

*May 2, 2022*

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/lewiston/events/3725902/videos/229763909>

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Blount led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ken Bingman a retired employee for the City of Lewiston and representative of the technician's union, spoke on behalf of Item D. Mr. Bingman expressed hope that communications could be open and they could get the negotiations settled, as it would benefit every employee to have a contract in place.

Deputy City Clerk Brocke read two emails received into record relating to Item D, one from Tim Parker and the other from Bill Reynolds, both encouraging the Council to negotiate with the union.

Andrew Fox, President for FOP, commented on Item D. Mr. Fox explained that the Police Department agrees with Mr. Parker about moving the item to a future agenda to allow more time to discuss the topic before a decision is made.

Chris Jones, resident of Lewiston, Local 1773 with the Fire Department. Mr. Jones extended that Local 1773 is behind the technician's union and expressed the importance of the relationship between the union and the city.

**IV. WORK SESSION ITEMS:**

**A. JOB INCUBATOR:**

Valley Vision President Scott Corbitt and Beautiful Downtown Lewiston Executive Director Brenda Morgan presented information relating to the Job Incubator, which is also called the Innovation Hub. Mr. Corbitt explained that Covid-19 amplified pre-existing issues in the labor market and the emphasis is now on work from anywhere. The City has been a partner

since day one and has been searching for a building, but unfortunately not found one yet. They are looking to define what the City's involvement is, as they would like the City to be a conduit of federal/state funds to identify and develop a facility for the Hub.

Continuing, Mr. Corbitt explained what an Innovation Hub is and played a video of a hub called the MatchBox that embodies the spirit of what they are trying to accomplish. Key trends and statistics were provided, along with a community survey that generated 362 qualified responses. In regards to sustainability, the draft revenue model indicated that public and private partnerships would be critical for success. Potential revenue streams included office space rents, education programs, event income, food and drink sales, grants, and maker space rental.

**B. AIRPORT FIRE STATION OPTIONS:**

Gary Peters, Airport Authority Board Chair, stated he felt obligated to share some ideas related to Fire Station 4. Mr. Peters said he highly supports the new Fire Station and he would like to see the City and Airport work together to put the Fire Station on the best site possible. Mr. Peters then provided an overview of the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF), and the history of the Lewiston Fire Department providing the ARFF services at the Airport. He then explained an alternative option would be to sell the Bryden property and use the airport property, which would provide a savings to the city. Mr. Peters also expressed concern for growth and traffic control related to the Bryden property.

**C. COMMUNITY PARK ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS:**

Parks and Recreation Director Barker handed the presentation over to Kayla Brown with J-U-B. Ms. Brown informed Councilors that a lot of activity is being seen on the website and they have received over 700 comments. A summary of the public comments received will be provided at a later meeting in May. Ms. Brown then introduced Todd Chase with the FCS Group who performed the impact analysis.

Mr. Chase presented draft findings for the Community Park, which included the study methodology, community park attractions and amenities, case study and review summary, economic impact assumptions, impact model methodology, annual fiscal and economic impacts, and the next steps.

Ms. Brown then introduced John Watson with J-U-B to present the estimated costs of the park. Mr. Watson explained the costs were broken down by priority and possible funding sources. The Community Park total concept cost estimate is \$95 million, which includes \$10 million in contingencies and multiple funding sources.

**D. AFSCME TECHNICIAN'S CONTRACT:**

Human Services Director Province explained that collective bargaining is a process of negotiation between labor and management over wages, benefits and working conditions

and are negotiated every three years. The AFSCME collective bargaining agreement represents 77 positions within the City, of which 31 members are paying dues to AFSCME. The City currently bargains with AFSCME Local 1124- Technicians, FOP Lewis-Clark Lodge Number 10, and IAFF 1773.

Continuing, Ms. Province clarified it is up to the City Council if they want to negotiate with the group or not, as it is not a requirement. Ms. Province asked Council how they would like staff to proceed, either elect to renew negotiations or elect not to renew negotiations. If they don't renew, the contract would end September 30 and changes to the policy would need to be incorporated.

Mayor Johnson questioned how they can get more members into the collective bargaining group. Pat Wilson, Lewiston City employee said several people have retired and there is a 6-month probationary period before new members can join the union, which is one of the issues. The other issue is the younger members are unfamiliar with unions and are hesitant to join.

Councilor Tousley moved to renew negotiations and enter into collective bargaining. Councilor Schroeder seconded. *ROLL CALL: Voting AYE: Tousley, Liedkie, Forsmann, Kleeburg, Schroeder. Voting NAY: Blount.*

**E. 10<sup>TH</sup> AND THAIN INTERSECTION:**

Public Works Director Johnson explained how the analysis of the 10th and Thain intersection started out and then handed the presentation off to Rebecca Foust with T-O Engineers. Ms. Foust explained the project objective was to screen alternatives for improving network connectivity, mobility, and safety, to and from East Orchards development.

Ms. Foust presented information related to the network issues and concerns, scope elements and deliverables, accomplishments and work in progress, strategies and refinement, and status of the traffic impact study. Continuing, Ms. Foust asked Councilors how they felt about roundabouts, if they were ready to discuss access changes, and how they feel about revising the Capital Improvement Plan project phasing.

After discussion, Public Works Director Johnson expressed appreciation for Council's feedback and noted more information would be provided at future meetings

**F. CDBG OVERVIEW:**

Deputy City Clerk Brocke provided an overview of the Community Development Block Grant program. Ms. Brocke explained the original intent of the agenda item was to provide recommendations for the upcoming Community Development Block Grant program year, but the City had still not yet received its allocation amount from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Brocke gave an overview of the program, the

applications that were submitted, and next steps. She concluded her presentation by explaining that the Action Plan would be brought to Council for approval at a future meeting.

**V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS**

Councilor Kleeburg commented about the Arbor Day celebration and mentioned it was well attended.

Councilor Schroeder also commented that she attended the Arbor Day celebration and was able to speak on behalf of the Mayor.

**B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES**

None.

**C. MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Johnson thanked Council for their hard work and their discussions.

**D. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**E. AGENDA TOPICS**

Councilor Forsmann questioned if the timing of work sessions could be placed on a future agenda for discussion. Mayor Johnson responded that it could be done through a motion or it could be done at the upcoming 2nd and 3rd reading of the related Ordinance.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Liedkie and Tousley moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the May 2, 2022 work session. The motion carried 6- 0 and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:29 p.m.