

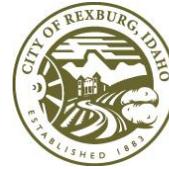
City Council Meeting

December 18, 2013

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CITY OF
REXBURG
America's Family Community

December 18, 2013

Mayor Richard Woodland

Council Members:

Christopher Mann Jordan Busby
Donna Benfield Jerry Merrill
Bruce Sutherland Sally Smith

City Staff:

Stephen Zollinger – City Attorney
Richard Horner – Finance Officer
John Millar – Public Works Director
Val Christensen – Community Development Director
Scott Johnson – Economic Development Director
Blair Kay – City Clerk

5:00 P.M. City Hall – Pledge to the Flag

Mayor Woodland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Richard Horner led the Pledge to the Flag.

Phil Packer said the prayer.

Roll Call of Council Members:

Attending: Council President Mann, Council Member Benfield, Council Member Smith, Council Member Busby, Council Member Merrill, Council Member Sutherland, and Mayor Woodland.

Public Comment on non-controversial issues: not scheduled on the agenda (limit 3 minutes) – NONE

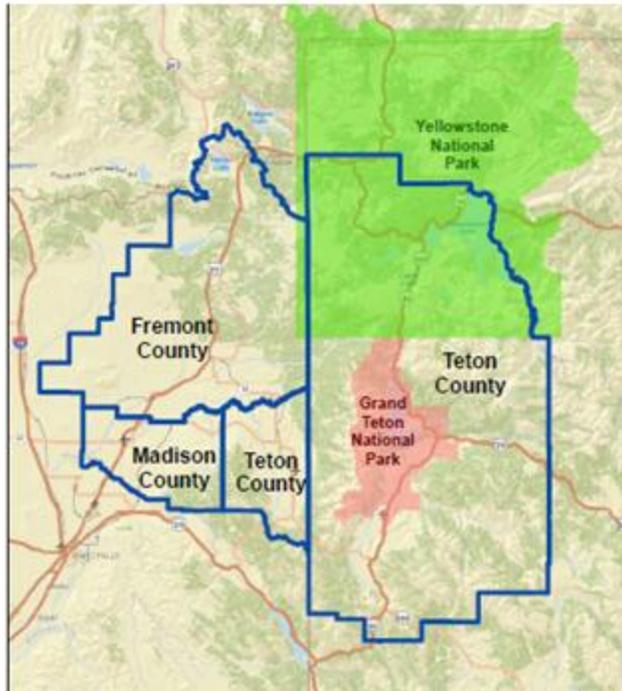
Presentations:

A. Linx Transportation is a cooperative: (Linx has almost **70 members** from hospitals, to small businesses to resorts and tourism operators to help enhance quality of life and economic development in the region. Rexburg recently joined Linx. **The Multi-Modal Transportation Assessment and Development Plan** being advanced by Linx is part of the HUD-supported Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. **Master's student Katie Wilson** will demonstrate the interactive map application now available to the City that displays recreational trails systems across the four-county region. The Plan includes recommendations for improving regional mobility across the four-county area and two national parks, but our time with the Council will focus on items most relevant to Rexburg and Madison County as they continue with the Envision Madison process – **Janice Brown**

Jan Brown introduced the discussion to apply for a grant for a transportation study. She went over the Rexburg **Micropolitan Area** being part of a larger regional transportation area. Fremont County recently received a HUD Grant by including the whole regional area in the grant request. Jackson has a **Micropolitan Area** which includes Teton County, Idaho and Teton County, Wyoming. (*The Jackson Micropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the [United States Census Bureau](#), is an area consisting of two counties, one in [Wyoming](#) and one in [Idaho](#), anchored by the town of [Jackson](#).*) The goal is to improve transportation mobility in the associated counties. **The Multi-Modal Transportation Assessment and Development Plan** was reviewed which would connect Rexburg to other public transportation entities in the regional area. This current HUD Transportation Study would be for 2015.

Connect Our Consortium Counties

The Linx Regional Transportation Co-op is committed to improving mobility within cities and between consortium counties both to strengthen local economies and to connect our counties to the entire Greater Yellowstone region.



Council Member Merrill asked Ms. Brown to review why Fremont County was the grant administrator for the HUD Grant instead of Rexburg. Ms. Brown indicated Fremont County was the applicant for the grant; however, they had to include Rexburg because Rexburg is part of the ***Micropolitan Statistical Area*** defined by the United States Census Bureau which includes Fremont County.

Ms. Brown reviewed some inter-city connection routes that are needed for Rexburg. Also, the route to Driggs is being suspended (5311 funds) due to lack of ridership. She has written a mini grant to the Community Transportation Association of America to get an audience with Charles Dixon to visit the Rexburg ***Micropolitan Statistical Area***. After the tour of the area including BYU-I, Mr. Dixon indicated this Micropolitan Area qualified for long term technical transportation assistance which means an 80% cost sharing formula with HUD. The study would include a fixed route study for Rexburg in 2015.

Ms. Brown provided an example study from Portland, Maine to show how the Rexburg study would look. The (CTAA) Community Transportation Association of America is a very legitimate national group focused on rural transportation systems. The study would cost about \$50,000 with matching funds from Rexburg for about \$5,000. HUD would pay for 80% of the study. Salt Lake Express covers the north-south corridor for Rexburg from Salt Lake City to Bozeman, Montana. In the meantime other entities can continue to do demand response services for Rexburg. Everyone would need to make a small contribution to make the regional model happen which could include monthly passes for riders.

Ms. Brown indicated Linx has been encouraged to apply for the 5311 funds to start in April, 2015 to service a transportation route going east to Driggs and Victor for a connection to the Jackson transportation system. If the pre-application for the grant is accepted, Ms. Brown will be seeking matching funds from Victor, Driggs, Jackson, Rexburg, associated counties, and BYU-I. This would leverage the application by getting support from as many entities in the Micropolitan Area as possible. The 5311 funding will provide 50% for operations (hiring) for the transportation vendor for the route. Ms. Brown recommended targeting evening and weekend traffic to Jackson in the target ridership. She reviewed the Bozeman system and their connection routes to Yellowstone Park, Big Sky Ski Resort, Jackson, etc.

Ms. Brown said the other target market in the east routes is the Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Linx has serviced Yellowstone National Park for the last three years. She reviewed the **Start**

Bus system in Jackson which is offering transportation in downtown Jackson, Teton Village, Teton Valley, and Star Valley. (Note that all buses have bike racks.) Please contact Start Bus directly at (307) 733-4521 for information regarding accessibility. The Start Bus runs four scheduled routes: Town Shuttle; Jackson to Teton Village; Jackson to Teton Valley; Jackson to Star Valley. Note that the Star Valley and Teton Valley routes are designed for the commuter with routes scheduled only in the mornings and evenings. You can find the most current schedules online: [Start Bus Schedules](#).

The Jackson system has over 1,000,000 in ridership each year. She reviewed the possibilities to connect to the Yellowstone National Park system and eliminate the service gaps in the region.

Ms. Brown reviewed transportation maps on the internet and Linx ridership numbers. She reviewed five initiatives:

Initiative 1 is regional transportation connectivity.

Initiative 1 – An Incremental Approach to Building Our Public Transit System

- Intra-City Services for Rexburg
 - Technical Assistance from CTAA – Fixed-route transit service study for 2015 (\$40-50K value)
 - Demand-response from TRPTA or shuttles
- Intercity Connections: East, North & South
 - Salt Lake Express – an active [Linx](#) provider
 - [Linx](#) to apply for 5311 funds for 2015 Rexburg-Driggs-Jackson route; need match from all cities
- Connecting Rexburg to our National Parks



Initiative 2 is an integrated regional trails system.

Initiative 2 – An Integrated, Regional Recreational Trails Network

- Recommended “Complete Streets” policies
 - Joe Gilpin’s report for Madison County
- Recreational Trails Inventory
 - Trails of Madison County (Keith Davidson)
 - [Menan Buttes Trail](#)(BLM)
 - Cress Creek Trail (BLM)
- Priority multi-modal facilities and trail segments to fill gaps, connect system



Initiative 3 is broadening online transportation ticketing.

Initiative 3 – Collaborative Marketing of Multi-Modal Transportation

- Marketing strategies for building regional awareness
- Ridership figures and projected demand; defining the rider “archetype”
- Plans to update “one-stop” online trip planning and ticketing systems available to public transit providers in three states



Initiative 4 is alternative fuel vehicles.

Initiative 4 – Partnership for Energy-Efficient, Low-Emission Travel

- Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition (YTCEC) programs for expanding use of alternative fuels and electric/hybrid vehicles
- Regional incentives for carpooling, ride-sharing, wider use of “We-Cars”
- Idle-free policies; educational programs for commercial drivers and government fleets



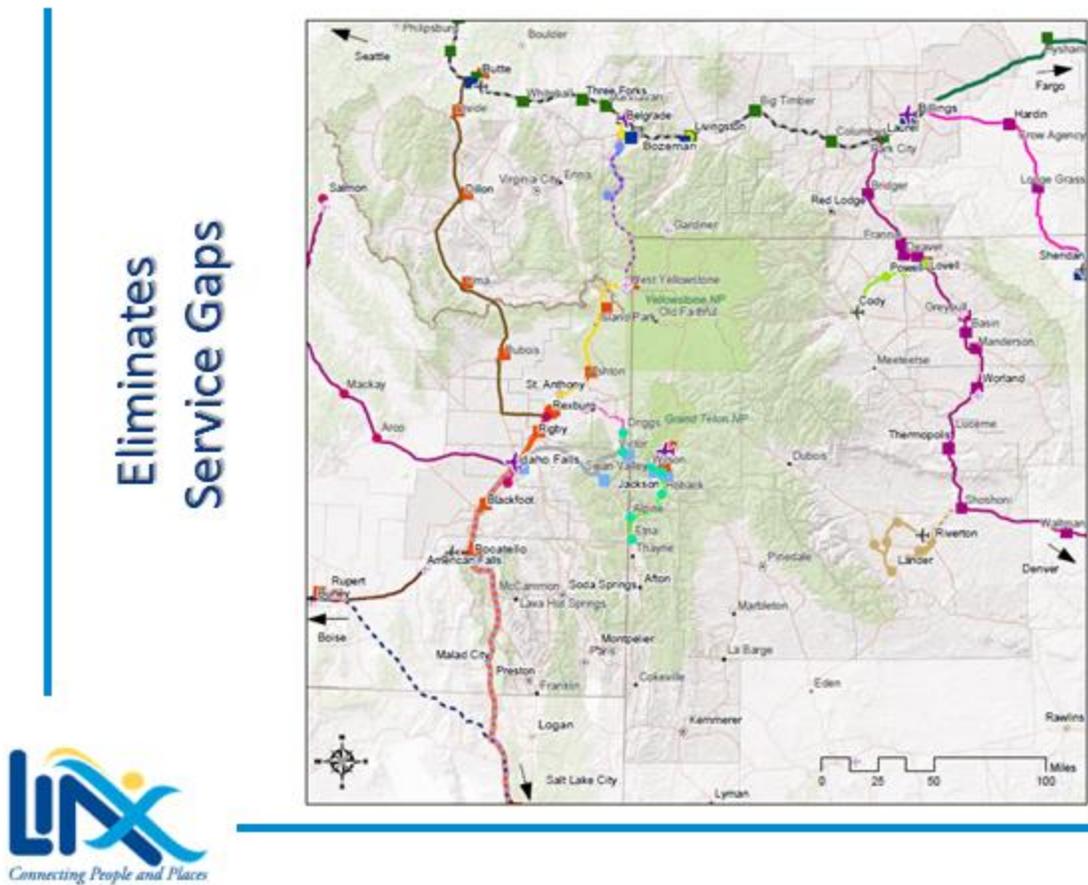
Katie Wilson (Student and Idaho State University) reviewed a Scenario Planning tool on the internet. It is an interactive map showing region trails systems. & the next steps:

Ms. Wilson reviewed the trails map on the internet for Rexburg. It shows what is currently available and also it shows the disparities. She said the City’s GIS Technician could use the map to show Rexburg’s trail systems. She indicated the Madison Trails System needs to broaden their map distribution to the public.

Council Member Busby asked about the costs associated with this transportation plan. Ms. Brown said the costs are unknown now until a transportation study can be completed.

Council Member Benfield said tourism is the third largest business in the state. It is huge for Rexburg due to the location of Yellowstone Park. Council Member Merrill said the tourism and recreational riders should be the target market now until fixed routes in Rexburg are viable.

Discussion:



Ms. Brown said the study area is a four county area. The Rexburg to Jackson route is the next step. Council Member Benfield said the Chamber of Commerce has travel shows in February to encourage travel to the area. The transportation loops (including trail systems) are presented in the travel shows. These items are what sell the area to get people to Rexburg. It is a regional approach to attract people.

Council President Mann asked about the location of BYU-I students in proximity to the University including students in Burley, etc... The data is available upon request from BYU-I. Council Member Sutherland said the student body is in Rexburg year around.

Ms. Brown encouraged the City of Rexburg to be involved with the proposed transportation study. **Rod** from ISU explained the concept of the trails map. He encouraged the use of the interactive map and sketching tool. It is a design tool. www.sustainablyellowstone.org (The consortium represents a wide diversity of small cities and rural towns – from Jackson WY, with one of the nation’s highest per capita incomes to Rexburg, ID, with one of the lowest. These diverse communities will all benefit from having more accurate data and trend information on their economies.)

Committee Liaison Assignments for 2013:

A. Council Member Christopher Mann: *Golf Board · Emergency Services Board · MYAB*

Council President Mann did not have a report.

B. Council Member Busby: *GIS Oversight · Airport Board.*

Council Member Busby reviewed the closure of parking on City Streets after December 15th to March 1st. Eighty five tickets were issued with a \$5.00 to \$10.00 write down amount due to the first time offense. City Attorney Zollinger reviewed the hook and drop policy to move cars out of the way of the snow plows for a \$40.00 fee.

Discussion on parking repeat offenders.

C. Council Member Donna Benfield: *Trails of Madison County · IBC · Teton Flood Museum Committee · M.E.P.I.*

Council Member Benfield did not have a report.

D. Council Member Sally Smith: *Legacy Flight Museum · Rexburg Arts Council (Romance Theatre & Tabernacle Civic Center, Orchestra)*

Council Member Smith did not have a report.

E. Council Member Jerry Merrill: *Beautification Committee · Parks & Recreation · Traffic & Safety · Urban Renewal Agency*

Council Member Merrill did not have a report.

F. Council Member Bruce Sutherland: *Planning & Zoning · School Board · Police*

Council Member Sutherland did not have a report.

Mayor’s Report:

Public Hearings: – NONE

Items for Consideration: – NONE

Council Member Smith was excused from the meeting.

Staff Reports:

A. Public Works: – John Millar

- 1. Approve bid for a new sewer vacuum truck

Public Works Director Millar reviewed the low bid for a new sewer vacuum (wet vac) truck. The used truck should be sold for around \$65,000; the new truck was bid at \$377,000. A flooded basement could cost \$30,000 to refurbish; so, the truck pays for its self over time.

Discussion:

The truck is used to clear sewer line blockages to avoid sewer backups in basements.

Council Member Sutherland moved to approve the low bid for a new sewer vacuum truck; Council Member Merrill seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

Those voting aye

- Council President Mann
- Council Member Benfield
- Council Member Sutherland
- Council Member Merrill
- Council Member Busby

Those voting nay

None

The motion carried

B. Finance Department – Richard Horner was excused.

Calendared Bills and Tabled Items:

A. “LAND USE ACTION” – BILLS RECOMMENDED/APPROVED IN A LAND USE PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE: – NONE

B. BILL Introduction: – NONE

C. First Reading: Those items which are being introduced for first reading: : – NONE

D. Second Reading: Those items which have been first read:

- 1. **BILL 1110 LID43** Final Assessment Role

Discussion:

Council Member Sutherland moved to second read BILL 1110 LID43 for the Final Assessment Role; Council President Mann seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

Those voting aye

Council President Mann
Council Member Benfield
Council Member Sutherland
Council Member Merrill
Council Member Busby

Those voting nay

None

The motion carried

Discussion:

2. BILL 1108 International Building Code 2012

Council Member Sutherland moved to second read BILL 1108 adopting the International Building Code 2012 as presented; Council President Mann seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

Those voting aye

Council President Mann
Council Member Benfield
Council Member Sutherland
Council Member Merrill
Council Member Busby

Those voting nay

None

The motion carried

E. Third Reading: Those items which have been second read: – NONE

Consent Calendar: The consent calendar includes items which require formal City Council action, however they are typically routine or not of great controversy. Individual City Council members may ask if any specific item should be removed from the consent calendar for discussion in greater detail. Explanatory information is included in the City Council's agenda packet regarding these items.

- A. Minutes from December 04, 2013 meetings
Approve the City of Rexburg Bills

Discussion on a sewer credit to North Point for 15 homes removed from the sewer system. These homes were credited against the fees for the new development for over 1,000 beds.

Discussion on city expenses to incentivize the trailers to be removed from city property on North 2nd East. (*The city recently purchased the property to clean up a problem with trailers on railroad right-of-way.*)

Council President Mann moved to approve the Consent Calendar and pay the bills; Council Member Benfield seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

Those voting aye

Council President Mann
Council Member Benfield
Council Member Sutherland
Council Member Merrill
Council Member Busby

Those voting nay

None

The motion carried

Council Member Sutherland expressed his gratitude for serving 24 years in City Government since 1985. He served with other city organizations, committees and city staff. It requires dedication

with very little thanks or reward to make our community a better place. He has always had such a wonderful experience serving in the community. It is an opportunity and a blessing to serve the City of Rexburg.

Adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

APPROVED:

Richard S. Woodland, Mayor

Attest:

Blair D. Kay, City Clerk