

February 7, 2022

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Work Session at the Lewiston City Library Second Floor Activity Room at 411 D Street. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

City Council meetings are recorded live. To view the full video, go to <https://livestream.com/lewiston/events/3725902>

I. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson; Council President Liedkie; Councilor Blount; Councilor Forsmann; Councilor Kleeburg; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Tousley

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jana Gómez; Shelby Sieracki; Tanya Brocke; Dustin Johnson; Joe Kaufman; Luke Antonich; Suzanne Seigneur; Chris Usher; Aaron Butler; Budd Hurd; Travis Myklebust; Nikki Province; Carol Maurer; Dan Marsh

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Forsmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None at the beginning of the meeting. As several citizens arrived late, Council allowed them to provide citizen comments at the end of the meeting.

IV. WORK SESSION ITEMS

A. COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN: *Update provided by Brian Points, Points Consulting*

Brian Points, Consultant from Points Consulting outlined the Community Strategic Plan and provided some highlights. Mr. Points explained the process and that they started late summer 2021 and the scope included a deep dive into existing plans and documents. A Comprehensive Survey was done with Community members and there was a really strong response rate. The final 15 pages of the document is a detailed recounting of the responses. Continuing, Mr. Points said the Strategic Plan is not a game plan but it recognizes that there is more to the community than just the government agencies. The intent was to be holistic and as apolitical as they could make it.

Councilor Kleeburg asked if the response rate was above average or below average. Mr. Points responded that it was a little above what he expected.

Councilor Liedkie asked for advice on how they utilize the document. Mr. Points replied it might take a year plus to get everyone on the same page but to encourage the organizations to work through the Strategic Plan themselves.

Councilor Liedkie commented that the last part of the Strategic Plan was very eye opening to her. She questioned who they worked with to determine who the partners were. Mr. Points explained that the primary sounding board was the City Directors and Directors of the different agencies.

Councilor Tousley thanked Mr. Points for the document, stating that it was easy to digest. He said he is glad the community took the survey. Mr. Points responded there were some different levels of expressions towards the City Government at the time.

B. THIRD TRANSIT ROUTE: Recommendation for delay of third route until Census MPO impact is determined

Transit Manager Seigneur spoke about the third route and why they are recommending a delay. She explained services are coordinated with Appaloosa Express, and Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA). Ms. Seigneur noted that the intention with the third route was to add services to North Lewiston and the East Orchards to reduce time between buses to 30 minutes where possible by adding more transfer stops. Ms. Seigneur explained that funding is received based on the Census definition of an urbanized area. The delay is because the Census is now changing the definition in order to count dwellings instead of people and the decision has been pushed to March 2022. Ms. Seigneur stated it is prudent to delay the decision until the impact of the Census decision is known.

Councilor Forsmann questioned if they had received applicants for drivers. Ms. Seigneur responded they have not started the recruitment process.

Councilor Liedkie asked when she would receive a response or more information. Ms. Seigneur responded by fall 2022.

Councilor Tousley asked if there is anything they can be doing in the meantime to help people that are dependent on the Transit System. Ms. Seigneur responded that they would have to hire additional drivers in order to provide more services.

Councilor Liedkie asked if the City is still providing paratransit. Ms. Seigneur responded no, because it is challenging to accommodate the schedules.

C. UNION GOSPEL MISSION: Update provided by Phil Altmeyer, UGM Director

Phil Altmeyer, Union Gospel Mission Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation that showed several of their facilities that are located in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, along with a summary of what their program provides. He also explained how their thrift stores provide jobs for people

that utilize the facility. His presentation was concluded by sharing the story of one of the clients that completed the program and turned her life around.

Councilor Tousley questioned what their presence in the Valley looks like. Mr. Altmeyer responded that the passing of the High Barrier Shelter Ordinance will help them to provide a place that is safe, clean and provide hope. There are currently not a lot of opportunities in the Valley so they will end up serving persons who are experiencing homelessness. They will serve the persons who want to receive the help. Councilor Tousley clarified what type of facility they envision, such as the number of beds. Mr. Altmeyer explained they are in the process of determining the number and they haven't nailed that down yet. Hopefully long term, recovery can happen in the valley. They are planning to do the rescue piece in the Valley, while sending people to Spokane or Coeur D'Alene for the recovery program.

Councilor Forsmann questioned if they would take someone who is on drugs or turn them away. Mr. Altmeyer responded that it depends on what type of condition they are in. It is important that the resident's environment is safe and they don't want to compromise that.

D. CITIZENS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FISH AND DAMS: Overview and proposed Resolution for future consideration of the City Council

Marvin Dugger expressed his support for the Union Gospel Mission and then went on to introduce himself as a representative of the Citizens for the Preservation of Fish and Dams. He provided handouts to the Council explaining the concerns that dam breaching would have on the town and region.

Dick Sherwin representing Citizens for the Preservation of Fish and Dams, showed some charts relating to the timeline of the dams and the number of fish, such as steelhead and spring chinook. The charts show that fish and dams can exist together, as the percentage of fish had increased over time. The economy is way too important to breach the dams. In the last 37 years, Bonneville has paid \$33 billion dollars back into the federal treasury and have never missed a payment. Mr. Sherwin explained Lewiston is the last area to enact a resolution against breaching the dams and they had provided a draft resolution for future Council consideration.

Dan Caldwell said he has 13 years of hands on experience working at the dams and explained the issues he has seen relating to the dams. Mr. Caldwell said the bottom line is bargaining has worked and is part of the question that will make it all happen.

Councilor Liedkie commented that she would support a resolution and encourage the public to reach out to the City. Councilor Forsmann said she would second that.

Councilor Schroeder commented that historically the Community Development Director Von Tersch took time to review the dam breaching and produced documents that spoke in favor. The document explained costs that would be involved, along with the costs of mitigation and the

issues it could cost the community. She encouraged the citizens to reach out to Community Development regarding the documents.

Councilor Tousley said he would like to hear the other side before supporting a resolution because they are only hearing one side. He respects the amount of information the Citizens for the Preservation of Fish and Dams have given Council but for them to come up with a resolution, while only hearing from one side and vote it would be short-sighted of them.

Dick Sherwin responded to Mr. Tousley's comment that they presented a resolution to the last city council and it was the same answer they received from one of the Councilors. They spent lots of time trying to get in and the other side didn't want to present because it was based on emotion and not facts.

There was a general consensus among Councilors in support of seeing a resolution be placed on a future agenda regarding the preservation of fish and dams.

*E. **STORMWATER:** Overview and discussion on the benefits of stormwater infrastructure to the City, existing storm water system, and regulatory requirements.*

Public Works Director Johnson provided a presentation regarding the state of stormwater in Lewiston. The goals of the discussion were to inform Council and the public on the state of the City's stormwater and seek Council's feedback for the next steps. After providing stormwater and acronym definitions, Mr. Johnson provided a run-through of the five minimum control measures. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Johnson explained the City Council needs to decide what stormwater represents to Lewiston, where it falls on the list of priorities and how they want to fund stormwater.

Councilor Liedkie clarified the ask was to bring the consultant back and create a plan. She asked if Mr. Johnson could describe the correlation of updating stormwater to helping the longevity of other infrastructure. Mr. Johnson replied some of the streets are not in great condition due to stormwater and they are trying to provide flood control, treat the system and correct past issues.

Councilor Kleeburg commented that in his opinion it is one of the biggest things the City is facing right now and it is an extremely important issue. He is in favor of taking the burden off the street department.

Councilor Forsmann questioned if there are a lot of accidents because of the water that builds up. Mr. Johnson responded not that he is aware of. Memorial Bridge has hydroplaning issues but in a major rainstorm the water can't be cleared off the road fast enough.

Councilor Blount asked how much is being paid to the consultant. Mr. Johnson responded that the current contract has been put on hold.

Councilor Tousley questioned why there is a consultant if Public Works knows what needs to be done. Mr. Johnson responded that they have the manpower but when they get to the financial part it goes above what they can do. Ms. Gomez added that it helps if a new fee is implemented to have an outside neutral party to strengthen a case if it was ever challenged.

F. AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE RE: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT: Discussion on potential changes to Chapter 2 of the Lewiston City Code regarding City Administration

City Attorney Gomez explained that Council appointed a subcommittee to review Chapter 2 of City Code which included Councilors Tousley, Forsmann and Schroeder. The subcommittee had four main questions that needed a response from Councilors before they proceed.

The first question was whether Council preferred for staff to write out the Idaho Code provisions or summarize and link to Idaho Code. Ms. Gomez explained that Idaho Code citations are hyperlinked in the City Code, which allows citizens to click on the link and be directly connected with the Idaho Code provisions. Staff prefers to do it this way, so that if/when Idaho Code is changed, they do not have to remember to go back through City Code to make amendments.

Councilors Forsmann, Schroeder, Tousley, and Kleeburg were in favor of the hyperlink, while Councilors Liedkie and Blount were in favor of writing it out.

The second question was whether they wanted to add a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for the Mayor and if they were interested in forming a citizen committee to review salaries on an annual or bi-annual basis. Councilors Liedkie and Tousley were in favor of both the COLA and a committee, while Councilors Kleeburg, Schroeder, Forsmann, and Blount were in favor of just the committee.

The third question was in regards to Elections and if Council would like to establish districts, assign seats, or remain at large. Councilor Schroeder was interested in seats, while Councilors Kleeburg and Tousley preferred to remain at large. Councilors Liedkie, Blount and Forsmann asked to see more information and feedback from the public, but leaned towards at large.

Ms. Gomez then explained that their office recently learned that past City Councilors had been provided basic life insurance. The current cost is about \$48 per year per councilor. If the current Council were to receive this benefit, it would need to be added to City Code Section 2-22 but would not become effective until January 1, 2024. Her last question was if Council would like to add the basic life insurance benefit. All Councilors were in agreement to discontinue the benefit.

Ms. Gomez concluded her discussion that the next meeting for the Chapter 2 Subcommittee would be on February 9th and the meetings are open to the public.

G. PROPERTY ACROSS FROM CITY HALL: Update and discussion regarding the potential sale of the property across from City Hall to Nez Perce County

Mayor Johnson explained that Nez Perce County is in the process of designing the new courthouse and the County is interested in purchasing the land in front of City Hall. Mayor Johnson said that he has been working with Community Development Director Von Tersch in regards to getting a parking agreement. The item was placed on the agenda so that Council is aware that Nez Perce County is interested in purchasing the property.

After discussion, Councilor Liedkie asked about the timeline and how to move forward. Mayor Johnson responded Nez Perce County is still finalizing its plans and changes have been proposed to the design so Community Development will need to review it further. Mayor Johnson explained that it is nowhere near ready to move forward but he will continue to work on it and share information.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Liedkie thanked the Lewiston Police Department for being on the scene of a recent tragic accident, noting they did a wonderful job handling the situation.

Councilor Forsmann also commended the efforts of the Lewiston Police Department and commented that participating in a ride-along was very eye opening for her.

B. MAYOR COMMENTS

None.

C. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- 1. *Considering the reappointments of Shirley Phillips, Maxine Miller, and Elizabeth Goetzinger to the Cemetery/Urban Forestry Advisory Commission.***

Mayor Johnson moved to approve and Councilor Blount provided a second. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Blount voting nay.

- 2. *Considering the reappointments of Jill Balmer, Larry Kopczynski, Jim Jenkins, and Bill Rowland to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.***

Mayor Johnson moved approval of the reappointments. A second was provided by Councilor Kleeburg. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Blount voting nay.

D. PROPOSED WORK SESSION TOPICS

Councilor Liedkie moved to add Juniper Drive and the issue of pedestrian safety to the next agenda. Councilor Forsmann seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilor Schroeder moved add a follow up of Twin City Foods at the next meeting. Councilor Tousley seconded.

Mayor Johnson informed Council that an offer letter had been mailed out on February 4, 2022. The offer was for \$800,000 contingent on City Council approval.

Councilor Liedkie offered a substitute motion to postpone the discussion of Twin City Foods until a response was received from Twin City Foods. Councilor Kleeburg seconded the substitute motion. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Blount voting nay.

The motion to put a Twin City Foods update on the agenda once they hear back from Twin City Foods was then voted on. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Blount voting nay.

Councilors Liedkie and Tousley moved and seconded, respectively to adjourn the meeting. Several citizens requested to be allowed comments, as they were late to the meeting, so Councilor Liedkie rescinded her motion to allow citizen comments.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Rodriguez said he was originally at the meeting to talk about property taxes but instead spoke that he believes what the Council is doing with Twin City Foods is not correct. He feels that the City and Councilors should be held personally responsible for any injury or loss of life related to adding additional traffic to that location. Mr. Rodriguez expressed his irritation relating to the increase in property taxes and that Council is not living up to their end of the bargain. He asked the Council to reconsider because they are doing a disservice by removing money from the tax rolls.

Richard Eldridge thanked Council for allowing comments and state that people are livid that Council is being led by people with an agenda. He said Council should be focused on emergency procedures for food and how to get it to the City, as there is going to be a shortage in the next few months.

Michelle King, cofounder of LC Valley Youth Resource Center and Adult Resource Center, provided an update and handed out a letter from one of the clients at the Youth Resource Center. The Youth Resource Center meets the needs of displaced Lewiston and Clarkston students ages 12-17, while the Adult Resource Center meets the needs of displaced persons in the LC Valley by providing a winter warming shelter from 7 pm to 7 am within the Auxiliary Dining Hall at Salvation Army.

Ada Eldridge had concerns regarding access to agendas. She feels like agendas are being posted at a random time and do not reflect the actual meeting times or locations. She said the new system won't work if citizens are being left out right off the bat and it can only be a positive thing for citizens to be involved. She concluded her comments by saying how proud

of the new Council she is. Public Information Officer Carol Maurer explained that the time Ms. Eldridge is referring to is the time that the agendas were posted, which verifies that agendas are posted according to statute. There are also several different places that provide information relating to Council meetings on the City website, as well as agendas being posted at City Hall.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Liedkie and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively adjournment of the February 7, 2022, Work Session at 5:50p.m. The motion carried 6-0.