

May 23, 2022

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Special Budget 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 Kleeburg; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Tousley;

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Forsmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IV. BUDGET ITEMS:

A. RATE PROPOSALS:

1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Chief Myklebust explained that the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board recommends a 2.5% increase to ambulance fees across the board for fiscal year 2023 and 2024. The exception to the increase would be for disposables.

2. PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Director Barker provided a presentation on the proposed rates for the Community Center and Fenton Gym. The proposed fee increase for the Community Center is \$5 per hour per room, while the proposed fee increase for Fenton Gym is \$10 per hour.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director Von Tersch explained that the current budget is on track and that revenues are expected at \$20,000 above budget, while expenses are expected at \$28,000 below budget. The Department was challenged to hold back 2% of its

budget, which amounted to \$20,945, and was able to hold back a total of \$22,360. She proposed a fee increase of 2.5%, rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recommended roll up of 8.7%, which would save the business community \$66,392 in the 2023 fiscal year.

4. WATER

Public Works Director Johnson explained what rates go towards, such as capital improvements, debt service and operations. The initial rate, per the previous Council adopted FCS Utility Financial Plan, was a 5.25% increase but the recommended rate is a 3.25% increase for fiscal year 2023.

5. WASTEWATER

Public Works Director Johnson explained the initial rate, per the Council adopted FCS Utility Financial Plan, was a 3.25% increase, but the recommended rate is a 1.25% increase for fiscal year 2023.

6. SANITATION

Public Works Director Johnson explained the proposed rate is a 3% increase for fiscal year 2023. The highest commodity being paid is fuel and the current contract has a fuel escalator clause, which is expected to update in June due to fuel increases. Director Johnson also noted he is working with FCS to re-evaluate the rates and hoping to have a better recommendation.

7. PUBLIC WORKS FEES

Public Works Director Johnson proposed no change to easements, plats, and right of way vacation fees and a 0-10% increase, per the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to right of way permit fees and administrative, preliminary and final plat fees. He concluded his proposal by showing a utility bill comparison for a single family home, which showed a total increase of \$119.52 for the current fiscal year and reflected a total increase of \$122.40 for fiscal year 2023.

B. HUMAN RESOURCES:

Human Resources Director Province provided a brief history of the Benefit Plan Trust, which allows the City to pay for insurance. Trustees are responsible for managing and administering the trust assets as fiduciaries in the interest of the participants and the plan for the purpose of providing benefits under the plan to employees and their dependents, and paying reasonable expenses of administering the Trust and Plan.

Continuing, Ms. Province ran through plan information, financials and renewal information. She then moved on to the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) which is based upon the U.S.

Cities CPI-W rolling average index for the quarter ended in March (January, February and March). The CPI has come out significantly higher, but the proposed increase is 2.5%. Ms. Province concluded her presentation with an overview of the HR budget and noted they were able to save \$47,600 by removing several items.

Risk Manager Harrington explained the insurance budget and noted the anticipated cost for fiscal year 2023 is \$520,312. Per the insurance administrator, an increase of approximately 18% is anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year, regardless of the vendor.

C. FINANCE

City Treasurer Gordon reviewed the Finance budget. Reductions in the budget came from the ability to promote staff within the Utility Billing and Finance Divisions through position vacancies and shuffling responsibilities. The total reduction in Utility Billing was \$8,300, while the total reduction in Finance was \$28,720. Through the restructuring and elimination of the Administrative Services Director position, a total of \$235,820 was saved.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Tousley extended appreciation to the Directors in their efforts to meet the Mayor's 2% budget challenge.

Councilor Kleeburg commented that the City budget went from \$65 million to \$100+ million due to the bonds for water and wastewater. Once the projects are completed, the budget will go back down.

B. MAYOR COMMENTS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Kleeburg and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively, adjournment of the May 23, 2022, Special Budget Session at 4:43 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.