

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

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

THE HONORABLE CARL L. SHELINE, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Sheline, Councilors Scott, McCarthy, Harriman, LaChapelle, Pease, and Clement, City Administrator Heather Hunter and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo. Absent/Excused: Councilor Gelinias. Note: Under the Charter, in the advance of a City Councilor, the Mayor may cast a vote on each motion if he is interested in doing so.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING RECENT SKILLS USA COMPETITION WINNERS FROM THE GREEN LADLE CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

Mayor Sheline recognized Gabe Warszawski, a student at The Green Ladle, who is one of six hospitality industry students from the Green Ladle heading to the State Skills USA competition in Bangor next month. Also in attendance was Chef Tony Scherrer, program instructor.

LEWISTON LEADS PRESENTATION

Mayor Sheline presented a Lewiston Leads certificate and coin to Shukri “Mama” Abasheikh who opened one of the first immigrant-run stores on Lisbon Street in 2006 and opened the path for many other such businesses.

Councilor Harriman recognized Amy Smith who is a land lord and resident in the “tree streets” neighborhood, coordinator of the Healthy Homeworks program and organizer of the neighborhood spring clean-up program. He highlighted her work as a community organizer and board member for various programs such as the Choice Neighborhood grant, Build-A-Bed for residents in need of beds, Renter 2 Owner education, Lewiston Rowing and the Planning Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ronnie Paradis, Ward 6, commented on the need for the Martel School building to be converted to senior housing as was the original city plan established several years ago. She noted the need for senior housing in the community. Luke Jensen, Ward 5, encouraged a more thorough review of economic development initiatives that will benefit the average Lewiston resident, noting that new businesses review the medium household income before establishing new locations. He said Auburn’s rate is 15% higher than Lewiston.

ORDER, AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO PROHIBIT VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT GREATER THAN 23,000 POUNDS FROM CERTAIN ROADS FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO MAY 1, 2023

VOTE (49-2023)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Harriman:

To approve the Order, Authorizing the Public Works Department to prohibit vehicles with a gross weight greater than 23,000 pounds from certain roads for the period from February 13 to May 1, 2023:

Whereas, this road posting is intended to prevent damage to road base and pavement during the critical period when the frost is thawing from the road base; and

Whereas, historically, this period is when the roads are the most susceptible to damage from heavy weight traffic; and

Whereas, the streets and roadways designated for weight limit posting are those with an open ditch drainage system and no underdrains; and

Whereas, the sixteen roads proposed for posting are as follows:

1. Ferry Road – From Apple Road to River Road
2. River Road – From Ferry Road to the Solid Waste Facility
3. Dyer Road – From Lisbon Road to Ferry Road
4. Pinewoods Road - From Ferry Road to Town Line
5. Gayton Road – From Lisbon Road to Town Line
6. Old Webster Road – From Old Lisbon Road to Crowley Road
7. Merrill Road – From College Road to Main Street
8. Sleeper Road – From Merrill Road to Town Line
9. Randall Road – From Sunrise Lane to Grove Street
10. Grove Street – From Randall Road to Town Line
11. Old Greene Road – From North Temple Street to Town Line
12. No Name Pond Road – From Old Greene Road to Town Line
13. Pond Road – From Cherrywood Drive to No Name Pond Road
14. Golder Road – From Sabattus St. to Pond Road
15. South Lisbon Road – From Crowley Road Eastward to Lisbon Street (east end of South Lisbon Rd.)
16. Cotton Road – From Lewiston/Lisbon Town Line to Ferry Road

Whereas, all vehicles or combination of vehicles 23,000 pounds or less, emergency response vehicles, school buses, fuel delivery trucks, State or municipal highway maintenance vehicles, or authorized vehicles under the direction of a public jurisdiction engaged in emergency maintenance of a public highway would be exempted; and

Whereas, this posting is in accordance with Lewiston City Ordinance 70-100.

Now, therefore, be it ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the Public Works Director is hereby authorized to post the roads identified above for weight limits through the spring thaw period beginning February 13 and ending May 1, 2023.

Be it Further Ordered, that The Director of Public Works is authorized to grant exceptions to these restrictions on a case by case basis if road conditions are favorable and to lift the restrictions earlier if weather and road conditions are favorable. Passed - Vote 7-0

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

VOTE (50-2023)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Harriman:

To suspend Section 1,(a) of the Rules Governing the City Council, and to only hold one regular meeting during the month of July, said meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00pm and to hold only one regular meeting during the month of August, said meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 15th at 7:00pm. Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE, ACCEPTING THE CITY'S ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) AND THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR JUNE 30, 2022

VOTE (51-2023)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Harriman:

To approve the Resolve, Accepting the City of Lewiston's Annual Comprehensive Financial, including its General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, as presented by the City Finance Director, and the Independent Auditor's Report thereon prepared by RHR Smith & Company:

Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the City of Lewiston's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, including its General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, as prepared by the City Finance Director, and the Independent Auditor's Report thereon prepared by RHR Smith & Company, is hereby accepted in its entirety.

Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY'S FY2024 LEWISTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Mayor opened the floor to receive citizen input and comment on the proposed FY24 LCIP. No members of the public spoke for or against this item. The Mayor closed the hearing. It was noted the vote on the LCIP budget would take place at the next Council meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S PURCHASING POLICY REGARDING LIMITS FOR FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDS, PRICE QUOTES AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Councilor Scott mentioned a few sections in the Policy that she would like to see reviewed and updated in addition to the sections proposed. Councilors LaChapelle and Pease also noted there are some portions they would like to see reviewed and discussed for possible updates.

VOTE (52-2023)

Motion by Councilor LaChapelle, seconded by Councilor Clement:

To postpone action on this proposed Policy Manual amendment to a later date to allow a more complete review the full Policy and to send it back to the Finance Committee for their recommendations. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF ORDER, AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$350,000 HOME ARP FUNDS FROM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, AND TO AWARD HOME ARP FUNDING TO AREA AGENCIES

VOTE (53-2023)

Motion by Councilor Harriman, seconded by Councilor Pease:

To approve the Order, Authorizing the reallocation of \$350 HOME ARP funds from Housing Development to Supportive Services, and to award HOME ARP funding to area agencies:

Whereas, the Auburn-Lewiston HOME Consortium received \$1,700,829 in HOME ARP funding; and

Whereas, Lewiston’s share of that funding is \$786,633; and

Whereas, Lewiston developed an allocation plan for the funding in compliance with HUD regulations; and

Whereas, based on four applications for Supportive Services and no applications for Affordable Housing Development for the HOME ARP funds available, and City Council discussion of the same, it has been determined that \$350,000 of HOME ARP funding first allocated by the Council for Affordable Housing Development be reallocated to Supportive Services; and

Whereas, the required public notices and hearings have been held regarding the allocation of HOME ARP funds.

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston, that \$350,000 of HOME ARP funds allocated to Affordable Housing Development be reallocated to Supportive Services; and of the total funding available: \$300,855 by awarded to New Beginnings, \$110,547 to Trinity Jubilee Center, \$125,000 to Safe Voices, \$63,781 for Planning/Administration; and \$186,450 be set aside for The Store Next Door for use once they meet HUD eligibility requirements to receive funding.

Passed – Vote 7-0

RESOLVE, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$422,400 FROM THE HEADS UP PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VOTE (54-2023)

Motion by Councilor Pease, seconded by Councilor Harriman:

To approve the Resolve, Accepting and Appropriating \$422,400 from the Heads Up Pedestrian Safety Project Funding from the Maine Department of Transportation:

Whereas, the City has been notified that it has been awarded federal funds of \$422,400 from the Maine Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the grant targets priority, pedestrian safety projects as recommended in the Heads Up Pedestrian Safety Plan; and

Whereas, the funds will be utilized to design and construct pedestrian improvements in three priority locations and,

Whereas, the 20% required local match will be funded from the approved Crosswalk Evaluation and Implementation project (7700-700709); and

Whereas, the projects will improve pedestrian safety in our community for all users.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston, Resolve, Accepting and Appropriating \$422,400 from the Heads Up Pedestrian Safety Project Funding from the Maine Department of Transportation.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION TO REAFFIRM THEIR
COMMITMENT TO THE COUNCIL PROTOCOLS**

VOTE (55-2023)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Scott:

To approve the City Council Proclamation to Reaffirm their Commitment to the Council Protocols:

We, as members of the City Council, share a love for our great City of Lewiston. We may have differences in views as do members of any board, but we want to emphasize that we respect each other's views, including giving each member of the Council, including the Mayor, the opportunity to have a full discussion and equally share our views in a respectful way. Our common goal is to further the interests of the City. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to the Council Protocols as governing our conduct. Passed - Vote 7-0

**APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEWISTON
SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Councilor Scott nominated Councilor LaChapelle for this position. No other Councilors were nominate for the seat and Councilor LaChapelle said he would be honored to serve.

VOTE (56-2023)

To appoint Councilor LaChapelle as the City Council representative to the Lewiston Seniors Advisory Council. Passed - Vote 7-0

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Councilor Scott reported the School Committee is buys with adjustments and updates to the Policy Manual. In addition, they recently approved a series of field trips such as the Junior ROTC students going to Washington, DC; fourth grade students going to Boston and students attending a science competition at Thomas College in Waterville. They are reviewing recent complaints about limited access to bathroom use in some schools. They are also exploring with the Superintendent his suggestion of creating a Teacher Apprenticeship program to add more teachers to staff. Councilor Scott encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Battle of the Bridge boys and girls basketball games verses Edward Little High School in Auburn, nothing this will be the final game in that school building. She also shared the LYAC is working on a program called Let Diversity Shine to be held on March 23 and it will highlight all of the various cultures within the city.

Councilor Clement said the Finance Committee has completed their review the FY24 LCIP and prepared recommendations. Councilor Harriman noted February is Black History Month. Councilor LaChapelle said the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission will be electing officers at their next meeting.

The City Administrator reviewed the proposed Maine Community Resilience Partnership Grant submission Resolve. This is a grant valued at \$50,000 if received. Councilor LaChapelle and others expressed concerns about some statements in the draft Resolve and asked to have this brought back with only the language that is required for the grant application.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented at this time.

VOTE (57-2023)

Motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor Pease:

To adjourn at 8:00 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine