

July 11, 2023

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Joint Lewiston City Council/Nez Perce County Commissioners Special Meeting at the Bell Building Second Floor Conference Room at 215 D Street. Mayor Johnson and Nez Perce County Commission Chair Beck called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

City Council meetings are live-streamed and recorded. To view the full video, go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCddnGQVULZU4XqGBhBTehGg>

I. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson; Council President Liedkie; Councilor Forsmann (3:03 p.m.); Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire; Councilor Tousley

COUNCILORS EXCUSED: Councilor Kleeburg.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commission Chair Beck, Commissioner Havens, Commissioner Zenner

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Upon notification of technical difficulties, Mayor Johnson called a recess at 3:03 p.m. The meeting continued at 3:11 p.m. when staff advised the Mayor that the technical difficulties would take longer to fix.

Gary Peters, Chair of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport Authority Board, thanked the County, City and employees for their assistance at the July 1, 2023 Radials & Rivers Air Show. Mr. Peters then expressed his disappointment in the Council's decision not to appoint Joe Gish to the Urban Renewal Agency and strongly urged the Council to reconsider.

Joe Gish, Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport Authority Board Treasurer, informed Council that it was not his idea to apply to the Urban Renewal Agency (URA), but was encouraged by the current Chair to apply. After an interview, he was recommended for Council consideration and was disappointed in Councilor Schroeder's statement at the July 10, 2023 regular Council meeting. Mr. Gish concluded his comment by noting the importance of volunteers serving on boards and commissions.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. JOINT DISPATCH CENTER: Discussion and potential action on a Joint Dispatch Center - Action Item

Nez Perce County GIS Coordinator and Emergency Communications Joint Powers Board (ECJPB) member Bill Reynolds explained that Nez Perce County and the City of Lewiston cooperatively developed a consolidation implementation plan for a joint dispatch center. Mr. Reynolds then reviewed the consolidation outcomes, project assumptions, project constraints, and the consolidation timeline, which is expected to take several years. (Note: At approximately 3:43 p.m., the livestreaming was restored.)

Councilors and Commissioners asked questions and received responses from Mission Critical Partners Representatives Bret Hubbard, Steve Haberman (Zoom) and Bonnie Maney (Zoom). Nez Perce County Commissioners expressed their support and commitment to a joint dispatch center but needed direction from the City and other agencies on whether they wanted to continue with the project or not.

Police Chief Kuzik explained the reasons he is not supportive of a joint dispatch center and voiced his concerns. He suggested alternative options of maintaining the status quo or running a hybrid model, which would have interagency advantages but allow separate operational control.

After further discussion, Councilors requested holding another joint meeting in order to receive further information to help them determine how they would like to proceed.

V. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS:

None.

B. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and committed to doing research related to the joint dispatch.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Chair Beck thanked the Mayor and Councilors for the good discussion.

Commissioner Havens asked Councilors to reconsider their decision not to appoint Joe Gish to the Urban Renewal Agency board.

Commissioner Zenner reiterated looking at a joint dispatch as an opportunity and said he also appreciated the discussion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business, Councilor Tousley moved to adjourn the Joint Lewiston City Council/Nez Perce County Commissioners meeting with a second from Commissioner Zenner. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:04 p.m.