

**CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 406 IVINSON AVE, LARAMIE, WY 82070**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Work Session began at 6:00 p.m.

Council present: Jim Fried, Matt Lockhart, Erin O'Doherty, Melanie Vigil, Micah Richardson, and Sharon Cumbie. Absent: William Bowling, Brandon Newman, and Joe Shumway.

Staff present: Todd Feezer, City Manager; Nancy Bartholomew, City Clerk; Emma Dixon, Planner I; Lucas Whitt, CBO/Code Admin Supervisor; Brannen Moan, Management Analyst; Philipp Gabathuler, Planning Manager; Jenn Wade, Finance and Administrative Services Director; Joseph Shahidi, Planner II; Derek Teini; Community and Economic Development Director; and Brian Browne, Police Chief.

**1. WORK SESSION**

**2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

No public comments were received.

**3. WORK SESSION: Life Saving Awards**

Brian Browne, Police Chief gave a presentation of awards to residents and offices for life saving measures for Peggy Benson. Thank you to the following officers and community members Officer Bruce Ward, Officer Robert Austin, Officer John Rocha, Sergeant Jacob Ohnstad, Dispatcher Sarah Felton, Carolyn Smith, Heather Johnson, Brad Andres, and Rebecca Evans for their quick thinking and willingness to deploy life saving measures by going above and beyond to save a life.

**3.A. Public Comment on Agenda Item**

No public comments were received.

**4. WORK SESSION: Presentation Related to Possible Building Code Updates**

Lucas Whitt, Chief Building Inspector gave a PowerPoint presentation on possible building code updates. Suggestions were provided both from staff and from contractors that attended the December 12<sup>th</sup> discussion on Laramie Municipal Code updates and the contractor survey that was conducted. Topics that were discussed included interior lighting controls, deck beam connection to supports, energy efficiency, fire protection of floors, one and two family dwellings automatic sprinkler systems, Group R in fire areas, R327.1 space required, 907.2.11.2 Groups R-2, R-3, R-4 and I-1, testing, lintels, roof top unit (RTU) HVAC replacement, lighting equipment, gas fireplaces, shower liner testing, quality of fixtures, and outside opening protection. Some of these changes will appear before City Council in the form of an ordinance to amend current building code in the near future.

**4.A. Public Comment on Agenda Item**

Public comments received from Mark Wade and Diana Seabeck.

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**5. WORK SESSION: Staff Presentation on the Forge Laramie Comprehensive Planning Effort**

Planning Manager Philipp Gabathuler gave an introduction of the Comprehensive Plan update and the efforts being made through Forge Laramie. Leigh Ann King, Clarion Associates, gave a presentation highlighting the progress of public engagement and development of the Comprehensive Plan update. The Comprehensive Plan is a long range vision that will guide development, land use, and policy direction over the next 20 years. We are currently in Phase 3 of the project which includes community engagement rounds 2 and 3, preparation of the plan drafts, and steering committee meetings. This phase is anticipated to last through July 2026. The presentation included a summary of stakeholder and community engagement, an update on what is happening now with Forge Exchange (open house on February 19<sup>th</sup>), technical foundations, and next steps. Sometime in early Spring-Summer it is anticipated that a draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan will be ready.

**5.A. Public Comment on Agenda Item**

No public comments were received.

**Motion to Suspend the Rules:**

MOTION BY FRIED, seconded by Richardson, to suspend the rules to allow Director Wade to facilitate the Council discussion on the Civic Cents work session and to proceed after Council discussion with normal rules of procedure.

Roll call showed Aye: Fried, Lockhart, O'Doherty, Vigil, Richardson, and Cumbie. Nay: none. Absent: Bowling, Newman, and Shumway. MOTION CARRIED.

**6. WORK SESSION: Civic Cents**

Finance and Administrative Services Director Jennifer Wade led a discussion to explore bite-sized chunks of the city budget as determined by the City Council. The goal is to have a short presentation and discussion at each work session leading up to the budget. Councilors requested the following topics: What are our funds and what are they used for; information for most frequently asked questions; share information for interactions through Open Finance; structure of funding and what they do; a story of our community budget and how much we receive in grants; talking points to interact with the public; decision making process for expending funds for projects and staff; one page handout explaining funding; and an explanation of diversification of using funds.

**6.A. Public Comment on Agenda Item**

No public comments were received.

**7. City Council Updates/Council Comments**

Vigil – Human Rights and Relations Commission (Special Work Session on March 11<sup>th</sup>), Albany County Transportation Authority.

Bowling (read by Newman) – Laramie Police Advisory Board Training.

O'Doherty – Environmental Advisory Committee (emissions report with EPA tool).

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Fried – Parks, Tree, and Recreation Board interviews, Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) Winter Workshop this week.

Lockhart – none.

Richardson – Laramie 20 Under 40 awards (Lt. Asa Hutchinson and Melanie Vigil nominations).

Cumbie – Laramie 20 Under 40, Forge Laramie, Civil Service Commission, Happy Housing Hour, Parks, Tree and Recreation Board interviews, Wyoming Association on Municipalities Winter Workshop this week.

Feezer – window replacement in Chambers if we have budget during the remodel.

**8. Agenda Review**

No changes were recommended for the agenda.

Work Session adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved:



Nancy Bartholomew  
City Clerk, CMC

2-19-26

Date

