

July 24, 2023

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Regular Meeting at the Lewiston Library Second Floor Activity Room at 411 D Street. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meetings are recorded live. To view the full video, go to <https://livestream.com/lewiston/events/3725902>

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson; Council President Liedkie; Councilor Forsmann; Councilor Kleeburg (via Zoom); Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire; Councilor Tousley.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Liedkie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

John Crawford spoke to the January reservoir rupture, noting that the house of his daughter and Shawn Miller at 2413 11th Avenue was completely flooded. There was no warning of anything impending, and alarms associated with any potential failure did not work. The water broke out the windows of their basement and brought three feet of water into their bedroom, pinning the door closed and completely destroying the inside of the home. There was no flood insurance, so there is no coverage provided by homeowner's insurance. The company who came to mitigate the mud and mold charged \$35,000, forcing the kids to sell their camper just to pay the bill. Mr. Crawford spoke to the city's \$500,000 stop loss for coverage per event, noting that if 20 people experienced damages, they would only receive \$20,000 each. He expressed concern that staff has not stopped by, sent anything in the mail, or consoled the residents in any way. Mr. Crawford said the city should be ashamed of itself for the way it has treated its citizens.

David Funke, Lewiston, said it is an insult to the citizens to remove the capability for them to comment on City of Lewiston social media posts and believes it is uncalled for.

Kathy Dickenson thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to a large fire at Sunset Park on July 2, 2023. Secondly, she provided examples of rotten wood that came from the same reservoir that she heard was in great condition for being 100 years old, adding she doesn't understand how it could have been structurally sound. Ms. Dickenson encouraged the Council to spend funding for a new reservoir before they spend any more on a new park.

Rick Eldredge expressed concern with Joe Gish's potential appointment to the Urban Renewal Agency being brought back up again on another agenda after the Council already voted in opposition. He encouraged staff to advertise the vacancy if there is a problem with finding applicants. Mr. Eldredge then addressed the need to cut back to essential spending only, adding that seniors have to decide if they will pay a bill or buy food.

Ada Eldredge also addressed the potential appointment of Joe Gish to the URA after the Council already voted it down. She said that just putting him on this very important board just because he was the only one who applied is not right. spoke to Joe Gish for URA for the second time. Don't understand why this is back up when you already voted it down. Don't agree with him being on the URA. Was told that the URA has suggested him being put on there. Mayor told somebody that nobody else has applied. Would think that something this important should not just be given to him because only one who has applied. This will make an unfair voting system as they will use the money to help what the Airport Authority wants. Schroeder said that Gish had threatened litigation against the city. That is the truth. He did a lot of horrible things to the city. Threatened a lot.

City Clerk Ravencroft announced that she would soon be retiring after 36 years and read a letter thanking the City of Lewiston for a great career.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- A. **FINANCIAL REPORT - JUNE 2023:** *Financial report for June 2023, in accordance with Idaho Code 50-208 (Aimee Gordon)*

Finance Director Gordon presented the third quarter financial report for FY'23, which is now 75 percent through the fiscal year that ends on September 30th. As was the case in March, both the Worker's Compensation Fund and the Water Fund are beyond budget and amendments will be forthcoming during August budget meetings. The Golf Fund was closed out and contributions of assets will be realized in the General Fund, and there were three payrolls in the month of June, so these dollar amounts look higher than normal.

Council President Liedkie commended staff for doing a great job of keeping track of the city's finances.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Johnson explained that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these issues unless a Councilor so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered on the Active Agenda under "Items Moved from the Consent Agenda".

Councilors Tousley and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively, adoption of the Consent Agenda. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** *VOTING AYE: Liedkie; Forsmann; Kleeburg; Schroeder; Spickelmire; Tousley. VOTING NAY: None.*

- A. **LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** *07/10/23 Regular; 07/10/23 Work Session; 07/11/23 Joint Session*

- B.** **VOUCHERS PAYABLE:** *Considering approval of the Vouchers Payable dated 06/30/23 through 07/13/23 in the amount of \$3,065,761.57*

VI. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A.** **RFP-23-011 – FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES:** *Considering award of RFP-23-011 to Presnell Gage, PLLC to engage Presnell Gage, PLLC, as the city’s auditing firm (also to be recommended for the Lewiston Urban Renewal Agency and the City of Lewiston Employee Benefit Plan Trust audit) as recommended by the City Evaluation Committee for the agreement term 09/30/23 audit with a 4-year annual option through FY’27 (Aimee Gordon)*

In response to a question raised by Council President Liedkie regarding receiving only one proposal, Ms. Gordon explained that staff reached out to prior proposers to let them know it was being advertised, yet only one RFP was submitted.

Councilor Schroeder moved to award RFP-23-011 to Presnell Gage, PLLC. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kleeburg. **ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING AYE: Liedkie; Forsmann; Kleeburg; Schroeder; Spickelmire; Tousley. VOTING NAY: None.**

- B.** **RESOLUTION 2023-33:** *Considering adopting the Stormwater Policy and Design Manual (D. Johnson)*

It was explained by Public Works Director Johnson that the draft Stormwater Policy & Design Manual was developed in 2009 in preparation for a stormwater permit expected to be issued by the EPA any year. The MS4 permit was issued in 2020.

Continuing, Mr. Johnson noted that this Stormwater Policy and Design Manual will replace Resolution 80-100, which contains the city’s current policies. Staff and designers have been utilizing the Draft Policy and Stormwater Design Manual at will since 2009 because it exceeds the requirements of Ordinance 80-100 and further safeguards the public. The adoption of this manual is the next step in complying with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

Mr. Johnson said that the draft policy and design manual was presented to City Council at the July 10, 2023, regular meeting to solicit feedback, wherein none was received. After adoption, the DEQ will review the documents for compliance, staff will include any necessary revisions and plan to present the revised document to the Public Works Advisory Commission for feedback, and bring the final document back to the Council.

Council President Liedkie asked if the final report was provided to the Council as the document they received was dated October 2010. Mr. Johnson replied that it was drafted in expectation of the MS4 permit. The preference is to keep this date so that any future changes will be set on a new date.

A motion and second were provided by Councilors Schroeder and Kleeburg, respectively, to approve Resolution 2023-33.

Councilor Spickelmire asked if the existing stormwater system will be compliance with the new manual. Mr. Johnson explained that the Resolution only applies to future development or construction from this date forward.

Councilor Kleeburg offered kudos to staff, adding that he has been in full support of this Plan for many years.

Councilor Schroeder offered a friendly amendment to approve Resolution 2023-33 with a correction to the adoption date within the Master Plan. Councilor Kleeburg seconded the motion. *ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING AYE: Liedkie; Forsmann; Kleeburg; Schroeder; Spickelmire; Tousley. VOTING NAY: None.*

VII. ITEMS MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.

VIII. 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 stated that the Sound of Freedom is a great movie and encouraged people to see it.

Councilor Tousley commended City Clerk Ravencroft for always treating him as if he were an old friend and with respect, adding that he will miss her. He then announced that it would be best for him to resign his position as the liaison to the Urban Renewal Agency. He said that he believes the members involved have extremely good intentions of pursuing projects that will make the city and county that much better. However, Mr. Tousley said he doesn't believe he has the knowledge base to work through the trials and tribulations that happen from time to time.

Kleeburg said he talked to Tousley about this the other day. He asked if I would be willing to step and serve as Council representative on URA. Been a little while since I've dealt with URA issues, but I can refresh my memory. At pleasure of council I would be happy to do that.

- B. **CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSION LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilor Schroeder said she is glad to serve as Council liaison to the Public Works Advisory Committee. The group is made up of a diverse group of people and they cover a great deal of topics. Councilor Forsmann agreed, reporting that they will soon be discussing speed limits. Additionally, she stated that she recently attended the open house event at Community Park wherein she learned about the future plans for the park and hopefully will one day come to fruition.

Councilor President Liedkie provided a brief update on the Disability Advisory Commission's FY'24 budget. She commended the group for coming to the table with very differing views, but always a common goal in mind. She encouraged others to watch and learn from this Committee.

C. MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson asked the councilors to reach out to the City Clerk's office to ensure that their contact information is correct for the city's website.

Secondly, Mayor Johnson announced there is will be a Pacific Northwest Fish Symposium on August 17, 2023, from 8:30 to 5:00 at the Walla Walla Community College for those interested.

Mr. Johnson thanked the library staff for continually updating their art within the library to make it a nice place for everyone.

Regarding the URA, Mayor Johnson noted that Councilor Kleeburg currently serves as the alternate Council liaison. He said he would bring Mr. Kleeburg's nomination as Council liaison back to the next council meeting for consideration.

Lastly, the Mayor thanked the citizens for their comments this evening. He noted there are many opportunities for individuals to serve in some capacity and the more applications that are submitted, the bigger selection the Council has.

D. ADVISORY BOARD OR COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

1. **URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY:** *Considering the appointment of Joe Gish to a three-year term.*

Mayor Johnson offered a motion to appoint Joe Gish to a three-year term. The motion was seconded by Council President Liedkie.

Councilor Kleeburg said that having an appointment brought before the Council two meetings in a row is odd.

Councilor Forsmann agreed, stating that it makes her feel that the decision formerly made by the Council wasn't respected and it seems underhanded and sneaky.

Councilor Tousley said that he previously voted against the appointment. However, he indicated that he would be supportive as there has been a vacancy for months with no others coming forward.

Councilor Spickelmire noted that there were some accusations made at a previous meeting that may have swayed the vote. He stated that Mr. Gish would be a great addition to the Board and he will support the appointment.

Councilor Schroeder indicated that the URA is made up of elected officials from the City, County and Port and other at-large members. Both monies within the URA and projects administered by this group are predominantly City. If the Board is heavy in one segment of the community, it creates an undue influence on how the URA Board functions, and the appointment of Mr. Gish would make it heavy on the County side.

The motion to appoint Joe Gish to a three-year term carried 4 to 2, with Councilors Schroeder and Forsmann voting nay.

E. AGENDA TOPICS

Council President Liedkie asked that preliminary report on projects and how they are currently being managed by the URA be scheduled for a future meeting.

Councilor Tousley then asked that the Council revisit a potential warming facility or homeless shelter at a future work session and to invite the appropriate entities involved to assist in the discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Schroeder and Forsmann moved and seconded, respectively, adjournment of the July 24, 2023, Regular meeting at 7:13 p.m.