

May 5, 2025

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sergeant Michael Topp's son led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Pat Wilson, Vice-President of the local tech union and resident of Lewiston, Idaho, expressed appreciation to the City Council for their willingness to enter into negotiations with the union.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH PROCLAMATION:** Proclaiming the month of May 2025 as "Historic Preservation Month" in the City of Lewiston (Mayor Johnson)

Mayor Johnson proclaimed the month of May 2025 as "Historic Preservation Month" in the City of Lewiston and presented the proclamation to Assistant Planner Katie Hollingshead.

- B. POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONAL PINNING:** Recognition of Police Department personnel for recent promotions and badge pinning ceremony (Police Chief Kuzik)

Police Chief Jason Kuzik spoke regarding Sergeant Topp's accomplishments, after which City Clerk Tanya Brocke administered the oath of office. Sergeant Topp's family then pinned his badge.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

- A. LEWISTON CIVIC THEATER SERVICES AGREEMENT ANNUAL ACCOUNTING:** Presentation by Executive Director Nancy McIntosh regarding the activities financed to date with City funds in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Services Agreement - Action Item

Executive Director Nancy McIntosh provided an update on the Lewiston Civic Theater's recent accomplishments. Highlights included licensing for the 2025-

2026 season, two sessions of the summer kids program with 132 students enrolled, and hosting and winning the Idaho state competition in February 2025. The Theater continues to operate out of the old high school and is working with Webb Management to develop a strategic plan. Ms. McIntosh noted increased attendance at performances and steady growth in the children's program, and thanked the Council for their continued support.

- B. WILDFIRE RESPONSE DISCUSSION:** Presentation by Fire Chief Rightmier on wildfire threats facing Lewiston, outlining current and proposed mutual aid and mobilization efforts, discussing associated financial, training, and operational impacts, and seeking Council direction regarding Lewiston's future participation in wildfire response efforts - Action Item

Fire Chief Greg Rightmier presented wildfire response goals and outlined key risks, including strong winds, rapid fire spread, and limited defensible space. He reviewed recent regional fires and highlighted current gaps in large-scale response experience, mutual aid agreements, and regional coordination.

Three options for Council consideration were presented:

- Option 1: Full multi-state participation (EMAC agreements with ID, WA, MT, OR, UT, WY, NV, CA)
- Option 2: Active regional participation with WA & ID mobilization agreements (Chief Rightmier's recommendation)
- Option 3: Limited participation with deployment restrictions

Discussion followed, including staffing concerns, insurance risks, and mutual aid logistics. Risk Manager Gene Harrington emphasized the financial and safety impacts of wildfire-related injuries under the City's self-insured program. Council members discussed balancing public safety with fiscal responsibility.

Council consensus supported Option 2, focusing on strengthening regional partnerships and formalizing mutual aid agreements.

- C. BRYDEN AVENUE AND BRYDEN CANYON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PLAN UPDATE:** Presentation by Public Works Director Johnson providing a high-level overview of maintenance and repair plans for Bryden Avenue and Bryden Canyon Road, in response to a motion made by Councilor Spickelmire at the March 24, 2025 meeting - Action Item

Public Works Director Johnson provided an update on the Bryden Avenue and Canyon projects, covering the area from Snake River to Thain. He reported that Bryden Canyon's pavement condition index (PCI) is low. Although a \$2 million Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (LHSIP) grant was awarded, official notification of the funding has not yet been received. A corrective patch for the "Bryden dip," located on an old landfill, is scheduled for summer 2025.

Mayor Johnson left the meeting at 4:42 p.m., and Council President Kleeburg

took over. Public Works Director Johnson said he wants to move forward with plans to address the urgent issues on Bryden, and Councilor Wright asked staff to bring practical, cost-effective options that fit with future needs.

VI. 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 announced that the Lewiston Project Bond Open House #3 is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on May 7 at the Community Center and encouraged citizens to attend and stay informed. She noted she would be unable to attend the event due to her participation in the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) Leadership Academy for training and networking.

Council President Kleeburg congratulated Councilor Forsmann on attending the AIC Leadership Academy, noting it is a valuable learning opportunity.

- B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilors Forsmann and Wright shared updates regarding their assigned Boards and Commissions.

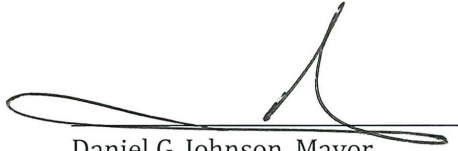
- C. MAYOR COMMENTS**

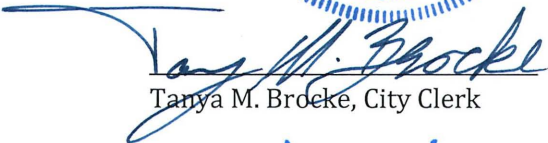
- D. AGENDA TOPICS:** - Action Item

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Schroeder and Forsmann moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the May Work Session. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.




Daniel G. Johnson, Mayor


Tanya M. Broeke, City Clerk

