

May 1, 2023

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, MET IN A WORK SESSION AT THE LEWISTON BELL BUILDING SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM 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 Liedkie (3:25 p.m.); Councilor Forsmann; Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire; Councilor Tousley

COUNCILORS EXCUSED: Councilor Kleeburg;

Mayor Johnson read a statement from Councilor Kleeburg's family explaining that Councilor Kleeburg will not be participating in Council related meetings for the next few weeks, due to a medical issue.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carl Walker, a Lewiston resident, implored Councilors to handle the money wisely and expressed concerns related to the reservoir.

William Stickler, a Lewiston resident, spoke about the irrigation restrictions and expressed concern related to his landscaping.

Linda Gephart, a Lewiston resident, explained her experience with water restrictions in Nevada and using an odd/even schedule. Hand watering is going to use more water instead of less.

Brian Rothfusz, a Lewiston resident, expressed concern about the severity of the water restrictions and disappointment that the public was notified of the restrictions through the newspaper instead of the Mayor.

Suzanne Scully, a Lewiston resident, said her main concern is the reservoir situation and wants to see it fixed as soon as possible. She likes the idea of a rotating schedule and has concerns about contradictions in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet related to a hand held hose and soaker hoses.

Dave Bundy, a Lewiston resident, commented that it is ludicrous for the City to tell him that he can't water his lawn until July. The restrictions are going to kill all the shrubs and trees if they can't figure out a way to get water to them and the Council needs to find a different plan.

Brandon Johnson, a Lewiston resident, asked Councilors, as leaders, to figure out the restrictions. His concerns are the people who have put in landscaping and won't be able to maintain it, as well as how business owners from the landscape business are going to be affected.

Jim Cook, business owner in Lewiston, understands the concerns related to millions of dollars of landscaping and questioned why car washes were allowed during the restriction period.

K'lee Kasper, a Lewiston resident, explained she was attending the meeting for answers and action. She spoke about how the notification system when the reservoir ruptured was lacking and hopes they learned from it and will be more proactive. The total water restriction hinders her family's ability to provide themselves with a garden and asked the Council to look at a rotating schedule.

Ada Eldridge, a Lewiston resident, expressed concern about the water restrictions creating fire hazards during the summer due to fireworks during the 4th of July. She encouraged the Council to look at the restrictions again, as the people feel listened to and respond better.

Bill Wilsey, a Lewiston resident, said he wants to see the timeline of events, as well as who is responsible for the decisions made. He wants to see someone take accountability for their actions.

Don Gephart, a Lewiston resident, said he has experience in water management and hand watering is the most inefficient way to water.

Brad Moore, a Lewiston resident, wants to see the results from paying all the property taxes, the reservoir fixed, and the courthouse put on hold, as well as the city park.

Nancy Huff, a Lewiston resident, said there should not be one person designated that makes the decision.

Dave Bundy, a Lewiston resident, expressed concerns related to lawsuits and fires.

Jeff Jensen, a Lewiston resident, echoed the feelings of the citizens attending the meeting and said there has to be a better way to handle the issue. He urged the Council to reconsider the irrigation restrictions and come up with something else that would work.

Kathy Heinemeyer, a Lewiston resident, explained she has spent lots of funding on landscaping and asked the Council to find a reasonable way to fix the problem.

Deputy Clerk Brocke read emails from David Funke, Ryan King, and Connie Nesary related to the irrigation restrictions.

Brad Moore, a Lewiston resident, asked about a property tax reduction due to the rates being so high. He stated the council needs to get the reservoir fixed and the property taxes reduced.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AIRPORT PRESENTATION:

Airport Manager Isaacs provided an overview of the Lewiston - Nez Perce County Airport, as well as accomplishments of past and current years and planned projects for the upcoming year. The Airport Authority Board will have a work session on May 11th, 2023 ahead of the Joint City-County Budget Session.

Airport Authority Board members Joe Gish, Katie Seekins, and Laurie Wilson spoke about the projects they are working on and the accomplishments made by the board.

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG):

Community Development Specialist Ortiz provided information on the Community Development Block Grant 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan, 2023 Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments.

Jessica Fisch, Senior Planner with Mosaic Community Planning, explained the purpose of the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments. Ms. Fisch also briefed Council on the development of the plans, which included community engagement, the project website, community and virtual workshops, stakeholder interviews and resident focus groups. The 30-day comment period will run from May 8th to June 13th, 2023.

C. ORDINANCE 4882: STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Public Works Director Johnson discussed proposed Ordinance 4882 which regards establishing a system of stormwater drainage system user fees to fund the provision of proprietary stormwater service by the City to property owners within the City's jurisdiction.

D. IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Public Works Director Johnson provided a detailed overview of the high reservoir rupture timeline and reviewed the irrigation restrictions. Concluding, Public Works Director Johnson said that regular updates would be provided.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS:

Council President Liedkie expressed appreciation for the Fire Department's assistance with a family emergency.

Councilor Forsmann thanked the public for providing their comments and coming to the meeting.

B. CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS LIAISON UPDATES

None.

C. MAYOR COMMENTS

Firstly, Mayor Johnson extended a special thank you to American Cruise Lines for investing in the LC Valley with the April 30, 2023 christening of a new cruise ship, American Jazz.

Secondly, Mayor Johnson noted the city is still moving forward in the process of hiring a new fire chief, with an interview being conducted on Friday, April 28, 2023.

Lastly, Mayor Johnson thanked citizens for attending the meeting and expressed his confidence in Director Johnson's ability to guide the community through the reservoir process.

D. ADVISORY BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - Action Item

1. AUDIT COMMITTEE: - Action Item

Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Sunshine Siebert to a three-year term on the Audit Committee. Councilor Tousley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

2. URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY: - Action Item

Mayor Johnson moved to reappoint A.L. Butch Alford to another four-year term on the Urban Renewal Agency. Councilor Schroeder seconded and the motion passed 4-1 with Council President Liedkie opposed.

3. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION: - Action Item

Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Justin Merwin to a four-year term on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilor Tousley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

E. AGENDA TOPICS - Action Item

Councilor Forsmann moved to have a town hall style meeting for a question and answer from the public at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13th, with a second from Council President Liedkie. The motion carried 5-0.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Council President Liedkie and Councilor Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the May 1, 2023 Work Session. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 p.m.