

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 1, 2020

REGULAR MEETING HELD REMOTELY AT 6:45 P.M.

THE HONORABLE MARK A. CAYER, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Cayer, Councilors Khalid, Pettengill, Rea, Lajoie, Jensen, Clement and Gelinas, City Administrator Denis D'Auteuil and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (265-2020)

Motion by Councilor Khalid, seconded by Councilor Lajoie:

To enter into an Executive Session pursuant to MRSA Title 1, section 405 (6) (c) to discuss an Economic Development issue of which the premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the City. Passed - Vote 7-0

Executive Session began at 6:45pm and ended at 7:05pm.

Regular Meeting began at 7:05pm.

UPDATE ON CITY ACTIONS REGARDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

Deputy City Administrator Dale Doughty reported that both countywide and statewide the number of cases is increasing due to community spread in many counties. Several city departments have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the city staff is working closely with CDC and EMA representatives to make sure that isolation and contact tracing are being done adequately. All employees are wearing masks when not at their individual work area. All in person meetings even if only a handful of staff are now being held remotely and the city is promoting online services for the residents who need to conduct services at City Hall. City departments might soon be moving to a rotating schedule for fifty percent of the staff to be working from the office and fifty percent working from home. The police department has some current cases and the city is working with an epidemiologist to conduct the contact tracing and minimize the spread.

VOTE (266-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Jensen:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meetings of November 17 and 24, 2020 and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 6-0-1 (Councilor Gelinas abstained since she was excused from that meeting).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public offered comment at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING ON A NEW APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR LUCKY TREE BUFFET, 40 EAST AVENUE

Mayor Cayer opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue. The Mayor then closed the hearing.

VOTE (267-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Jensen:

To authorize the City Clerk’s Office to approve a new application for a liquor license for Lucky Tree Buffet, 40 East Avenue. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST PASSAGE TO AMEND THE LAND USE CODE AND MAP TO AMEND THE EXISTING CONDITIONAL ZONING OF NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION “B” (NCB) AT 299 RIVER ROAD, BY INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE OFFICE SPACE FROM 5,000 SF. TO 25,000 SF.

Mayor Cayer opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue. The Mayor then closed the hearing.

VOTE (268-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To approve First Passage to amend the Land Use Code and Map at the property located at 299 River Road by amending the conditional zoning of Neighborhood Conservation “B” (NCB) to increase the allowable office space from 5,000 sf. to 25,000 sf. and to continue the public hearing for Final Passage to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Passed - Vote 7-0

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR CAYER’S NOMINATION TO FILL THE CURRENT VACANCY IN THE WARD 7 POSITION ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Mayor stated he was very pleased with Mr. Beauparlant’s knowledge of education and school operations when he interviewed him, and he understands the role of a School Board member well. Several Councilors complimented the Mayor on his nomination of this candidate.

VOTE (269-2020)

Motion by Councilor Gelinas, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To receive the Mayor’s nomination and to appoint Paul Beauparlant to fill the vacant Ward 7 position on the Lewiston School Committee, said appointment to be effective as of December 1, 2020. Passed - Vote 7-0

APPOINTMENT TO THE LEWISTON AUBURN TRANSIT COMMITTEE

VOTE (270-2020)

Motion by Councilor Rea, seconded by Councilor Clement:

To appoint City Administrator Denis D’Auteuil to serve as a member of the Lewiston Auburn

Transit Committee for a three-year term; said appointment retroactive to July 1, 2020 and said new term to expire June 30, 2023. Passed - Vote 7-0

APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AUBURN LEWISTON AIRPORT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After discussion, Councilor Gelinas offered to serve as the City Council representative to this Board.

VOTE (271-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Lajoie:

To receive Mayor Cayer's nomination and to appoint Councilor Gelinas as the City Council's representative to the Auburn Lewiston Airport Board of Directors, said term to expire January 3, 2022. Passed - Vote 7-0

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Councilor Rea reported the School Committee is pleased to have a new member appointed so quickly regarding their current vacancy. The Middle School and McMahan Elementary School have experienced some positive COVID-19 cases which has caused them to either quarantine some students and staff or go to full remote learning. The school administration must make some tough calls and decisions regarding the ever-changing situation but it is always done for the best interest of the health and safety of the students.

OTHER BUSINESS

VOTE (272-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Gelinas:

To appoint Councilor Jensen to serve on the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments General Assembly. Passed - Vote 6-1 (Councilor Rea opposed)

VOTE (273-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Gelinas:

To adjourn at 7:42 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine