

# CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 6, 2003

## REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT 7:00PM

THE HONORABLE LAURIER T. RAYMOND, JR., MAYOR, PRESIDING.

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

### PRESENTATION FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON JAMES HANDY

Mr. Handy addressed the Council and stated that following the joint Council/School Committee budget workshop held earlier in the evening, the School Committee held an emergency meeting and approved the following motion by a vote of 5-0: "In light of the fiscal restraints facing the City of Lewiston, the Lewiston School Committee authorizes the transfer of \$167,319 from its capital reserve account in its proposed FY 2004 School Budget to the City of Lewiston."

### PRESENTATION OF THE ALFRED A. PLOURDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Scholarship Award was presented to Celia Lynn Whitten, a senior at Lewiston High School. Her essay topic was The Role of the Young Political Leader in the New Millennium. After high school, Celia will be attending the University of Southern Maine and will be studying history and psychology. The scholarship award was established in 1990 to pay tribute to former Mayor Alfred A. Plourde.

### MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tarrah Bowden of the Council announced that Caleb Labrie, a kindergarten student at St. Joseph's School was the winner of the elementary school poster contest regarding noise pollution. A total of fifteen entries were submitted. The next issue the YAC will be addressing is city beautification and they are looking into the Adopt-A-Spot program. She also reminded everyone that applications for new members for the coming year are due by May 9.

### VOTE (117-2003)

Motion by Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 18, 25, April 1, 7, 8, 15 and 22, 2003, meetings and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TRANSFER OF FORFEITURE FUNDS**

**VOTE (118-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Mason:

That pursuant to Title 15, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Section 5824(3) and Section 5822(4)(A), the City Council hereby acknowledges and approves of the transfer of \$2,860.00, or any portion thereof, in the case of State of Maine vs. Timothy B. Field, No. CR-03- Criminal Forfeiture. Being funds forfeited pursuant to court process. It is further acknowledged that these funds shall be credited to the 'City of Lewiston Drug Enforcement Program', funds to be deposited in Account No. 590-3514050 at People's Heritage Bank. Passed - Vote 7-0

**CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE CODE CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS**

**VOTE (119-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Mason:

To continue the public hearing for Final Passage, regarding amendments to the Land Use Code concerning changes to the Development Review process to streamline the review procedures, to the Council meeting of May 20, 2003. Passed - Vote 7-0

**ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR THE SPECIAL STATE ELECTION ON JUNE 10**

**VOTE (120-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Mason:

To approve the following recommendation from the City Clerk/Registrar of Voters on actions necessary to conduct the Special State Election to be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2003:

- A. That the hours for acceptance of registrations in person only, prior to the June 10<sup>th</sup> election, as required by MRSA Title 21A, sec. 122, 6A(2), be set at 8:00am to 4:30pm, May 27 through June 9, 2003.
- B. That the names of those persons who register during the closed session for registration shall be recorded in accordance with MRSA Title 21A, sec. 122, subsec. 7B, except the day prior to the election when they shall be recorded in accordance with subsec. 7A.
- C. Pursuant to Title 21A, sec 759(7), absentee ballots will be processed at the central polling place at 7:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm and any and all remaining shall be processed at 8:00pm, if necessary.

D. To appoint the City Clerk as the City's Election Warden and the Deputy Registrar of Voters as the City's Ward Clerk, for the June 10 election.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**CONDEMNATION HEARING FOR BUILDING AT 343 LISBON STREET**

Councilor Rousseau recused himself from this issue citing a conflict of interest regarding the property.

**VOTE (121-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Paradis:

To conduct a hearing to determine if the building located at 343 Lisbon Street meets the dangerous building statutes as defined in Title 17, sec. 2851 et all.

Passed - Vote 6-0-1 (Councilor Rousseau abstained)

A presentation was made to Council from City Attorney Dave Pierson, Deputy Development Director Gil Arsenault, Building Inspector Gary Campbell and Fire Inspector Paul Ouellette, all presenting reports to Council regarding their inspection of the condition of the building at 343 Lisbon Street. Many photos were displayed regarding the condition of the building. City Administrator Bennett stated that in December 1994 the building was purchased by Steve Wheeler and the mortgage was held by Chris Rousseau. The property was transferred on April 14, 2003 to Atlantic National Trust LLC, owned by Ted West. It was noted that it appears that Mr. Wheeler has abandoned the property and the building has been vacant for a number of years.

Mr. Campbell outlined the details of his inspection for the Council, noting the building is vacant and has extensive code violations and the building has not been maintained. Electrical inspector Gerry Caron conducted an inspection of the building in March and found the electrical wiring to be obsolete and substandard. Mr. Ouellette also reviewed this findings for Council. Mr. Pierson stated the mortgage holder could have foreclosed on Mr. Wheeler and took ownership of the property, but did not do so.

Councilor Jean inquired about the estimated costs to bring the building up to code standards. Mr. Arsenault stated that usually buildings in this condition are very expensive to rehabilitate, and he also noted that there is extensive moisture and structural problems, as well as asbestos and regress issues, and the building would need new electrical wiring and plumbing.

Councilor Mason asked about the assessed value of the property. Per Mr. Arsenault, the building is assessed at \$26,000 and the land is assessed at \$12,000 for a total of \$38,000.

The Mayor then opened the public hearing. Mr. John Stasulis addressed the Council and stated that he owns a building that abuts this property and the two buildings share a marriage

wall, and that he has lived in fear of a fire starting in the abandoned building at 343 Lisbon Street, and he commended the Code Enforcement division for taking action on this property to resolve the problems. No other members of the public wished to address the Council and Mayor Raymond closed the public hearing. Councilor Mason asked if anyone in the public represented the owners and wished to speak, and no members of the public identified themselves as such.

Mr. Pierson noted that as a result of the staff presentations, the Council could find that the building is unsafe, unstable, unsuitable, a hazard to health and safety, abandoned and unsanitary. Councilors concurred. Mr. Pierson stated the City sent four months working through the court process trying to gain access into the building for inspection purposes. This process began in November 2002 and lasted until March 2003 when the court issued an administrative inspection warrant on March 17 and the city inspections were done on March 24. It was noted that Mr. Wheeler received numerous notices from the city and the court during this time. Councilor Mason asked how long it will be before the building is removed. Mr. Bennett said that the owners have a right to appeal, which needs to be exercised in the next thirty days. If they do not appeal, then by June 6 the City will issue a RFP for site demolition and it was noted the building has two marriage walls, so the process will be difficult. Mr. Bennett said that the staff could be bringing as much as twelve additional properties through this process within the next six months or so.

**VOTE (122-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Jean:

To adopt the Order of Condemnation for the corrective action for the property owner and to authorize the City Administrator to take necessary actions to implement the corrective action as determined by the Municipal Officers, should the property owner fail to comply with the Council abatement order. Passed - Vote 6-0-1 (Councilor Rousseau abstained)

At this time, Councilor Rousseau rejoined the Council up front.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2004 FISCAL YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF PROGRAM BUDGET****VOTE (123-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Jean:

To conduct a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed CDBG FY 2004 program budget. Passed - Vote 7-0

Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment.

Estelle Rubinstein from Androscoggin Head Start addressed the Council and stated that the cuts to their budget will hurt children in poverty and the cuts will represent program cuts. She noted the community and society will pay a large price later on for these cuts and

suggested the community should invest the money now into building strong children instead of rebuilding weak adults later on.

Jessie Walker of 285 Court Street in Auburn spoke and stated that his children have benefitted greatly from the services offered at Head Start and he encouraged the Council to fully fund the agency's request. He noted that he is a single parent raising his three children and he is going to school full time. Mr. Walker said that if it was not for the good work of Head Start, his family would not have been able to celebrate the holidays this past year, and he is extremely grateful for their support.

Joel Packard, executive director of Pathways, an agency assisting folks with disabilities, complimented the CDBG Review Committee's work on the process this year, stating that the improved and revised process worked very well. He thanked the Committee for their hard work.

Lori Windsor of Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice spoke and echoed Mr. Packard's comments, saying that she was glad to see that social service agencies were represented on the Committee and that the agencies understand the financial difficulties facing the City, because they have been dealing with these same issues for years. She noted that all agencies understand the obligation to be good stewards of the funds.

Mayor Raymond then closed the hearing. Community Development Director James Andrews stated that the CDBG Review Committee reviewed the requests from the social service agencies and made the recommendations to the Council regarding the allotment of funds. Mr. Andrews said the committee consisted of two Councilors, the Assistant City Administrator, representatives from local social service agencies and city staff from the Community Development Division. He noted that both the Committee and City staff felt that the proposed budget cuts in the various requests were needed. He said that the recommendation from the Committee is to set a cap on the City donations at 70% of the amount that they received last year. City Administrator James Bennett informed the Council that there is \$25,000 earmarked for a contingency fund for agencies that demonstrate extreme hardship during the fiscal year. He also mentioned that there has been a reduction in funds targeted for the Bates Mill, a major decrease from past years. Mr. Bennett also reminded Council about their commitment to the Caleb Foundation for \$100,000 in funding assistance for the rehabilitation of the low income housing units at Tall Pines, and he noted this matches with the Council's mission of working to upgrade better quality housing for our lower income residents.

Councilor Paradis mentioned that the money that the City received from the federal government for the annual operation of the CDBG program was cut by six percent, yet the City is recommending a cut to the agencies of thirty percent. Councilor Bernier said that the federal funding is not increasing and that the agencies were warned several years ago to not become dependent upon these funds because they will be disappearing over time. She said that the City is aware that the agencies are losing money from state and federal sources, yet she noted that Lewiston is about the only community that funds social service agencies anymore, yet at the same time they are a big part of the community and provide much needed

services for residents. She said the Committee worked very hard on the requests and in the end was very satisfied with the final results.

Councilor Rousseau said the contingency fund will help some agencies and they can apply for those funds if they are in dire straits. Mr. Andrews said the recommendation process used by the CDBG Committee worked very well and the input from the agencies was very important. He noted the relationship between the Committee and the agencies worked very well.

**VOTE (124-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Paradis, second by Councilor Bernier:

To adopt the schedule of funds for the FY2004 CDBG budget as recommended by the Community Development Block Grant Review Committee.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

A.W.A.P.	\$5,118
Advocates for Children/Parent Resource Center	\$1,600
Advocates for Children/Healthy Families	\$1,600
American Red Cross Disaster Relief	\$2,559
Androscoggin Head Start/Childhood Enrichment	\$42,867
Androscoggin Home Health/Lewiston Home Care	\$9,279
Catholic Charities of Maine/Fellowship House	\$2,559
Catholic Charities of Maine/S.E.A.R.C.H.	\$3,199
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$960
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring Program	\$960
Child Health Center/Kid's Korner	\$1,679
Common Ties Mental Health Coalition	\$640
Hope Haven Emergency Shelter	\$2,559
LA Arts	\$5,758
Literacy Volunteers	\$960
Maine Rural Workers Coalition	\$0
MPC After School Program	\$9,597
MPC Summer Program	\$0

**CITY COUNCIL****MAY 6, 2003**

Norwich House	\$7,678
Pathways Day Care	\$9,597
Pathways Workplace	\$7,038
Pathways Extended Employment	\$3,199
St. Martin de Porres Residence	\$4,799
Sexual Assault Crisis Center	\$1,280
Tri-County Mental Health Services	\$1,919
Trinity Jubilee Center - Maternal & Child Program	\$5,758
Y.W.C.A. Intervention	\$2,559
Contingency Fund	\$25,000

**SUBTOTAL                    \$160,721.00**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

50/50 Commercial Rehab.	\$100,000
Downtown Improvement Program	\$0
Bates Mill Redevelopment	\$175,000
Lew/Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) Fixed Route	\$33,750

**SUBTOTAL                    \$308,750.00**

**HOUSING REHAB**

Housing Rehab Loan Program	\$136,226
Tall Pines Complex Rehab.	\$100,000
Rehab Admin	\$48,743

**SUBTOTAL                    \$284,969.00**

**NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS**

Enhanced Neighborhood Policing (LPD)	\$4,000
Lisbon Street (LPW)	\$35,000
Spruce Street	\$240,000
Sidewalk Rehab/Handicap Ramp (LPW)	\$25,000
Sisters Of Charity Health System - Lots To Gardens	\$0

	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$304,000.00</b>
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION &amp; PLANNING</u></b>		
C.D. Administration		\$210,560
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$210,560.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL OF ALL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$1,269,000.00</b>

Passed - Vote 7-0

**VOTE (125-2003)**

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

To authorize the submission of the program to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Passed - Vote 7-0

At this point, the Council recessed for ten minutes and reconvened at 8:35pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON BOND ISSUE FOR REFUNDING BONDS**

Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment on the proposed Bond Issue. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue. Mayor Raymond then closed the hearing. Finance Director Richard Metivier explained that the City was examining the existing debt and saw a savings of \$75,000 if the \$12 million bond issue could be refinanced and reissued now for a better interest rate. It was his recommendation that this be approved.

**VOTE (126-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Paradis:

To approve the Bond Order to finance the refunding bonds through a bond issue in the amount of \$2,185,000:

Ordered, That the Finance Director is authorized to issue refunding bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,185,000 in order to refund all or part of the principal and interest on the City's Public Improvement Bonds Series B dated November 1, 1993 and to pay any redemption premium thereon and costs of issuance;

Further Ordered, That the City Council instruct the Finance Director to advertise for bids for the Bonds or negotiate the sale of the Bonds with any qualified purchaser; to award the loan; and to employ 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;

Further Ordered, That bonds hereunder may be subject to call for redemption on such terms as may be determined by the Finance Director.

Passed - Vote 6-0-1 (Councilor Mason was absent from the room during this vote.)

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST PASSAGE ON AN AMENDMENT TO  
THE PERSONNEL CODE**

Mr. Bennett reminded the Council that the restructuring proposal included the elimination of one Deputy Chief position due to the retirement of the person holding the position. City Administration and the Human Resources Director are recommending the creation of a Battalion Chief position which will be a management position, outside of the civil service criteria. If the position is a civil service position, then only current city employees can apply for the new positions. Since this is a management position, it is the recommendation that the position not be classified as a civil service position, to allow for any interested applicant, both inside and outside of current city employment, to apply for the position, to allow the city the ability to hire the most qualified applicant. The firefighters union is opposed to the proposal, asking that the position be a civil service position and limiting the applicants to current city employees. The Personnel Board agreed with the firefighters union and voted to oppose the recommendation from the Human Resources Director.

**VOTE (127-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Paradis, second by Councilor Jean:

To receive the recommendation from the Personnel Board and to conduct a public hearing to receive citizen input. Passed - Vote 7-0

Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment on this issue. Rick Cailler, president of the local firefighter union, addressed the Council and urged them to vote against the ordinance amendment, and to allow the position to be a civil service position. He noted that there is not a great deal of promotional opportunities for the firefighters and they work hard with additional training and education, hoping to move up the ranks in the department. By limiting this position to be open only to current employees, Mr. Cailler stated the City should be able to find several qualified and skilled applicants and will show the firefighters that the City supports and encourages their training and advancement opportunities. Mr. Cailler urged the Councilors to show support for their professional, full time firefighters by allowing this position to be in the civil service classification. Mayor Raymond then closed the hearing. Several Councilors asked about recent management hiring in the fire department and it was stated that several of the past hires has been from the inside, even though outside applications were received.

**VOTE (128-2003)**

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

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 58 "Personnel", Article II "Personnel System", Division 2 "Civil Service", Section 58-41 "Purpose" receive first passage by a roll call vote and that the public hearing on said ordinance be continued to the meeting of May 20, 2003 for final passage.

Passed - Vote 5-2 (Councilors Bernier and O'Brien opposed)

**FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET**

Mayor Raymond opened the final budget public hearing to receive citizen input and communication regarding the proposed 2004 Fiscal Year City and Education budgets. No members of the public addressed the Council to speak on this issue. Mayor Raymond then closed the hearing.

**BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**VOTE (129-2003)**

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

To receive and review the recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. Passed - Vote 7-0

The Finance Committee's recommendation is "To recommend to the Mayor and City Council that serious consideration be given to the budget recommended by the City Administrator and to urge that the City Council adopt as many of the items recommended by the City Administrator that would reduce the impact of the \$0.94 tax rate increase, to zero."

**FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2004 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

Mr. Bennett outlined the difference in Option One and Option Two for the Council's consideration. Option One would retain curbside collection for apartment units and will raise taxes by 17 cents, would eliminate spring clean-up for apartments and replace it with the punch card system. Option Two would eliminate curbside collection for apartments, eliminate the spring clean-up for apartments and replace it with the punch card system, have no increase in property taxes and with the land value adjustments factored in, bring down the mil rate. Mr. Bennett said that both options eliminate clean up week for all apartment buildings with four or more units, yet retains clean up week for the single family homes.

Councilor Rousseau stated that it is still very early in the budget process and noted the Council still has time to make their decisions. He said he would like to have a zero tax increase but is opposed to the process proposed as to how to achieve it currently. He stated

that there are many major cost factors in the budget such as staff, county debt, insurance costs, debt service and so forth. He feels the current proposals are balancing the budget with small items such as the trash removal issue - this will not be a major cost savings to the city and the major cost factor areas should be reviewed again. He noted the trash removal issue will impact a segment of the community that can least afford the increase and noted that many renters in the city have subsidized housing and an accusation has been made that apartment owners are wealthy and can absorb the increase. Councilor Rousseau suggested the City could start to require that the Lewiston Housing Authority pay taxes and he noted they own twenty three taxable properties and do not pay taxes on these, which equate to 440 units. He said their holdings value about eighteen million dollars in value and the Housing Authority can afford to pay taxes on these properties. He also suggested the colleges and hospitals can also afford to pay taxes to the City, in return for the services received.

Councilor Mason also said that he feels the budget adoption is being rushed and he would like to wait. He said that he feels the removal of trash collection from apartment buildings will create many more problems than it will be worth in tax savings. He said the trash will build up and collect in places it should not, and will be discarded on city owned properties by apartment dwellers who do not want to pay the new fees. He also urged the review of non-profits in the city and if they should be paying taxes. Councilor Philippon noted that the sentiments regarding the non-profits are shared by many municipalities, yet said it is a state issue regarding their tax exempt status.

Councilor Paradis said that he agrees that the issue of non-profits in the community needs to be discussed and reviewed, but it needs to be done at a later date. He also mentioned that he is very torn on the issue of elimination of weekly trash collection from apartments, but can not justify having eighty-five percent of the residents (in single family homes) have a seventeen cent tax increase, if this program is maintained.

**VOTE (130-2003)**

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

To select Option 2 of the proposed budget adjustments, which will include the elimination of trash collection of all apartment buildings with four or more units, include no tax increase, and have a tax rate lower than the estimated 28.89 due to the pending land value adjustments. Passed - Vote 5-2 (Councilors Mason and Rousseau opposed)

**VOTE (131-2003)**

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

To amend the City Administrator's original recommended budget as outlined in the "City Council Budget Adjustments" and to apply Option Two. Passed - Vote 5-2 (Councilors Mason and Rousseau opposed)

**WAIVER OF SECTION 6.06(F) OF THE CITY CHARTER (GNP-IPD)**

**VOTE (132-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Jean:

That the City Council deems it necessary to adopt a budget which exceeds the percent increase of the Gross National Product-Implicit Price Deflator, and hereby waives the provisions of Section 6.06(f) of the City Charter. Passed - Vote 5-1-1 (Councilor Mason opposed, Councilor Rousseau abstained.)

**ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATION RESOLVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004**

**VOTE (133-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Jean:

To approve the Appropriation Resolve for Fiscal Year 2004 by a roll call vote:

RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the several departments of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three, and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four, for the payment of the State and County Taxes, for ordinary indebtedness and expenses, for the interest on the debt, of the City of Lewiston, for the payment of lawful debts and dues from the City of Lewiston:

<b>AGGREGATE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 73,642,466</b>
<b>MEANS OF FINANCING:</b>	
<b>General Property Tax</b>	<b>39,355,888</b>
<b>Anticipated Revenues</b>	<b>32,151,861</b>
<b>Prior Year's Surplus</b>	<b>2,134,717</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 73,642,466</b>

Passed - Vote 5-1-1 (Councilor Mason opposed, Councilor Rousseau abstained)

**FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE WATER AND SEWER FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET**

**VOTE (134-2003)**

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

To amend the proposed water and sewer budget as presented by the City Administrator and Finance Director as outlined in the Water and Sewer Budget Adjustments". Passed - Vote 6-1 (Councilor Rousseau opposed)

**ADOPTION OF WATER AND SEWER APPROPRIATION FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

**VOTE (135-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Mason, second by Councilor Jean:

To approve the Water and Sewer Appropriation for Fiscal year 2004 by a roll call vote:

RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the Water & Sewer Divisions of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four:

<b>WATER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 3,069,927</b>
<b>SEWER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 4,253,526</b>

Passed - Vote 6-1 (Councilor Rousseau opposed)

**AUTHORIZATION TO USE INTEREST FROM THE FARRAR FUND**

**VOTE (136-2003)**

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

To authorize the use of the interest from the Farrar Fund for expenses incurred in the Human Services Budget, for medical and dental services. Passed - Vote 7-0

**APPROVAL OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES**

**VOTE (137-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Mason:

To authorize the Finance Director to approve payment for mileage reimbursement at the rates and manner as budgeted for the authorized use of privately owned vehicles in the conduct of official city business for each respective position:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>
Mayor	\$ 500.00
Auditor	125.00
Business Development Manager	200.00
Chief Assessor	480.00
City Clerk	300.00

Development Director	200.00
General Assistance Administrator	100.00
Library Director	200.00
Recreation Director	1,200.00
Tax Collector	200.00

Per-mile basis. All others not specifically mentioned above shall be reimbursed at the rate of thirty-one (\$.31) cents per mile, excepting motorcycles which shall be reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the rate established for other vehicles, plus tolls and parking supported by received vouchers other than meters.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**APPROVAL OF AID TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS**

**VOTE (138-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Rousseau, second by Councilor Jean:

To accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, and to establish the following allocation amounts for aid to private and parochial schools for textbook and testing services for Fiscal Year 2004:

	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Testing	\$2.60 per student	\$2.60 per student
Textbooks	\$27.90 per student	\$40.25 per student

Passed - Vote 7-0

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau reported that the committee is tracking the various proposals regarding the tax reform issues.

**REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

It was noted that the Council and the School Committee held a joint workshop prior to this meeting to review budgetary issues.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilor Mason inquired about the ability to add a position back into the budget - the position held by Herve Gendreau of the Public Works Department. It was noted that the final budget was approved by a vote of the Council a few minutes ago and this suggestion is out of order at this time. The time to address this issue was during the vote on the budget adjustments and \$30,000 - \$35,000 should have been added back into the budget to cover salary and benefits.

The Mayor complimented the City Administrator and city staff for their hard work on the budget preparation, noting the process is never an easy one. He thanked the Council for their work on the budget and said that they gave the gift of a no tax increase to every citizen of Lewiston. Councilor Paradis asked if a message could be sent to employees regarding their employment with the City and to not worry about their positions in the future, now that the budget has been adopted.

**VOTE (139-2003)**

Motion by Councilor Bernier, second by Councilor Jean:

To adjourn at 9:55 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC  
City Clerk  
Lewiston, Maine