

September 3, 2024

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Special Work Session in the Bell Building Second Floor Conference Room at 215 D Street. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson; Council President Kleeburg; Councilor Klein; Councilor Liedkie; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire.

COUNCILORS EXCUSED: Councilor Forsmann.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Please note that identifying an item as an “Action Item” does not require the City Council to vote on that item.

- A. MAIN STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE:** Welch Comer & Associates, Inc. will provide an update on the preliminary design and estimate for the project, including the planned public engagement process and its impact on the design - Action Item

Public Works Director Johnson introduced Phil Boyd, of Welch Comer & Associates. Mr. Boyd then provided an overview of the public engagement process, as well as the next steps for the Main Street Corridor Improvements.

- B. UNITED AIRLINES PERFORMANCE UPDATE:** Update and discussion from the Airport Authority Board regarding the performance of flights operated by United Airlines - Action Item

Airport Manager Isaacs summarized that while the MRG helps reduce operating losses, the Lewiston-Denver route costs \$12 million, with United Airlines charging higher fares for 12 of the top 15 destinations despite not using the MRG to lower prices. Local airfares have dropped by 45% compared to a 2% national average decrease, driven by competition and tourism, including Delta adding a Seattle route in response to United. Additionally, fares can be 2-3 times higher when purchased a

week before departure.

Councilor Liedkie recalled previous discussions where it was emphasized that maintaining high load factors would reduce the MRG and expressed concerns about the balance between lower fares, which benefit consumers, and the city's financial responsibilities under the MRG. Airport Manager Isaacs acknowledged that while high load factors could have reduced the MRG, increases in fuel prices and reduced ticket prices significantly impacted profitability. Mr. Isaacs shared that the third-quarter data from 2023 was presented to the Council, but unforeseen changes in fuel costs and ticket prices altered the anticipated outcomes.

- C. **BERT LIPPS POOL SURVEY:** Presentation of the Bert Lipps pool survey results followed by a discussion on the outcomes and potential next steps - Action Item

Councilor Spickelmire presented the results of the Bert Lipps community pool survey, noting over 2,300 responses. Of the three options provided, the top option was to remove the existing pool structure and build a combination splash pad and pool.

After discussion, Mayor Johnson suggested Councilor Spickelmire bring a discussion of exploring all aquatic options to the Parks & Recreation Commission and report back.

- D. **BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE:** Discussion of the Building Feasibility Study performed by Clearwater Financial approved at the March 11, 2024 City Council meeting
- Action Item

Mayor Johnson and Councilors discussed the potential consolidation of city departments, with Clearwater Financial hired to assess building uses and match spaces. The study suggested that consolidation could be feasible and several department directors emphasized the efficiencies and improved collaboration that could result, as well as potential savings, better energy efficiency, and centralized purchasing benefits. Councilors supported consolidation but stressed the need for detailed financial information, consideration of future growth and requested the item be placed on a future agenda.

V. **UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Comments shall not be related to an item currently before the City Council or an item that may come before the City Council in the foreseeable future, and shall be limited to comments, not discussion.

None.

B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES

None.

C. MAYOR COMMENTS

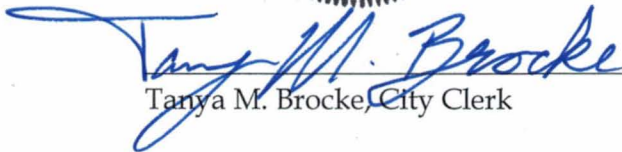
Mayor Johnson announced that he would be out of town, with Council President Kleeburg handling Council questions and Community Development Director Grow taking the lead for city-related matters in his absence.

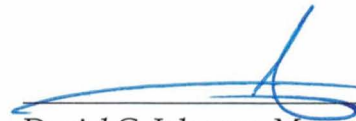
D. AGENDA TOPICS: - Action Item

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Schroeder and Liedkie moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the September 3, 2024 Special Work Session. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.




Tanya M. Brocke, City Clerk


Daniel G. Johnson, Mayor