

**CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2021, MINUTES**

Lewiston City held a regular City Council meeting August 19th at 7:30 pm in the Lewiston City Club Room. A Public Hearing was held in conjunction with the regular meeting concerning Budget FY21, Budget FY22, 2021 Tax Increase, Master Fees, and Baldwin Estates.

Welcome, Roll Call, Invocation, Citizen Input, Open Public Hearings

Mayor Field welcomed everyone to the meeting which began at 7:30pm. Ted King opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were as follows: Mayor Field, Jonna Westover, Fizz Bodily, Ted, King, and via Zoom John Morrison. Regan Wheeler was excused. Others in attendance included the following: Paul Swainston, Mary Simpson, Marcus Simons, Keri Parr, Barbara Blair, Sheree Benson, Charlie Atkinson, Brooke Hyer, Cody Hyer, Rick Taylor, Jeff Hall, Dave Cole, Creighton Hart, Scott Wells, Tom Baisley, Darrin Michaelis, and Thom Smith. Mayor Field noted an emergency item to be reviewed before opening the public hearing as the need to appoint Mary Simpson as the Recorder for Lewiston City on a temporary basis. Fizz made the motion to accept Mary Simpson as the City Clerk/Recorder. Jonna seconded the motion. Motion passed with a yes vote by all council present.

Mayor Field began the Public Hearing noting the following items: 1) the need to make a few minor changes to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, 2) Acceptance of the FY2022 Budget, Proposed Tax Increase, rate hearing for our prop taxes, open our Master Fee schedule to match the water/sewer rates that were implemented last month, Public Hearing concerning a new subdivision "Baldwin Estates". Need a motion to open all of them. Fizz made the motion, second by Ted. All in favor, ayes from everyone.

Mayor Field asked that everyone in attendance be courteous and realize that we all want what's best for Lewiston. Does anyone want to address the Council. Sheree Benson came up to discuss their increase in taxes including Cache County School District and Lewiston City. "We think that is outrageous. Logan City has not had such increases."

Charlie Atkinson spoke next about the tax notices. He noted that he appreciates the increase each year in property values. He noted a 33% increase in his tax liability. His concern was the "feeding frenzy" of real estate home sales and doesn't see the government every backing the tax rate down.

Barbara Blair spoke next and wants to encourage the City Council to try and be a little more frugal and work within their budget and keep from raising taxes. Barbara has a handout from Cache County that she supplied to the council members. Barbara has been here 66 years and acknowledges the changes the valley is going through.

Mayor Field wants to take a minute to explain what Lewiston City is doing. We are holding our tax rate, identical to what it has been for the last 20 years, not raising it at all. A reassessment of properties has been done by another governing body. Holding our tax rate, if in the future that property values went down, then there would be an increase in taxes. By holding the tax rate, Lewiston City is trying keep from raising the tax rates an exorbitant amount as has happened in other cities. Additional comments from Charlie Atkinson and Sheree Benson concerning increased taxes. Mayor explained from his personal tax notice how to appeal the property evaluations with Cache County.

Mayor Field asked if there were any comments from the public on the Baldwin Subdivision. Brooke Hyer asked if there were any CCR's to be invoked for this subdivision. John Morrison answered on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission that Lewiston City could not invoke CCR's. Thom Smith commented

that if Lewiston City would enforce the nuisance laws, it would not need CCR's. He asked about the houses being zoned R-10 instead of R-12. As a former member of the P & Z committee, he noted that it was zoned after he was on the committee. Mayor agreed that this property was approved/zoned many years ago. The original proposal on that property was to build 2 each 4 plex structures.

Mayor Field reviewed proposal to final FY2021 budget changes to expense accounts with balancing accounts. Adjustment to capital account for Sports Court construction which will be reimbursed from RAPZ tax funds. Proposal to transfer funds from General Fund to Capital Account: \$75,000 Brush Truck, \$90,000 for Snowplow, \$48,500 for continued construction on the Sports Court. FY2022 Budget remains same except for increase in property tax projections due to tax increase, sales tax increases, change Border Run to a "Fun" run format which would bring no income, adjustment in P & Z for building inspector fees, decrease Streets dept, increase Capital outlay to \$58435 to help cover cost of new jetter for Public Works, addition of \$30,000 to purchase Right of Way from Bill Wright. Water Fund – increase water meter purchase account and Jetter purchase; Capital Fund – increase income of \$40,000 from RAPZ, expense side will include Brush Truck, Snowplow and Sports Court. If tax rate is not held, we will have to subtract the same amounts of money before we pass it.

Motion from Jonna, second by Fizz to close Public Hearing. Yes, from all council members present. Public Hearing closed at 8:09pm.

City Council Regular Meeting began at 8:10pm

Approval of Minutes & Expenses

Motion to approve minutes by Jonna, second by Fizz, all council members present approved.

Ted questioned what expenses were associated with L.N. Curtis. Paul Swainston answered these were Fire Dept. Ted commented that N.W. King had been busy; Mayor noted those costs were associated with the Business Park. Ted made a motion to approve the expenses. Jonna seconded the motion. All in favor with yes vote by all present.

Creighton Hart presented opportunity to develop land East of the cemetery and river into park area. He wants to help preserve the land for the community in a similar manner as the Jordan River in Salt Lake City.

ACTION/APPROVAL Items

John Morrison made a motion to approve Final Plat for Baldwin Estates Subdivision with the contingency that it meets all the plat requirements. Ted seconded the motion. Ted confirmed property was on Main St, across from Rod Hammer. Mayor called for vote: all in favor – yes.

Mayor put up for individual vote the changes to clean up our Budget for FY2021. Fizz made a motion to approve. Jonna seconded this motion. Mayor asked for individual votes from each member present. Each member voted yes. Approved.

Mayor next offered the proposal to hold the tax rate at .002288. Jonna made a motion to approve. Fizz seconded. All members present voted yes; no discussion, motion carried.

Mayor asked for approval of the FY2022 budget as proposed. Motion made by Ted to approve. Seconded by Fizz. No discussion. Each member voted yes.

Mayor Field presented the Master Fee Schedule for approval as listed with the changes in base water rates and sewer rates with new overage rates effective July 1, 2021. Base rate per month for water changes from \$23.74 to \$31.33. Base rate for sewer was \$36.00/month and has increased to \$48.00/month. Fizz made the motion to approve the Master Fee Schedule amendment. Ted seconded the motion. All members voted yes, no opposed.

Sewer Agricultural Lease

Mayor Field discussed leasing the property around our sewer ponds to Adam and Jake Johnson. It was agreed that the term would be for 5 years.

Annual City Picnic

Mayor Field proposed the date of September 17th for our City Picnic at 6:00pm. Everyone on council agreed for this date from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Sign Inquiry – Presto Products

Thom Smith appeared on behalf of Presto Products to request putting a sign on the property adjacent to the road leading to their plant. Signs will also be put up on the highway (91) as well. Presto agrees to abide by the ordinance in place for signs. Motion made by Fizz to approve the signage for Presto. Seconded by Jonna. All members voted yes. This is approved per Mayor Field. It was determined that Paul Swainston would be the contact for Presto when installation occurred.

Mayor Field discussed the pond that supplies our water to Cub River Sports Complex has gone dry. The Complex will not be watered any more. There will be some work to initially improve the 2 upper baseball fields with sand. The Richmond Stake has organized a day of service on September 11 with people at CRSC to work on the grounds. Plans to aerate, fertilize and level out the fields. Fizz noted that they will bring dirt into area around batting cages and pitchers' mounds. Mayor also commented on the concession stand being opened after getting it up and operational.

JUB Update – Marcus Simons

ARPA funding to be applied for to make up the funding difference on the Sewer Project. Water rights to the well, waiting on the State to approve. Working on additional funding for the Water Project.

Jonna Westover – Roads -asked Paul if there were any updates. Paul mentioned a rash of stolen signs. Sand costs up 50% from last year. Snowplow purchase discussed; date of delivery delayed due to recall of certain electrical parts. Library - Calendar fundraiser is concluded; costs up \$.50. Discussed additional sales of Business Park property. Youth Council is ready for next year.

Ted King – nothing on Theatre; Marcus has updated Water and Sewer for us.

Fizz Bodily – Parks & Recreation -covered what's going on at the Sports Complex. We have lost the recreational soccer groups, but the competitive group is still utilizing the CRSC. Organization has collapsed into one for recreational. Baseball – Little League and Pony League now going to Richmond for teams. Lewiston does not have enough players to make up the teams and find coaches. Cemetery – water possibilities from Cub River Irrigation shares discussed with Marcus to water the cemetery in the future instead of culinary water. Fire Dept. got their rigs/helmets updated to comply. Fizz has one concern with property that has not been finished on South Main Street, Rawlins rental house. He wondered what the time frame was to have the property maintained. John Morrison discussed the nuisance ordinance and felt there was an enforcement problem.

John Morrison – Planning and Zoning – discussed Phil Foster completing his term on P & Z as well as Rod Garner having served his 5 years and will also be done this year.

Mayor Field asked to have added to next agenda for September Council meeting the approval of a new P & Z member. Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Fizz made the motion to adjourn, and Ted seconded it. All members were in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 7:30pm

Mary Simpson

TREASURER/RECODER



