

June 6, 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

Garry Busch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Shelly DeAtley, a Lewiston resident, remarked that Modie Park is an uncut gem in the City of Lewiston that needs to be honed and beautified.

IV. WORK SESSION ITEMS:

A. AGING OF THE LOCAL POPULATION:

Mark Havens, Executive Director of Interlink, stated Interlink's mission is to help senior citizens and persons with disabilities remain independent in their own homes. Mr. Havens explained that as a result of long-range planning for Interlink, information showed the age of the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley is getting older. Statistics showed the median age of the population is 40.4 and that 19.8% of the Nez Perce County population are older than 65. He explained the "Silver Tsunami", which shows the number of senior citizens will get larger in the next 20 years.

Mr. Havens then informed Council that Interlink will be holding senior summits to discuss the implications and develop a plan, which includes housing, health care and transportation issues.

B. MODIE PARK CONSERVANCY:

Don Brigham Jr., Vice President of Modie Park Conservancy, informed the Council that the main point of the discussion is for everyone to embrace and recognize Modie Park. Mr.

Brigham provided background information on the park, along with pictures and maps of the park layout. He then passed the presentation on to Garry Bush.

Garry Bush reviewed several projects in the park and funding resources, such as grants, that are being utilized to make upgrades. Mr. Bush explained the conservancy offers 30 years of experience, is a model for volunteerism, and serves as a template for all city parks. The group has the involvement of citizens, integration of neighborhood ownership, effective cooperative projects, successful grant writing, and have established partnerships spanning 30 years. The Modie Park Conservancy has a 35-page Strategic Plan and Action Plan that outlines each zone of the park and its priorities.

Councilor Tousley excused himself at 3:25 p.m.

Mr. Bush concluded his presentation by explaining that the Annabelle Osborn House is not suitable to be used and it will cost \$9,000.00 to demolish. He then presented checks from Modie Park in the amount of \$4,500 to Parks and Recreation Director Barker to assist in the cost of demolition.

C. COMMUNITY PARK FUNDING:

Parks and Recreation Director Barker presented information related to Community Park funding opportunities. He encouraged everyone to check out the city magazine “Living Lewiston”, as it highlights additional information on the park, and turned the presentation over to Cameron Arial with Clearwater Financial.

Mr. Arial said the goal of the presentation is to provide as much detail and information to help Council think about ways to tackle the park costs. He explained what a bond is and how it works, along with four methods to fund projects: 1) save up and set aside; 2) pay as you go; 3) grant financing; and 4) debt financing. Mr. Arial explained a combination of these methods can also be used and reviewed the pros and cons of each method. A graph presented a ten year look at rates, which showed interest rates are still fairly low. Mr. Arial said more information will be provided and scenarios can be analyzed if Council desires to discuss in the future.

Dodd Snodgrass, Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA), explained he was put in charge of looking into the grants portion of the Community Park project. There are private foundations, public sources, hybrid sources (sponsored projects), and a strategy on grant funding. A list that provided an overhead look of various funding sources and recommended approaches was provided. In summary, the grant piece is a component they can work on in pieces as the master plan is developed.

Parks and Recreation Director Barker explained they are in the process of creating a 501 (c)(3), with the expectation of creating a Foundation within the next year. Currently, approximately \$12 million in City funds have been put towards the park for infrastructure.

Kayla Brown with J-U-B Engineers wrapped up the presentation with a summary of the community responses. A total of 96 people responded to the public survey and an additional 251 comments were received on Facebook. Ms. Brown mentioned that another public comment opportunity is coming up on the draft plan, with the final Master Plan being presented to the City Council in August. Survey results can be found at lewistoncommunitypark.com

D. BUSINESS LICENSES:

Business Licensing Coordinator Stricker summarized that City Council directed staff to provide different scenarios showing what a 20% reduction in business license fees would look like. She provided an overview of the business license fee annual adjustments and a look back of the adjustments over the last 10 years. After reviewing a breakdown of the types of business licensing fees, Ms. Stricker outlined several options that the Council could consider.

- Option 1: A 20% reduction of each individual fee on the fee schedule would create an estimated impact of \$48,000 to the budget;
- Option 2: Average out a 20% total revenue reduction across all impacted licenses resulting in a \$24 reduction for each individual fee. This option has approximately the same revenue impact as Option 1;
- Option 3: Create one flat fee for all impacted licenses with a \$96 flat rate fee for all businesses, regardless of the number of employees. This option also has the same budget impact as Options 1 and 2;
- Option 4: Create a two-fee schedule for all impacted licenses, which would be a savings for all businesses at all levels.

Ms. Stricker then explained that a 20% cut on alcohol license fees would result in a budget savings of \$8,124.

After discussion related to the different options and the effects it would have on staff time, Councilor Blount moved to reduce liquor and alcohol license fees across the board by 20%. Council President Liedkie seconded the motion for discussion, wherein the general consensus of the council was that a 20% reduction was not preferred. *ROLL CALL: Voting AYE: Blount. Voting NAY: Liedkie, Forsmann, Kleeburg, Schroeder.*

E. FIRE STATION 4 DISCUSSION:

Councilor Forsmann suggested hosting an open house to provide the public with information on the conditions and needs of the current fire station. Fire Chief Myklebust agreed with hosting an open house, along with a virtual tour.

Councilor Forsmann made a motion to hold an open house at Fire Station 4 sometime in the month of July. Councilor Kleeburg seconded. Councilor Blount offered a friendly

amendment to hold a meeting after the open house at the proposed build site on 5th and Bryden. The motion carried 5-0.

Councilor Forsmann then questioned the possibility of having an updated traffic impact analysis done for the new Fire Station 4 location. Public Works Director Johnson replied that traffic impact studies were performed in 2018 and 2020. These studies analyze the impact a future development will have on the road network, and the Fire Department does not generate a lot of trips. Actual trips generated in the area come from Bryden Canyon and East Orchards traffic, so an updated traffic analysis won't make a difference to the information already on file.

Fire Chief Myklebust clarified there will be an early indicator closer to 4th Street, and a flashing light just before the Fire Station property. The existing light at the intersection will be controlled by their system and additional lanes will be added to the intersection, which is part of their development phase.

F. INNOVATION HUB:

Mayor Johnson explained that progress has not been made on the Innovation Hub and through research it was discovered that the \$600,000 was not placed in the proper fund when it was received. A narrative was provided by City Treasurer Gordon which explained that the City of Lewiston received a federal CARES Act allocation of \$1,129,900 from the State of Idaho. \$527,000 was reimbursed for expenses related to the COVID, which left approximately \$600,000 remaining. In an effort not to lose the funds, the city filed an application with the state to use the funding for a job accelerator program, which was determined to not be an allowable expense under the CARES Act. The city then applied for reimbursement of public safety expenses, which was allowable. When the reimbursement was received, the \$600,000 was placed in the Economic Development account, rather than the General Fund account.

Continuing, Mayor Johnson explained auditors advised them to do a prior period adjustment to move the \$600,000 to the correct account. He clarified that this is not considered a transfer. In short, the city does not have \$600,000 dedicated for the Job Accelerator and he said he would not be recommending it for funding, as the project has hit a dead end.

Mayor Johnson concluded his report by noting there are other resources in the Valley that provide assistance to small businesses and Council will be able to address the project during future budget sessions.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Liedkie commented that a press release went out regarding the Airport Emergency Response exercise scheduled for June 8th and encouraged people to watch.

Councilor Blount commented that he participated in a ride-along with the Lewiston Police Department and was very impressed.

B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES

None.

C. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson expressed appreciation to the small businesses and gave a shout out to the local McDonald's on 21st Street for raising about \$33,000 for the Children's Hospital.

D. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

None.

E. AGENDA TOPICS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Forsmann and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the June 6, 2022 work session. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.