paid for by the city and Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) would not put in any lights. The cost per light could be as high as \$10,000.00 or \$100,000.00 per block. The Council agreed by consensus that the project is cost prohibitive.

Mayor Duffy presented Resolution #2016-2:

CITY OF WORLAND, WYOMING

FEBRUARY 16, 2016

RESPONSE TO:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE PROPOSING TERMINATION OF
ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE ELIGIBILITY DOT-OST-1997-2981

Resolution 2016-2

WHEREAS: This order to show cause, under the heading 'Passenger Traffic and Subsidiary History' states, "Great Lakes has served the community for many years and under the current contract since October 1, 2014." The City of Worland agrees and adds that enplanements and deplanements in fiscal years 2004 through 2013 averaged approximately 5,575 passengers per year. The numbers were never less than 3900 (yr. 2005) and peaked at about 7,050 (yr. 2008). Worland Passengers continued flying during the "Great Recession". The annual passenger

count declined approximately 45% in fiscal year 2013/2014 and nearly the same amount in fiscal year 2014/2015 but not because community members stopped flying. And,

WHEREAS: USDOT data tables depict Worland's subsidy per passenger of \$335 in 2013 and \$463 in 2014 then rising significantly to \$1,100 in 2015. The decline in air carrier on-time performance and reliability began before expiration of the EAS contract in 2014. We expressed our concerns verbally to the USDOT in advance of the bidding and subsequent carrier selection in 2014. Only one other carrier expressed interest in serving Worland. And,

WHEREAS: Service to Worland Municipal Airport deteriorated markedly after the compliance date of the FAA rule requiring 1500 hours for First Officers - August 1, 2013. The industry standard for completion of scheduled flights is 97%. Our current carrier is well below standard at 75%. Their On-time performance average is just 58%. Contractually, the optimum number of flights the carrier should provide during the month of March 2016 is sixty-two. The City of Worland holds a list of the pre-cancellations from the carrier. Great Lakes pre-cancelled thirty flights and indicates one late arrival and subsequent late departure; half the optimum. And,

WHEREAS: The decline was evident in scheduled cancellations, cancellations without notice, inbound flights terminated part way to Worland. Examples include passengers stranded in Denver or Riverton and forced to find their own way home; passengers found flights cancelled when they arrived at check in; cancellations without sufficient warning to make other arrangements; passengers missed connecting flights. Inbound passengers tell of confirming connecting flights to Worland prior to initial departure and discovering in Denver that Great Lakes cancelled the Riverton-Worland leg of their journey. Passengers reported more than a day's delay. And,

WHEREAS: The FAA's implementation of the 1500 hour rule led to elimination of ten of nineteen seats in response to the pilot shortage. Revenue dropped fifty-three percent but costs were not similarly reduced. Grossly inadequate service further reduced the number of passengers. Revenue declined impacting the subsidy cost per passenger. And,

WHEREAS: The EAS program was initiated to ensure that smaller communities would retain a link to the national air transportation system. USDOT Essential Air Service documents say the primary criteria for carrier selection is service reliability. Travelers in the Worland area continue to fly but they fly from airports served by more reliable carriers. And,

WHEREAS: The loss of reliable service is the principal reason for the reduction in passengers at Worland and an important factor in the increase in subsidy cost per passenger. We believe commercial air service is of great importance to this community and area travelers will fly from Worland once again if they are confident of improvements. We understand the need to advertise and promote not only Worland's airport but local access, and the advantages of a reliable carrier. We are committed to doing so in partnership with a reliable carrier. And,

WHEREAS: Worland's economy is the most diverse of any city of our size in the State of Wyoming. Wyoming Sugar, Admiral Beverages, Crown Cork and Seal, McGarvin-Moberly Construction, The Bureau of Land Management District Headquarters, USDA Worland Service Center, Devon Energy, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline, Black Hills Bentonite, Banner Health, and Miller-Coors are among the businesses and industries that depend upon reliable, local air

service. The small businesses in the community rely on commercial aviation for access to manufacturers, suppliers, vendors, and trade shows. Tourism and access to the recreational opportunities in the Big Horn Basin attract visitors from across the United States and beyond. And,

WHEREAS: The 2013 Wyoming Airports Economic Impact Study completed by the Wyoming Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division found that the local economic impact of airport administration, airport tenants, and capital improvements contributed \$7,787,240 to the area economy. Commercial aviation visitor spending associated with the Worland Municipal Airport accounted for nine jobs, payroll of \$222,790 and \$640,690 in additional benefit before the application of the multiplier effect. And,

WHEREAS: The same study found that the impact of airport administration, airport tenants, and capital improvements contributed \$7,345,340 to the Riverton, Wyoming economy. Riverton is our “one hop” airport. We are partners in a sense and commercial aviation visitor spending associated with the Riverton Regional Airport accounted for fifty-two jobs, payroll of \$1,164,680 and \$3,473,370 in additional benefits before the calculation of the number of times an aviation related dollar turns over in a community. And,

WHEREAS: The show cause document requires our objection to be “fully documented and contain complete information on the data used by the persons objecting”. Worland and Riverton are in similar circumstances. Both communities are caught between the FAA 1500-hour rule and an airline struggling to deal with the pilot shortage resulting from the rule. The maximum passenger subsidy level impacts Worland because the carrier has reduced the available seating to the disadvantage of both communities. How does one fully document a community’s loss of faith in a long time provider of commercial air service? The data speaks for itself. And,

WHEREAS: History is an important indicator of Worland’s utilization of that link to the nations’ air transportation system. We hope the current situation resulted from well-intentioned but conflicting agency goals. We earnestly desire the opportunity to acquire a more responsible carrier for the next contract cycle. And,

WHEREAS: Leakage statistics for the Worland area are attached. They are indicative of the issues we address herein. Now,

Therefore: We, the governing body of the City of Worland respectfully request reconsideration of the termination of Worland’s EAS eligibility as retention of the EAS subsidy at least through the coming contract renewal cycle is critical to the community.

A booking worksheet was also presented and will be included with the Resolution. City Attorney Richins suggested that various businesses and/or parties submit letters to go along with the Resolution. Mayor Duffy stated that the city had received ten or eleven letters so far and a Resolution from the Washakie County Commissioners supporting our position and Worland’s continued EAS eligibility. The City of Riverton will be sending a letter of support as well. The charter service that the City of Sheridan is using may be a possibility for Worland if we lose EAS. Discussion followed. The city will welcome all letters of support and letters can be posted directly to the DOT-OST website referencing DOT-OST-1997-2981.

Motion: to approve Resolution #2016-2.
By: Councilmember Horath.
Second by: Councilmember Koch.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Airport Manager Lynn Murdoch reiterated that the city needs letters from residents and/or businesses who have had problems with commercial air service as we need support for the EAS eligibility. Guardian Air will have a grand opening at the Airport on February 25th from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Glanz reported that Building Inspector Nick Kruger has successfully completed his Commercial Building Inspector Certification as of February 5, 2016 and hopes to complete certification for a Commercial Plans Examiner later this month.

Superintendent of Public Works Brian Burky stated that there was a leak on Culbertson Avenue and 3rd Street that was repaired today and another leak on the corner of Railway Avenue and Bonine about nine (9) feet deep which should be repaired tomorrow. There have been inquiries about the Golf Course RFP and Superintendent of Public Works Burky is optimistic that the city will receive two or three bids. Bid specifications are being drawn up for a new truck for the City Shop.

City Engineer Representative Mike Donnell informed the Council that the 15th Street project paperwork has been received from the State and will be completed as soon as possible. At the 96th annual Wyoming Engineering Society Conference, Big Horn Regional was awarded project of the year and City Engineer Representative Mike Donnell was inducted into the "Order of the Engineer" with twenty-three (23) other Engineers. The Council congratulated City Engineer Representative Donnell.

Mayor Duffy reminded the Council that the deadline to receive Golf Course proposals is the 29th of February. The Golf Course Committee will meet on the 29th at 5:30 p.m. and review the proposals for recommendation at the council meeting on March 2, 2016.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Duffy asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.
By: Councilmember Horath.
Second by: Councilmember Fernandez.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

David M. Duffy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracy A. Glanz, Clerk/Treasurer