

*February 6, 2023*

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Work Session at the Bell Building Second Floor Conference Room at 215 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/accounts/11220190>

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Johnson; Council President Liedkie; Councilor Forsmann (Zoom); Councilor Kleeburg; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire; Councilor Tousley (3:05 p.m. Zoom)

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. ACTIVE AGENDA**

**A. RESOLUTION 2023-7:**

Human Resources Director Province explained the revised personnel policy consisted of grammatical and formatting fixes. There were a few places that had substantive changes, which were provided in the agenda item history sheet with the packet.

Councilors Schroeder and Kleeburg moved and seconded, respectively, approval of Resolution 2023-7. ROLL CALL: VOTING AYE: *Liedkie; Kleeburg; Schroeder; Spickelmire; Forsmann; Tousley.* VOTING NAY: *None.*

**V. WORK SESSION ITEMS:**

**A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Nez Perce County and City of Lewiston Emergency Management Director Hurd provided a summary of his roles and responsibilities, which are primarily with plans, training and grants. Mr. Hurd explained his position is a liaison to help coordinate between different organizations to ensure they have all the available resources needed to respond, prepare or mitigate any disasters.

After questions from Councilors regarding the outreach during the reservoir rupture, Mr. Hurd explained that press releases and social media platforms were utilized to notify residents. He has since learned of the availability of an alert type notification for residents, which will be integrated moving forward.

Mayor Johnson thanked Nez Perce County and City of Lewiston Emergency Management Director Hurd for his information.

(Councilor Tousley disconnected from Zoom around 3:25 pm).

## **B. CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH**

Fire Chief Myklebust explained that the possibility of having a consolidated dispatch was discussed but was put on hold during the pandemic and has since been resumed. The City of Lewiston and Nez Perce County agreed to have a consultant come in and provide a study on the feasibility of a consolidated dispatch. The study has been completed and will be presented to City Council and Nez Perce County at a later time.

Police Chief Kuzik provided a handout to Councilors that explained the outcomes of a consolidated dispatch, as well as the pros and cons. After reviewing the handouts, Chief Kuzik informed Councilors that he does not feel a consolidated dispatch is in the best interests of the City because it is too narrow for the community's long term needs.

## **C. FRANCHISE FEES**

Mayor Johnson opened the discussion related to franchise fees and recognized Avista's Regional Business Manager for the Lewis-Clark Region Mike Tatko in the audience. Mayor Johnson asked Council to consider a proposal to increase the franchise fee from 1% to 3% to help fund repairs to streets, as well as lessening the burden on the property taxes. The franchise fee would spread the costs to all users, not just homeowners, similar to a consumption tax.

Avista's Regional Business Manager for the Lewis-Clark Region Tatko explained that the franchise fee can go from 0% to 1% without a vote, but Avista has an internal policy to leave the decision of going to 2% or 3% to the citizens. Mr. Tatko encouraged Council, if they chose to pursue raising the franchise fee, to make the ballot language as specific as possible. While Avista is a neutral agency and doesn't take sides, they will make sure their Customer Service Representatives are educated to answer any questions from the public.

Councilors supported increasing the franchise fee and Mayor Johnson explained the consideration of the official ballot language would be placed on the February 27<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. If Council was in favor of the ballot language, it would then be submitted to Nez Perce County to be placed on the May election.

**VI. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS**

None.

**B. MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Johnson thanked Carolyn Eads for bringing carrot cake to the City Council meeting.

**C. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

Councilor Schroeder mentioned the Historic Preservation Commission is looking for volunteers to join the Commission.

Mayor Johnson noted the Public Works Advisory Commission received another application so there are now two candidates.

**D. AGENDA TOPICS**

Councilor Liedkie requested a Youth Advisory Commission update be added to a future agenda and that job descriptions be updated to reflect the current form of government.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Kleeburg and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively adjournment of the February 6, 2023, Work Session at 4:32p.m. The motion carried 5-0.