

March 1, 2021

T HE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Work Session on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at the Lewiston City Library, 411 D Street.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder; Councilor Kelly; Councilor Bradbury; Councilor Pernsteiner; Councilor Miller; Councilor Blakey

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Collins

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Nygaard; Chris Davies; Budd Hurd; Jana Gómez; Kayla Hermann; Travis Myklebust; Dan Marsh; Tim Barker; Laura Von Tersch; Lynn Johnson; Carol Mauer; Kari Ravencroft; Brittnie Purington; Dustin Johnson; Aaron Butler

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on agenda items or any issue of City business; provided, however, members of the public shall not address matters that are the subject of a public hearing or provide additional testimony or information on a quasi-judicial matter (e.g., Planning and Zoning matter) after the official record of such matter has been closed. Persons commenting may request that items be placed on a future agenda for further discussion; such requests are subject to approval by the City Manager or a majority vote of the City Council. Comments regarding the performance of a specific City employee are not appropriate during Citizens' Comments; instead, a meeting should be scheduled with the City Manager. The presiding officer may determine that comments regarding matters that have been previously heard and/or decided by the City Council are not appropriate for Citizens' Comments.

*A person shall not provide comment unless and until recognized by the presiding officer. Persons providing comment shall identify themselves by their names and cities of residence, but shall not be required to disclose their mailing or home addresses. Persons making comments shall be limited to **3 minutes** each, unless additional time is allowed by the presiding officer.*

Comments may be made: (1) in-person, (2) by emailing the City Clerk at kravencroft@cityoflewiston.org, or (3) by calling (208) 746-3676 and leaving a message. Comments submitted by email or phone will be forwarded to the City Council. If you would like your comment to be read out loud during the meeting, please so indicate in your message. Members of the public who wish to provide in-person comment, but who are unable to secure a seat in the designated meeting space and/or overflow room(s) due to occupancy or gathering limits, will be rotated in and out of the designated meeting space in order to provide comment. While not in the designated meeting space and/or overflow room(s), such persons may watch and listen to the livestream of the meeting on their own devices by visiting the City of Lewiston's Facebook page or the City's website at cityoflewiston.org. The City will not provide a means for listening to the meeting outside of the designated meeting space and/or overflow room(s).

Steve Martin welcomed the Gospel Mission Organization to the Lewis Clark Valley. He said that he is very excited to have them in the community to be able to provide much needed services for the valley.

III. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. FY'20 AUDIT: *Considering approval of the FY'20 Audit – Action Item (Marsh)*

Councilors Miller and Blakey moved and seconded the motion to approve the FY'20 audit.

Councilor Bradbury objected to the approval of the FY'20 audit on the basis that the auditors were not provided a letter from City Attorney Gómez from March 2018 stating that the funds taken from utilities for street repair was a tax, which he believes is unconstitutional. He said that this current fiscal year the City is taking \$1 million from utilities, which results in higher utility rates. He continued by stating that it has been estimated by the city engineer that over 500 million gallons of water has been provided to the golf course at no cost. If the golf course paid for that water used they would owe the city approximately \$1.7 million. He stated that the auditors acknowledged at the previous meeting that they had not received the city attorney's opinion, but would have liked to have received it.

City Attorney Gómez stated that she provides a letter to the auditors each year regarding the potential liabilities and risks of the city. She noted that she did provide the auditors with a letter this year and did include Councilor Bradbury's concerns.

The motion to approve carried 6-1 with Councilor Bradbury voting nay.

IV. WORK SESSION ITEMS

A. LIBRARY PRESENTATION - OUTDOOR SPACE: *Tour and update on the Library outdoor space (L. Johnson/Creason)*

Library Director Johnson thanked all those that have been involved in the outdoor space project. Library Foundation Chair Creason shared a presentation with the Council regarding the rooftop gallery and performance space. She shared an overview of the Library construction and completion timeline with a total investment of over \$6 million. She stated that a multi-purpose space and a computer lab are still needed to complete the Library.

Ms. Johnson provided the Council with an overview of the funding received for the rooftop project and shared progress photos of the construction. She invited the Council to step outside to view the Rooftop Gallery and Performance Space.

B. SHELTER IN LEWISTON: *Overview of the proposed shelter for the City of Lewiston by Phil Altmeyer, Union Gospel Mission*

Phil Altmeyer from Union Gospel Mission gave a presentation regarding the new thrift store and potential shelter on Snake River Avenue. He stated that Union Gospel Mission has been established for 70 years, has nearly 200 staff members and operates with no government funding. The Mission partners with the Inland Northwest to reach the poor with the love and the power of the gospel so they may become independent contributing members of society. A priority of the Mission is to create a safe and healing and a drug free environment.

Mr. Altmeyer noted that they currently have four shelters located in the Spokane and Coeur d' Alene areas. He explained that other shelters are considered low barrier, which means that a person can use the shelter in any condition (sober or using) and often have people gathered around the facility. The operations related to the Union Gospel Mission shelters are not low barrier and have good relationships with surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Altmeyer shared the increasing homeless counts in the valley from previous years to present. He stated that the Mission is pursuing the opportunity to come to the Lewis Clark Valley to create a safe, clean and sober place for the community to receive the help it needs.

Councilor Blakey asked if the organization owned the building behind the thrift store. Mr. Altmeyer confirmed. Councilor Blakey then asked Community Development Director Von Tersch if the organization would be eligible for block grant funds. Ms. Von Tersch explained that there are restrictions on block grant funds for religious organizations which would make Union Gospel Mission ineligible for funding.

Councilor Blakey asked what the Mission's position is with regard to mental health. Mr. Altmeyer stated that the Mission would work with local mental health experts for support. He explained that acceptance into the facility depends on the degree of the mental illness and effect that individual would have on the environment and safety of the shelter.

Councilor Bradbury asked what ability the organization would have to make diagnosis and referrals for mental illness. Mr. Altmeyer reiterated that they do work with local experts in the field of mental illness and would refer the community member to the correct professional.

Councilor Kelly asked what source the number of homeless identified within the valley was obtained from. Mr. Altmeyer replied that the numbers are from the Idaho Point-in-Time Count from Idaho Housing website that is updated every January.

Councilor Blakey asked if the previous shelter that was located in North Lewiston was considered low barrier while in operation. City of Lewiston citizen Gordy Gregg confirmed.

C. **EMPEROR OF INDIA**: *Review of the information from the insurance company with regard to the Emperor of India – Action Item (Hermann)*

City Manager Nygaard provided an update regarding the Emperor of India building. He stated that the insurance company is still investigating the fire that took place at the property. He explained there are certain safety issues with the property that will need to be addressed to ensure the building is more secure.

Councilor Bradbury stated that he is becoming impatient with how long it is taking for progress to be made on the property. Mr. Nygaard agreed and stated that they will continue to work through the issues to get the property cleaned up.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION: *Overview of the reorganization plans for the Police Department (Hurd)*

Police Chief Hurd shared with the Council the reorganization plans for the Police Department. He stated that he would like to change his lieutenants to captains due to the administrative work that is completed in that job description.

Chief Hurd explained that as he reviewed the current organizational chart, there were areas that needed to be improved. He said he would like to reduce the number of sections from four to three and promote corporals to sergeants. The department is currently having a hard time filling positions and personnel is difficult to acquire.

Mr. Hurd noted the plan is a reallocation of funds to offset costs and potentially save funds in the future. He stated that this reorganization is the best move for the department and that there has been more interest in lateral move hires. With up to three more employees possibly retiring this year, he feels that this reorganization comes at a great time.

Councilor Kelly asked if the plan presented is not what the city currently employs, but what could be employed. Chief Hurd confirmed.

Councilor Bradbury asked what the Council needs to do to help move this project along. Chief Hurd stated that this presentation was simply to inform the Council of the plan and to continue working through the reorganization with City Manager Nygaard to be sure all the information is correct.

Councilor Blakey asked if the budget would increase in the future. Chief Hurd confirmed.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. *CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS*

Councilor Bradbury stated that he was shocked to learn that the Public Works Director believes that there is less cost for two refuse collections rather than one. He said he feels that the citizens are entitled to know if there is a current market for recycling.

Councilor Miller shared that the Youth Advisory Leadership Council has been working with the LC Valley Resource Center. This center provides a safe place to stay, meals, showers, and laundry facilities for youth in the community. She stated that the Center would like to spread the word on what the organization offers. Ms. Miller noted that the Youth Leadership Council will be touring the facility and creating goals for action that they will be presenting to the City Council. She thanked Jayson Ulrich and Tim Barker for their involvement with the group.

Councilor Blakey stated that he is concerned about the actions being taken by legislators in Boise to remove the ability for local cities to govern themselves. He suggested that the Council and public reach out to local representatives regarding these possible changes.

B. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

C. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Action Item

There were no appointments.

D. PROPOSED WORK SESSION TOPICS – Action Item

There were no proposed topics.

Following a motion and second from Councilors Kelly and Blakey, the Council went into Executive Session to discuss items pertaining to Property Acquisition. *ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING AYE: Schroeder; Blakey; Bradbury; Kelly; Miller; Pernsteiner. VOTING NAY: None. EXCUSED: Collins*

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PROPERTY ACQUISITION: Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c) to acquire an interest in real property not owned by a public agency – Action Item

Following a short recess, the Council met to discuss the items noted above. Councilors Kelly and Blakey moved and seconded to retire from Executive Session. There were no objections.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder adjourned the March 1, 2021, Work Session at 5:30 p.m.