

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 9.B

SECOND READING: September 28, 2021

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: Consent

PRESENTED BY:

Dale Rademacher, City Manager's Office, Dale.Rademacher@longmontcolorado.gov

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SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

A Bill For An Ordinance Authorizing A Farmland Lease Agreement Between The City Of Longmont And Scott Schlager (Tenant) On The Sherwood Open Space Property (Premises)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Scott Schlager, the City's current tenant on the Sherwood Open Space property, is requesting a 5-year extension of his agricultural farmland lease in order to qualify for a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant. This grant will provide funding for the application of compost to this property. The current lease expires at the end of 2023, however to qualify for this NRCS EQUIP-CIC conservation grant program the tenant is required to have a lease through 2026.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Approval of the attached ordinance
2. Modify and approve ordinance
3. Do not approve ordinance

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Option 1. Approval of the attached ordinance

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The annual farmland lease payment to the City in the sum of \$29,200 will be credited to the Open Space Fund.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

The attached agricultural lease for the Sherwood Open Space property is with Scott Schlager. Mr. Schlager is a tenant who has previously provided a high level of stewardship to the City's Open Space lands. In previous years the Schlager family has produced over 3,500 bushels of barley, 4,100 tons of corn silage, and nearly 4,500 bushels of rye. These crops were sold in local markets providing agriculture products to Longmont and the surrounding communities.

Recently, Scott Schlager applied for a grant to NRCS's EQIO-CIC conservation program to apply compost on all of his agricultural lands including the Sherwood City Open Space property. The application of compost provides organic matter and nutrients to the land which is helpful in enhancing soil health and retaining water. This NRCS program requires a five year commitment, which runs through 2026. In order to meet this requirement the current farmland lease agreement needs to be extended and renewed.

Staff is proposing to continue leasing the 292 acres of the Sherwood property to Scott Schlager for an additional five year period with the option for an additional five year extension. In addition to the property, the lease also includes the historic water rights. Mr. Schlager will continue planting crops such as corn, alfalfa, barley and sugar beets. The \$29,200 per year in revenues generated from this lease will be credited to the Open Space Fund.

Agricultural preservation is one of six criteria identified by the community for the development of a successful Open Space program. Staff is confident that Mr. Schlager will continue to bring his family's farming history and best management practices to the City's Open Space lands.

ATTACHMENTS:

Att 1 - Ordinance

Att 2 - Farmland Lease Agreement

Att 3 – Vicinity Map