

Welcome and Roll Call:

The meeting begins at 7:30. Mayor Hall welcomes everybody. Councilmember Morrison shares an excerpt from the Gettysburg Address and leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance include Mayor Jeff Hall, Councilmember Fizz Bodily, Councilmember Brooke Hyer, Councilmember John Morrison, Councilmember Ned Simper, Councilmember Jonna Westover, Chris Barr (Recorder/Clerk), Abel Herrera (P&Z Administrator/Treasurer), Paul Swainston (Public Works Director), Melissa Keller, Jordon Keller, and Minnie Hall.

1. Review and approval of minutes from October 17, 2023. Mayor Hall asks the council if the minutes look correct for last month's meeting. Councilmember Simper makes a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Westover seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Public Hearing – Budget Revisions / Modifications for FY23 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23).

Councilmember Bodily motions to open the public hearing. Councilmember Morrison seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Mayor Hall reads the adjustments as follows: Raise the budget for property taxes by \$29,000. Increase treasurer expenses by \$6,000. Increase recorder expenses by \$3,000. Increase general government building utility expenses by \$10,000. Increase police expenditures by \$1,000. Increase parks expenditures by \$1,000. Increase crossing guard expenses by \$1,000. Increase parks equipment and supplies by \$6,000. Increase arts council expenses by \$1,000. Increase cemetery wages by \$1,000.

The general fund can only carry over 18% of the total budget, so we need to transfer \$490,00 to the public works fund, \$20,000 to the fire department fund, \$20,000 to the first responder fund, \$180,000 to the streets fund, \$10,000 to the parks department fund, \$20,000 to the sports court fund, and \$10,000 to the drainage fund.

Budgeted items that were not transferred but will be transferred include \$20,000 to the capital projects fund for light replacements, \$6,000 to government buildings for the fire department, and \$10,000 to the sidewalk fund because the bill for the work that was done did not come until the new fiscal year.

Councilmember Hyer motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Simper seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Public Comments. No comments.

4. Vote on approval of budget revisions for FY23. Councilmember Westover motions to approve the budget revisions and modifications for FY23. Councilmember Hyer seconds.

Roll call vote:

Yes votes include Councilmembers Bodily, Hyer, Morrison, Simper, Westover.

Motion passes unanimously.

5. Councilmember Hyer – Events Council new member; discussion, and vote.

Councilmember Hyer motions to add Tina Ernstrom to the Events Council as was discussed in last month's meeting. Councilmember Simper seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Business Park – discussion and vote for pricing on one lot. Mayor Hall explains that when phase 1 was designed, there was one lot with a swell going through it that was never made available for sale. Since then, fill has been added to the lot, and there are plans to run a drainage pipe through that lot. He sees no reason to not sell the lot, but it will have to be done at a discounted price because of the easement that will be created for the pipe.

A discussion amongst the council results in agreement that the lot should be sold, albeit at a discounted price due to the easement. Councilmember Westover motions that the lot be sold at a price determined by Sid Roderer and Councilmember Hyer. Councilmember Bodily seconds. Roll call vote:

Yes votes include Councilmembers Bodily, Hyer, Morrison, Simper, Westover.

7. Mayor's Report

- Business Park Update – There are still two lots available, plus the large one next to the railroad spur, in addition to the lot discussed previously. It is Mayor Hall's goal to get these lots sold as quickly as possible and get out of the development business.
- Water rates outside of the city – It has come to our attention that the State Code has changed, and we cannot charge different water rates to customers based on location. We are working on correcting our current billing, and issuing credits to those customers outside of Lewiston that may have been overcharged.
- Annexation – We are moving forward, but very slowly. The county surveyor has finally approved it, but the whole process has stalled while the county is dealing with elections. Once elections are over, we hope to be able to get things moving again.
- Water Project – Paul Swainston reports that the Griffin well chlorinator is about ready to go. The million-gallon tank is currently having a leak test done. The pumphouse should have a roof on it soon.
- Sewer DWQ / USDA RD – Mayor Hall is working with the Marcus Simons trying to find money for the sewer project. We have received a letter stating that we will be fined \$10,000 per day that we discharge when we are non-compliant. We are the only municipality in the county that does not send sewage, or have plans to send sewage, to a BMR plant. The future for Lewiston sewer must be one of two things. First, we build our own BMR plant. This would make sewer rates for the 300 homes on the sewer about \$500 - \$700 per month. The second option would be to send the sewage to Richmond. Their mayor and city council are 100% willing to allow us to connect to their BMR plant. This option would result in sewer rates closer to \$110 per month.

We will need to have a public meeting soon to get input from residents on the sewer system. We all want to keep our current rates and have the sewer problems solved. That is not an option. The current lagoons were gifted to the city, but were not designed as

sewer lagoons, and are land-locked by hills and a river, so we cannot expand those. We have fixed everything we can on the current sewer numerous times.

- Listing of lot in town purchased over a year ago – We need to get an easement in place on the lot we own in town so we can get it sold. Funds from that are needed to go towards the new public works building.

8. Councilmember Departmental Reports.

Jonna Westover – Water, Sewer, Youth Council: Councilmember Westover reports that the youth council will be hosting Santa on December 16th. They will be putting bags together on November 30th.

Brooke Hyer – 4th of July, Events Council, Cemetery: Councilmember Hyer reports that Tova Jones has stepped down from the Events Council. Next year's schedule will include Feb 10 sweetheart swing, June 10 Family Fair, July 4 Quilt Show, August 5 Concert in the Park, and a September craft fair. There will be no more monthly country dancing. 4th of July planning will start up in January.

Ned Simper – Roads, Library, Theatre: Councilmember Simper reports the library carnival was a good success and thanks everyone who helped out. He reports that in 2020 the library got a grant to provide hotspots. It was 100% covered the first year and 50% for the second year. For the current year it is only 35% covered and he and Mayor Hall have discussed this and decided it is not a service the library needs to provide. In the theatre they have looked at increasing ticket prices. He has talked to Rosie about raising them. Mayor Hall would also like to charge an additional \$1 facility fee. Rosie is not sure how that would work. Councilmember Simper has talked to theater employees, and they don't think there is enough traffic to make it worth it to be open on Mondays, but it depends on the movie.

John Morrison – Planning & Zoning, Economic Development: Councilmember Morrison reports that P&Z is still seeing some growth in Lewiston, but it has slowed down. Demolition work has been happening in the old bank.

Fizz Bodily – CERT/Emergency Preparedness, Fire Department, Garbage, Parks & Rec: Councilmember Bodily reports things are good in the fire department. Garbage is going fine, just some complaints from residents that were spoiled by Logan. Nothing happening in the parks.

9. Adjourn.

Councilmember Bodily motions to adjourn. Councilmember Westover seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm. Next regular meeting scheduled for December 19th, 2023.

Chris Barr

Lewiston City Recorder

