

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO: 2020-02

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE
“THRIVE LARAMIE: A COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION
STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 10-YEARS” IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACE CHAPTER 9 –
“ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT” OF THE 2007 LARAMIE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Laramie Planning Commission approved Planning Commission Resolution PC 2007-01, adopting the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan in its entirety including the reservation of a subsequent chapter addressing conservation issues, replacing the 1995 Land Use Element and certifying the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan to the City Council;

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2007, the City Council received the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan as adopted and certified by the Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2007 the Laramie City Council approved the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan in its entirety for the physical development of the City of Laramie;

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2019, City Council Adopted Resolution 2019-23B, adopting policy goals and objectives for the City of Laramie, which included Milestone #2 that was to: “Adopt Updated 10-Year Economic Development Plan in 2019 to Replace Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan in Partnership with Residents and Stakeholders. Partners include the University of Wyoming, Laramie County Community College, Albany County Campus, Wyoming Technical Institute, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance, Laramie Main Street Alliance, Wyoming Business Council, Albany County Tourism Board, Laramie Regional Airport Joint Powers Board, and Albany County. Plan will incorporate community characteristics and “sense of place” as part of the overall economic development strategy and, also, contemplate specific programs for retaining entrepreneurs and qualified workers.”;

WHEREAS, in July of 2019, The Fourth Economy was unanimously selected by a selection committee to develop a plan that would satisfy the Council Goal of creating a community-driven Economic Development Plan;

WHEREAS, a 25-member steering committee was formed including both residents of Laramie and Laramie-area to help identify priority planning areas and to help focus on public engagement and participate in the development of the recommendations, to serve as an advocate and influencer to propel those recommendations into investable actions, and to be a champion of the plan within professional and social networks. The steering committee was led by: Chairperson, Janine Jordan, Laramie City Manager; Co-Chairperson, Brad Enzi, Director, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance; Co-Chairperson, Heather Tupper, Regional Director, Wyoming Business Council; and Co-Chairperson, Sarah Reese, City of Laramie. Steering Committee members included Jack Skinner, Director, Laramie Regional Airport; Michael Peck, Vice President, First Interstate Bank & President of the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance Board of Directors; Chaz Avila, Assistant Vice for President Commercial Banking, ANB Bank & Chairperson of the Downtown Development Authority; Rebecca Miller, President, ANB Bank & Board Member for Laramie Chamber Business Alliance; Jean Anne Garrison, Director, University of Wyoming Office of Outreach and Engagement & Liaison to Laramie Main Street; Jack Bedessem, CEO, Trihydro Corporation; Anja Bendel, Vice President, Cheyenne LEADS & Past President of the Wyoming Economic Development Association; Chris Rothfuss, Senator, Wyoming State Legislature; Dan Furphy, Representative, Wyoming State Legislature and Past-Director of the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance; Ed Synakowski, Vice President, of Research & Economic Development, University of Wyoming; Brady Hammond, Associate Vice President, Laramie County Community College; Randal Six, Director, UL, LLC.; Kendall Hutchison, Development Specialist, Wyoming Smart Capital Network; Shannon Polk, Member of the Laramie Planning Commission; Terri Jones, Chairperson, Albany County Board of Commissioners; Trey Sherwood,

Director, Laramie Main Street Alliance; Bryan Shuster, City Council Representative for Ward 3 & Liaison to Laramie Planning Commission; Jayne Pearce, City Council Representative for Ward 2 & Liaison to Laramie Chamber Business Alliance; Jessica Stalder, City Council Representative for Ward 1 & Liaison to Laramie Main Street Alliance, Downtown Development Authority, and the Regional Airport Joint Powers Board; Tim Stamp Development Director, Coffey Engineering & Member of the Regional Airport Joint Powers Board; Warren Greaser, Rawstone Development; Derek Teini, Planning Manager, City of Laramie;

WHEREAS, the Community Steering Committee met on six separate occasions; July 24, 2019, September 17, 2019, October 6, 2019, November 7, 2019, December 12, 2019 and January 13, 2020 with community members and stakeholders invited to attend in person with some meeting streamed via Livestream on Facebook,

WHEREAS, Six Focus Areas were identified by the Steering Committee to include: 1. Housing 2. Diverse Arts, Culture, Recreation, Tourism 3. Tech, Innovation, Entrepreneurship 4. Infrastructure and Resilience 5. Industry Diversification 6. Town-Gown and Industry-Workforce;

WHEREAS, sub-committees were formed for each focus area and each hosted meetings with community stakeholders to develop consensus around a portfolio of recommendations, actions and solutions in each focus area as would contribute to greater development of the local economy and greater opportunity for residents of the Laramie-area. Sub-committee leaders included: Housing Sub-Committee Chairperson Warren Greaser & Vice-Chairperson Chaz Avila; Arts, Culture, Recreation and Tourism Chairperson Scott Larsen, Director, Albany County Tourism Board and Vice-Chairperson Brian Harrington, City Council Representative for Ward 1 & Liaison to the Town & Gown Association, Laramie Public Art Coalition, Wyoming Territorial Prison Board, and Laramie Youth Council, & Member of National League of Cities, Community and Economic Development Committee Member; Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Sub-Committee Chairperson Mike Peck and Vice-Chairperson Audrey Jansen, Market Researcher, Small Business Development Center & Chief of Marketing for ENDOW Engage; Infrastructure and Resilience Sub-Committee Chairperson Janine Jordan and Vice-Chairperson Heather Tupper; Industry Diversification Sub-Committee Chairperson Brad Enzi and Vice-Chairperson Rebecca Miller; Town & Gown Sub-Committee Chairpersons Brady Hammond & Steve Farkas, Assistant Dean, College of Business MBA Program with Vice-Chairpersons Jean Anne Garrison and Ed Synakowski; and,

WHEREAS, extensive community outreach related to the development of the plan was conducted including but not limited to; more than 35 individual interviews with community stakeholders and leaders, public meetings in each of the City Council Wards, community-wide survey resulting in more than 900 responses (of which 640 were complete), 12 “build sessions” with 122 stakeholder participants, 3,360 ideas submitted via “Post-it” note, and outreach and invitations to participate local events including Thursday Local Market, Downtown Farmer’s Market, Student Union Breezeway, e2e, Mountain Film Festival, and monthly reports to Laramie City Council and the respective Boards of the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance and Main Street Alliance; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, City Council passed Resolution 2020-08 adopting goals for 2020, which included the goal of “Holistic Economic Development (Laramie-Centric) - Milestone #1: Adopt Updated 10-Year Economic Development Plan to Replace Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan”; and,

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020, City Council and Laramie Planning Commission conducted a joint work session to discuss the adoption of the “*Thrive Laramie: A Community and Economic Development Action Strategy for the Next 10-Years*”; and,

WHEREAS, the 2007 Comprehensive Plan and applicable existing and anticipated future conditions contain rationale supporting the repeal and replacement of Chapter 9 – “Economic Development” with the

Thrive Laramie: A Community and Economic Development Action Strategy for the Next 10-Years as reflecting current economic and community conditions and setting forth an economic development strategy with specific programs and actions which will retain entrepreneurs and qualified workers and advance the Laramie-area in the six focus areas of 1. Housing 2. Diverse Arts, Culture, Recreation, Tourism 3. Tech, Innovation, Entrepreneurship 4. Infrastructure and Resilience 5. Industry Diversification 6. Town-Gown and Industry-Workforce.

THEREFORE, THE LARAMIE PLANNING COMMISSION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

Section 1. To Approve the “Thrive Laramie: A Community and Economic Development Action Strategy for the Next 10-Years” in its entirety, and

Section 2. To Repeal and Replace “Chapter 9 – Economic Development” of the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan with the *Thrive Laramie: A Community and Economic Development Action Strategy for the Next 10-Years*, pursuant to Laramie Municipal Code 15.06.060.X and Wyoming Statutes § 15-1-503 and § 15-1-505.

Section 2. That this resolution shall become effective after its passage, approval and publication.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 10th day of February 2020.

Jim McGrath
Chairperson, Laramie Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Ryan Shoefelt
Deputy City Clerk