

Welcome and Roll Call:

The meeting begins at 7:30. Mayor Hall welcomes everybody. Councilmember Westover leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance include Mayor Jeff Hall, Councilmember Jonna Westover, Councilmember Brooke Hyer, Councilmember Ned Simper, Councilmember Fizz Bodily, Mary Simpson (Treasurer), Chris Barr (Recorder/Clerk), Paul Swainston (Public Works Director), Abel Herrera (P&Z Administrator), Nancy Pitcher, Kristen Pitcher, Regan Wheeler. Councilmember John Morrison excused.

1. Review and approval of minutes from June 20, 2023. Mayor Hall asks the council if the minutes look correct for last month's meeting. Councilmember Bodily makes a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Simper seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Public Comments. None

3. Regan Wheeler – Independence Day Fireworks Review, years 21, 22, 23. Mayor Hall thanks Regan Wheeler for the work he has done the last few years collecting donations for our 4th of July fireworks. Mr. Wheeler explains that he used to watch the show and it was only 10 – 12 minutes long. At that time the city was spending about \$5,000 towards it. He noticed the many people that traveled out here to watch it and wanted to double the amount of fireworks. The past few years he has raised between \$7,000 and \$8,000 each year. This year he had 43 people donate anywhere from \$10 to \$1,000. He would like to continue raising money for the fireworks in years to come.

4. Brooke Hyer – Art Council name change, discussion and possible vote.

Councilmember Hyer explains that the Arts Council would like to change the name to the Lewiston Events Council. She explains they feel it better embodies what they do as a group, as not all their events are arts based. Councilmember Hyer motions to change the name of the Lewiston Arts Council to the Lewiston Events Council. Councilmember Bodily seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Mayor's Report

Business Park. The mayor visited with Bryan King and Paul Swainston. This is taking longer than it should, and the Kings said they will have asphalt down by the end of August. The lots are continuing to sell. We have renewed the contract with our listing agent, Sid Roderer.

Water Project. The distribution project is finished. The budget was \$3,870,125, final costs were \$3,874,265. Work on the storage tank continues and is moving at a good pace.

Garbage. The first week of collection had a surprise. Econo Waste is mirroring the contract we had with Logan which says that those weeks with a holiday will result in our collection day being delayed one day (Saturday). This has always been in the contract, but Logan always managed to collect our garbage on Friday. When the garbage wasn't picked up on Friday, there were some angry residents, but it was picked up the following day and everything is good. Lewiston, Richmond, Smithfield, and Cornish were the only four municipalities in the county ready with a new service provider by June 30th, when Logan had said they would no longer be servicing the county.

Annexation. After learning that the annexation had been denied again by Cache County, all paperwork and emails was turned over to our attorney. He is working on this with the County, but we don't have an update yet.

Sewer. Yesterday we had a phone call with DWQ and USDARD. Those are traditionally our two sources for funding. DWQ said we would be able to move our \$1 million over to an alternative sewer project, and possibly get another \$2 million towards it. USDARD was very non-committal. Sewer rates will have to increase if we are to get more funding. Lewiston has long had very low sewer rates compared to the rest of the valley. Richmond will be at \$77 after their increase, and they are the next lowest. USDARD thinks that our base rate will need to be closer to \$110 to make the sewer project happen. Mayor Hall asks the council how high they think we would be able to get the rate, knowing that we have to in order to proceed with the project. The council all say that they don't want to see any increase, but all realize it is inevitable, especially with the hyper-inflation over the past few years. Increases need to be incremental.

RAPZ tax project ideas. The first RAPZ tax project we would like to apply for is at the Cub River Sports Complex. We would like to use the test well that was drilled to water the grass at the complex. We are going to get some help in designing a system, get estimates, and have Councilmember Westover write up a request for funding. Other project ideas include the coating on the sports court, The poster boxes outside of the theatre, and improving the fields at the CRSC. This list will be updated as needs arise and each year it will be reviewed to see which project we will apply for funding.

Other business. The city party will be on September 30th.

6. Councilmember Departmental Reports.

Jonna Westover – Water, Sewer, Youth Council: Councilmember Westover has nothing new to report.

Brooke Hyer – 4th of July, Arts Council, Cemetery: Councilmember Hyer reports they had another fun year at the 4th of July celebrations. The Events Council has the craft fair coming up on the 23rd of September.

Ned Simper – Roads, Library, Theatre: Councilmember Simper has nothing new to report.

John Morrison – Planning & Zoning, Economic Development: Councilmember Morrison is not at the meeting. Abel Herrera says that we will need to start looking for grant money to get the general plan finished. The state has made recent changes to requirements, and it is going to require some professional help.

Fizz Bodily – CERT/Emergency Preparedness, Fire Department, Garbage, Parks & Rec: Councilmember Bodily reports the lights have been moved from the old brush truck to the new brush truck. He is looking at getting the thistles taken care of at CRSC, and what it would take to get the mounds on the ball fields improved. A discussion amongst the council about garbage collection yields the following points: garbage can lids should be closed when put to the road for pick up. If the can is regularly over-filled, residents should be getting a second can. Refuse needs to be cut down to fit in the can, or there is a chance it won't be picked up because large objects can damage the truck.

7. Adjourn.

Councilmember Bodily motions to adjourn. Councilmember Hyer seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Next regular meeting scheduled for August 15th, 2023.

Chris Barr

Lewiston City Recorder

