

December 2, 2024

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. Council President Kleeburg called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

I. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Council President Kleeburg; Councilor Forsmann; Councilor Klein; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire.

COUNCILORS EXCUSED: Mayor Johnson; Councilor Liedkie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Kleeburg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Furstenau, a resident of Lewiston, spoke against allowing shipping containers and encouraged the Council to go with Option 1, take no action and enforce, from the staff memo.

Penny Barbee, a resident of Lewiston, also spoke against allowing shipping containers and questioned why it had not been enforced.

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. FINAL MAIN STREET UPDATE: A final update regarding the Main Street "Reimagine Downtown Lewiston" project from Welch Comer & Associates, Inc. - Action Item (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson introduced Phil Boyd of Welch Comer & Associates, Inc., who provided a final update on the design process, schedule, and public engagement feedback for the Reimagine Downtown Lewiston project.

Mr. Boyd informed the City Council that the total estimated project cost is \$37.7 million, to be implemented in two phases, and emphasized the benefits of completing the project as a single bond-funded initiative rather than smaller, fragmented projects. The bond proposal is designed to avoid increasing

property taxes. Next steps include confirming the project scope and developing a funding plan, with the goal of finalizing these ahead of a bond election in May.

B. SHIPPING CONTAINERS: Continued discussion and possible direction regarding city code enforcement and potential amendments to Lewiston City Code related to the prohibition of shipping containers as buildings in most zoning districts - Action Item (Community Development Director Grow)

Community Development Director Grow provided a summary of the background on shipping containers and reviewed four options for Council consideration:

1. Take no action and enforce current regulations.
2. Amend city code to allow shipping containers in all zones.
3. Amend city code to allow them in additional, but not all, zones.
4. Amend city code to prohibit them in all zones.

After reviewing the options, Councilor Klein moved, with a second from Council President Kleeburg, to select option 2, to amend City Code to allow shipping containers in all zoning districts. The motion carried 4-1 with Councilor Schroeder opposed.

C. OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING TASK FORCE: A presentation on the establishment of a Task Force and Grant Program for Opioid Settlement fund allocation - Action Item (Grant Manager Rose)

Grant Manager Rose provided an update on opioid funding and the establishment of a task force. She reported \$484,000 is currently available for the program, with an additional \$1.2 million to be received over the next 18 years. The program has been identified as the most effective approach, and a task force has been assembled, including representatives from CHAS Health, Idaho Department of Corrections, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Union Gospel Mission (UGM), and Public Health - Idaho North Central District.

The task force will evaluate applications, with the following proposed timeline:

- January 2025: Application period opens.
- February 28, 2025: Application period concludes.
- March 30, 2025: Project selections are announced.

D. ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATES: An overview of proposed revisions to Lewiston City Code Sections 31-47 and 31-51 to align with the ADA Transition Plan, enhance development processes, and prioritize strategic frontage improvements - Action Item (Public Works Director Johnson)

Public Works Director Johnson provided a summary of the updates to City Code Sections 31-46 to 31-52 related to the ADA Transition Plan, which was adopted in 2020. He explained the updates will undergo consultation with the Public Works Advisory Commission (PWAC), Disability Advisory Commission (DAC), and the Legal Department before returning to the City Council for amendments.

Councilor Schroeder excused herself at 4:28 p.m. due to a home emergency.

- E. ASSIGNED BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** A financial review of appropriations, Council-approved projects, and updates on project costs related to the Assigned Building Fund - Action Item (Finance Director Gordon)
- Councilors received an update on the Building Reserve Fund (also known as the Assigned Building Fund), as outlined in City Code Chapter 2, Article VI, Section 2-61, from Finance Director Gordon. Ms. Gordon reported that the fund's beginning balance for fiscal year 2024, as of October 1, 2023, was \$6,451,393. The Council approved \$974,290 for various projects during the year, of which \$592,612 was spent, leaving an unspent balance of \$380,000. As a result, the fund's balance at the start of fiscal year 2025 is \$5,858,782, with no further requests or expenditures to date.

Councilor Spickelmire requested an update on building maintenance, citing the lack of requests despite an estimated \$10 million in needed repairs. He also inquired with Fire Chief Rightmire about the remaining work at the fire stations. Ms. Gordon explained that the potential consolidation of buildings may be delaying progress, while Fire Chief Rightmire noted that a report on remaining fire station projects, estimated at \$4.5 million, would be presented to the Council in January.

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.

Councilor Forsmann extended her prayers and condolences to the family of Stephanie Rudy, whose memorial service was held on Saturday, November 30.

- B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES**

None.

C. MAYOR COMMENTS

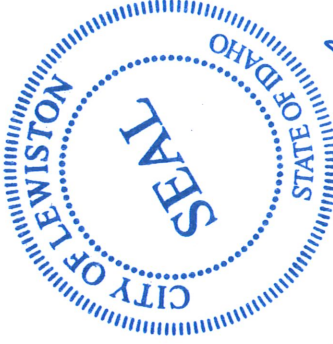
None.

D. AGENDA TOPICS: Action Item

Councilor Forsmann moved to direct staff to provide an update on the remaining maintenance needs, including a summary of completed updates and outstanding items requiring action. Councilor Spickelmire seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Forsmann and Spickelmire moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the December 2, 2024 Work Session. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.




Tanya M. Brocke, City Clerk

Approved 12/23/2024


Daniel G. Johnson, Mayor