

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 3, 2006

REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT 7:00 P.M.

THE HONORABLE LIONEL C. GUAY, JR., MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Mendros, Bernier, O'Brien, Jean, Samson, Paradis, Rousseau, City Administrator James Bennett, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE LEWISTON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Allison Beaucage, chair of the LYAC, made a presentation to Council on the recent activities of the group. She noted the group recently met with the Assistant Principal of the High School regarding the electronic message board looking for booster club support for the project. She said that LYAC has raised \$2200 so far. Allison noted that upcoming projects include meeting with representatives from Healthy Androscoggin regarding underage drinking problems, working with the YWCA on their annual Week Without Violence initiative, working on National Make A Difference Day and working at the December 7 Community Holiday Celebration.

VOTE (243-2006)

Motion by Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Mendros:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 5 and September 19, 2006, meetings and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk.

Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL PASSAGE FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE UTILITIES ORDINANCE REGARDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Mayor Guay opened the public hearing to receive citizen comment and input. No members of the public spoke for or against this item. Mayor Guay then closed the hearing. Councilor Mendros asked if any reviews have been done regarding the mobile homes.

VOTE (244-2006)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor O'Brien:

That the proposed amendments to the Utilities Ordinance, Article IV. Stormwater Utility, Section 74-303 "Definitions" and Section 74-309 "Credit and Exemptions", receive final passage by a roll call vote. Passed - Vote 5-2 (Councilors Samson and Mendros opposed)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE \$735,000 IN QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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

VOTE (245-2006)

Motion by Councilor O'Brien, second by Councilor Mendros:

To approve the Order to finance school capital improvement projects through a Qualified Zone Academy Bond Issue in the amount of \$735,000:

ORDERED, That \$735,000 be appropriated to finance capital improvements at Montello School;

FURTHER ORDERED, That to meet this appropriation, \$735,000 shall be raised through the issuance of Qualified Zone Academy School Bonds;

FURTHER ORDERED, That the City Council instruct the Finance Director to negotiate the sale of the Bonds with Gorham Savings Bank, or any other qualified purchaser; to award the loan; and to employ Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP to furnish the legal opinion for the same;

FURTHER ORDERED, That the Bonds shall be signed by the City Treasurer and Mayor;

FURTHER ORDERED, That the date, maturities, denominations, interest rate or rates, place or places of payment, form or other details of the Bonds and of the provisions for the sale thereof shall be determined by the Finance Director.

Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING ON A BOND ISSUE ORDER FOR THE MCMAHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATIONS PROJECT

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

VOTE (246-2006)

Motion by Councilor O'Brien, seconded by Councilor Mendros:

To approve the attached Order to finance the school capital improvement projects at McMahon Elementary School through the State's Revolving Renovation Fund Program in the amount of \$531,000:

ORDERED, That \$531,000 be appropriated to finance the local share of the \$1,000,000 McMahon School Phase 1 Addition and Renovation Project;

FURTHER ORDERED, That to meet this appropriation, \$531,000 shall be raised by a bond issue through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Revolving Renovations Fund Program;

FURTHER ORDERED, That the Maine Municipal Bond Bank application shall be signed by the Finance Director.

Passed - Vote 7-0

SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR DANCING & ENTERTAINMENT FOR FAST BREAKS, 1465 LISBON STREET

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

VOTE (247-2006)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To grant a Special Amusement Permit for Dancing & Entertainment to Fast Breaks, 1465 Lisbon Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

VOTE (248-2006)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor Samson:

That the maximum amounts allowed for general assistance for cremation services, for persons eligible to receive public assistance, be amended from \$225 to \$250.

Passed - Vote 7-0

REQUEST FROM THE FRANCO-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THREE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

Mayor Guay recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest; he noted that he serves on the Board of Directors for the FAHC. Rita Dube, executive director of the FAHC stated that she has submitted this request for funding for the past several years and feels there is a great need for these parking spaces to accommodate handicapped and elderly patrons of the FAHC. She noted that the Center is having problems with a leaky roof and all of their fund-raising efforts have been dedicated to fixing this problem. She also mentioned that the FAHC has not received any funding from the City to date, noting several state grants and private donations the organization has received. Councilor Paradis inquired if the Center could collect funds to cover the installation costs, noting the City could be setting a precedence by paying for this for a non-profit organization and it could open the door for other requests. Councilor Rousseau suggested using CDBG funds, noting this non-profit does bring money into the community.

VOTE (249-2006)

Motion by Councilor Rousseau, seconded by Councilor O'Brien:

To direct the City Administrator to find funds of up to \$7,800 to construct three handicapped parking spaces on Lincoln Street Alley or a similar location close to the Franco-American Heritage Center building. Passed- Vote 6-1 (Councilor Paradis opposed)

UPDATE FROM THE SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE

Leo LaRochelle, citizen representative from Ward 6, and Public Works Director Paul Boudreau made a presentation to the Council regarding the recent work of the Task Force, noting the group visited a solid waste operation in New York to review their procedures and operations. Mr. LaRochelle stated the Task Force is hoping to be able to present their findings and report to Council in December.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Councilor Mendros stated at the last School Board meeting, the Board was wondering what the stormwater utility district fees will be for the school properties. The City Administrator stated they are still working on dates for the Gubernatorial Debate regarding property taxes and revaluations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Robert Stone of 211 Randall Road made a presentation to the Council regarding the Taxpayer Bill of Rights issue which will be Question 1 on the November ballot. Mr. Stone spoke in favor of supporting Question 1 and outlined reasons why it should be supported, noting it is an avenue for tax payer relief.

VOTE (250-2006)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor O'Brien:

To approve the request from New Beginning to place a temporary sign on the Main Street median from October 4 to October 15 to promote their upcoming fundraiser which is a road race. Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (251-2006)

Motion by Councilor Samson, second by Councilor Jean:

To adjourn at 8:21 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine