

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 17, 2020

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

THE HONORABLE MARK A. CAYER, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Cayer, Councilors Khalid, Pettengill, Rea, Lajoie, Jensen, Clement and Gelinias, City Administrator Edward Barrett and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**UPDATE ON CITY ACTIONS REGARDING COVID-19 PREPARATIONS AND
ACTIONS INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL ON
PROCLAIMING A PANDEMIC EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF LEWISTON AND
NAMING A LINE OF SUCCESSION**

Deputy City Administrator Denis D’Auteuil updated the Council on the city’s recent work on this topic – each department is preparing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) should this situation escalate, the city is evaluating essential services, Recreation and Library programs have been cancelled until March 27, city buildings have notices regarding “social distancing” practices to keep both the public and staff safe, the city will be issuing cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer to employees, each department has developed a cleaning schedule to keep both the areas for public interaction as well as staff use clean and sanitized. Councilor Rea shared that the schools are closed until April 7 and they are focusing on the food distribution centers that have been established to keep the students fed.

The Mayor and City Administrator consulted with the City Council on the proposed Pandemic Emergency Proclamation. The Council concurred with the issuance of the Proclamation and the Mayor and City Administrator then issued and executed the Emergency Proclamation:

**PROCLAIMING A PANDEMIC EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF LEWISTON AND
NAMING A LINE OF SUCCESSION**

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration in response to the public health threat posed by the Covid-19 virus; and

Whereas, on March 15, 2020, Maine Governor Janet Mills issued a similar proclamation for the State of Maine; and

Whereas, the City of Lewiston, its residents, and its visitors are also under threat from the spread of this virus; and

Whereas, to protect the health and safety of the community, it is necessary for Lewiston City Government to recognize this public health emergency and to be prepared to take immediate steps to respond to it; and

Whereas, under Section 3.03 of the Charter the City Administrator is responsible to designate his

successor(s) and line of succession for absences of less than 30 days;

Now, therefore, in accordance with the Charter of the City, 37-B M.R.S.A. §§ 703 and 783, section 30-29 of the Code of Ordinances, “Emergency proclamation, mayor’s or city administrator’s duties and emergency powers,” the Mayor and City Administrator, having consulted with the City Council, do hereby declare a state of emergency throughout the City of Lewiston. This state of emergency shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Mayor and City Administrator. Deputy City Manager Denis D’Auteuil is hereby designated the City’s Emergency Manager and shall act as incident commander for this emergency.

In accordance with this declaration, the City Administrator, in consultation with the Mayor when possible, shall exercise the full powers outlined in Section 30-30 of the City Code to include, but not be limited to:

- Closing city buildings and facilities during all or part of the emergency;
- Adjusting City Personnel Policies, including working hours and leave and sick leave benefits, in consultation with the respective bargaining units when possible;
- Waiving the City’s purchasing policies, including the dollar value of purchases requiring a formal bid, when necessary to rapidly acquire necessary goods or services needed to respond to the emergency;
- Requesting aid or assistance from the state, any political subdivision of the state, or the federal government; and
- Taking such other steps deemed essential to protect the public health and welfare.

Further, in accordance with Section 3.03 of the Charter, I hereby name the Deputy City Administrator to occupy my position and be responsible for my duties in the event of my absence from the position for a period of less than 30 days (temporary absence), and in the event of his temporary absence and in the event my temporary absence has not expired, then Finance Director Heather Hunter shall exercise the powers of the City Administrator until the City Administrator or Deputy Administrator are not temporarily absent.

VOTE (80-2020)

Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Clement:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meetings of February 25 and March 3, 2020 and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public offered comment at this time.

ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MUNICIPAL QUITCLAIM DEEDS FOR REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 15 HAMEL STREET, 58 CENTRAL AVENUE AND 394 SABATTUS STREET

VOTE (81-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To approve the Orders authorizing execution of municipal quitclaim deeds for real estate located at 15 Hamel Street, 58 Central Avenue and 394 Sabattus Street:

Order, Authorizing Execution of a Municipal Quitclaim Deed – Real Estate Located at 15 Hamel Street:

Whereas, the owner, Thomas J. Langlois, failed to pay his bills on a timely basis for 15 Hamel Street (Tax Map 173, Lot 86, Parcel 00-005578); and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 19, 2013 (Book 8699 Page 326) and matured on December 19, 2014 in the amount of \$2,618.81; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 18, 2014 (Book 8934 Page 235) and matured on December 18, 2015 in the amount of \$2,687.29; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 23, 2015 (Book 9165 Page 37) and matured on December 23, 2016 in the amount of \$2,708.50; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 16, 2016 (Book 9386 Page 320) and matured on December 16, 2017 in the amount of \$2,778.89; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 14, 2017 (Book 9616 Page 100) and matured on December 14, 2018 in the amount of \$2,668.37; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 21, 2018 (Book 9865 Page 231) and matured on December 21, 2019 in the amount of \$2,594.26; and

Whereas, payment was received in full totaling \$16,056.12;

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston,

That a quitclaim deed is hereby authorized to release the City's interest in the property located at 15 Hamel Street to the owner.

Order, Authorizing Execution of a Municipal Quitclaim Deed – Real Estate Located at 394 Sabattus Street:

Whereas, the owner, Florentia Realty Incorporated, failed to pay their bills on a timely basis for 394 Sabattus Street (Tax Map 173, Lot 114, Parcel 00-003521); and

Whereas, a storm water lien was filed on September 22, 2016 (Book 9459 Page 42) and matured on March 22, 2018 in the amount of \$92.76; and

Whereas, payment was received in full;

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston,

That a quitclaim deed is hereby authorized to release the City's interest in the property located at 394 Sabattus Street to the owner.

Passed - Vote 7-0

ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEWISTON (CITY) AND THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MAINEDOT)

VOTE (82-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To approve the Order, Authorizing the City Administrator to execute an Agreement between the City of Lewiston (City) and the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT):

Whereas, MaineDOT has a paving project scheduled for this construction season on Route 196, beginning 0.17 miles west of Route 9 and extending northwest 7.05 miles into Lisbon, and consisting of installing an Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course; and

Whereas, Specialty equipment may be needed for this project, resulting in a possible need for overweight vehicles carrying indivisible loads to travel to the project; and

Whereas, MaineDOT will work with their contractor(s) to carry these overweight loads over State funded roads where possible, but there may be a need to carry a limited number of overweight loads over City owned and maintained streets; and

Whereas, State Law, 29-A MRSA § 238 (7), provides that if damage is done by contractor(s) carrying overweight loads for this project, the City may require repairs to be made to city streets; and

Whereas, The City of Lewiston may also require, in advance, bonds secured by the Contractor to cover any potential damage from overweight loads on City Streets;

Now, therefore, be it ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston, that the City Administrator be authorized to execute an agreement between the Maine Department of Transportation and the City of Lewiston allowing overweight loads on City Streets for purposes of this project; and,

Be it further Ordered, that the City Administrator instruct the Director of Public Works to work with the Maine Department of Transportation to inspect any City streets proposed for use by the contractor and to set the amount of bonds needed to mitigate any damage incurred.

Passed - Vote 7-0

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TRANSFER OF FORFEITURE FUNDS

VOTE (83-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Rea:

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 \$18,005.00, or any portion thereof, in the case of the State of Maine vs. Wac Maiwan, CR-20-656 Court Records, being funds forfeited pursuant to the court process. It is further acknowledged that these funds shall be credited to the 'City of Lewiston Drug Enforcement Program' account.
Passed - Vote 7-0

APPOINTMENT TO THE LEWISTON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VOTE (84-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To confirm the Mayor's nomination and to appoint the following resident as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Lewiston Housing Authority: Guy Gagnon, 15 Nelke Place, term to expire September 17, 2023. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE CARLTON CLUB, 25 SABATTUS STREET

The Mayor opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comment. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue. The Mayor then closed the hearing.

VOTE (85-2020)

Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To grant a Special Amusement Permit for live entertainment to the Carlton Club, Inc. 25 Sabattus Street. Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE, APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE AUBURN-LEWISTON ADVISORY CABLE TV COMMITTEE

VOTE (86-2020)

Motion by Councilor Rea, seconded by Councilor Jensen:

To approve the Resolve, approving amendments to the By-laws of the Auburn-Lewiston Advisory Cable TV Committee:

Whereas, the Auburn-Lewiston Advisory Cable TV Committee is recommending a number of amendments to its By-Laws for the purpose of improving the functioning of this Committee; and

Whereas, such amendments require approval from the City Councils of both Auburn and

Lewiston; and

Whereas, Lewiston’s representatives to the Committee have participated in and supported the development of these amendments;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the amended By-Laws of the Auburn-Lewiston Advisory Cable TV Committee, as attached hereto, are approved.

Passed – Vote 7-0

RESOLVE, AMENDING MASTER POLICY 81 – MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND PENALTIES – CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 71 – ABOVE GROUND POWER, FIBER, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

VOTE (87-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Pettengill:

To approve the Resolve, amending Master Policy 81 – Miscellaneous Fess and Penalties – Code of Ordinances Chapter 71 – Above Ground Power, Fiber, and Telecommunications:

Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that Master Policy 81 is hereby amended by deleting and adding the following:

To be deleted:

~~Chapter 66 Streets and Sidewalks—Utility Pole in Sidewalk—Penalties A violation of this provision of the Code shall be subject to a \$1,000 fine in addition to the requirement that the pole be relocated and that any damage done to the sidewalk be repaired. Failure to remove and repair within a 10 day period shall result in an additional fine of \$1,000. Further \$1,000 fines shall accrue for each subsequent ten day period during which the pole remains and/or the sidewalk is not repaired. Fines for continuing violations beyond the 10 day period may be waived by the Director of Public Works during any period when, in the Director’s opinion, such work is deemed impracticable due to winter weather conditions. Note: These penalties are outlined in the City Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 Streets and Sidewalks, Article I In General.~~

To be added:

Chapter 71 – Above Ground Power, Fiber, and Telecommunications

Article 1 – Utility Poles in the Right of Way

Section 71-12. Permitting New Poles

Utility Pole Application Review Fee, \$500 for up to five poles applied for on one application and \$100 for each additional pole beyond 5.

After the Fact Application Penalty: \$500 for up to five poles applied for on one application and \$100 for each additional pole beyond 5.

Section 71-13. Utility Pole in Sidewalk -- Penalties

A violation of this provision of the Code shall be subject to a \$1,000 fine in addition to the requirement that the pole be relocated and that any damage done to the sidewalk be repaired. Failure to remove and repair within a 10 day period shall result in an additional fine of \$1,000. Further \$1,000 fines shall accrue for each subsequent ten day period during which the pole remains and/or the sidewalk is not repaired. Fines for continuing violations beyond the 10 day period may be waived by the Director of Public Works during any period when, in the Director's opinion, such work is deemed impracticable due to winter weather conditions.

Section 71-14.

Failure to remove replaced poles within 180 days: \$100 per day
Failure to Correct Unsafe Installation after Required Notice: \$100 per day

Section 71-16.

Failure to remove poles within 180 days of notice or date agreed to in writing between the Pole owner and the Public Works Director and receipt of notice of permit revocation: \$500 per day

Chapter 71 – Above Ground Power, Fiber, and Telecommunications

Article 2. Small Cell Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Siting Ordinance

Section 71-25. Fees.

Facility Application Review Fee, \$500 for up to five facilities in a single permit applied for on one application and \$100 for each additional facility beyond 5.

After the Fact Application Penalty: \$500 for up to five facilities in a single permit applied for on one application and \$100 for each additional facility beyond 5.

Other violations of Chapter 71, Article 1 and/or Article 2, not specifically set forth in this policy shall be fined in accordance with Title 30-A M.R.S.A., section 4452. Each day such violation continues after notification by the City Clerk shall constitute a separate offense

Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE, DECLINING TO EXERCISE THE CITY'S RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO PURCHASE THE COLISEE AND ACCEPTING PAYMENT OF \$600,000 IN FULFILLMENT OF FIRLAND MANAGEMENT COLISEE, LLC'S LOAN REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS TO THE CITY

VOTE (88-2020)

Motion by Councilor Gelinas, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To approve the Resolve, declining to exercise the City’s Right of First Refusal to purchase the Colisee and accepting payment of \$600,000 in fulfillment of Firland Management Colisee, LLC’s Loan Repayment Obligations to the City:

Whereas, the owner, Derek Bates, failed to pay his bills on a timely basis for 58 Central Avenue (Tax Map 194, Lot 107, Parcel 00-003435); and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 19, 2013 (Book 8699 Page 60) and matured on December 19, 2014 in the amount of \$2,780.12; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 14, 2017 (Book 9616 Page 15) and matured on December 14, 2018 in the amount of \$2,589.72; and

Whereas, a tax lien was filed on June 21, 2018 (Book 9864 Page 341) and matured on December 21, 2019 in the amount of \$2,514.14; and

Whereas, payment was received in full totaling \$7,883.98;

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston, that a quitclaim deed is hereby authorized to release the City’s interest in the property located at 58 Central Avenue to the owner.

Passed - Vote 7-0

ORDER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO SELL, AT FULL VALUE, THE SECURITY MORTGAGE ON THE PROPERTY AT 172 PINE STREET OWNED BY SKY HOUSING TO GF INVESTMENTS, LLC

VOTE (89-2020)

Motion by Councilor Jensen, seconded by Councilor Khalid:

To approve the Order, authorizing the City Administrator to sell, at full value, the Security Mortgages on a Property owned by SK Housing to GF Investments, LLC:

Whereas, the City provided a \$24,600 lead grant and two CDBG loans totaling \$14,140 to SK Housing in September 2016; and

Whereas, this loan has been problematic due to failure to meet the requirements to timely pay property taxes and utility fees to the City; and

Whereas, as a result of these failures, the City initiated a collection action; and

Whereas, a guarantor of the mortgage associated with these loans and grants has offered to purchase it at full value and to pay all taxes, utility fees, and legal fees currently owed the City;

and

Whereas, the sale of a mortgage constitutes a sale of real property, therefore requiring City Council approval;

Now, therefore, be it ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to sell to GF Investments, LLC, at full value, the security mortgage on the property at 172 Pine Street owned by SK Housing, subject to full payment to the City of all outstanding taxes, utility fees, and legal charges associated with the effort to collect amounts due to the City.

Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF LD 433, AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO EXPLICITLY PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THE SEX OF AN INDIVIDUAL

Motion by Councilor Rea, seconded by Councilor Jensen:

To approve the Resolve, supporting the passage of LD 433, An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual:

Whereas, equality under law is a fundamental value of the State of Maine and the City of Lewiston; and

Whereas, legislation and court decisions have increased equal access to education, employment, and public service for women; and

Whereas, said legislation and court decisions are not comprehensive and uniform, and laws can be repealed and reduced; and

Whereas, we value the continued participation of women in education, employment, public service, and all aspects of society; and

Whereas, the Maine Legislature is presently considering a resolution to amend the Constitution of Maine; and

Whereas, said amendments would help ensure all would have the same protections under the law, regardless of sex;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that we, the Lewiston City Council, support the passage of State of Maine LD 433, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual.

Summary:

This amendment ensures equality of rights under the law may not be denied or abridged by the State or any political subdivision of the State based on the sex of an individual. The Legislature has the power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation.

This resolve would support the passage of a pending state resolution. While individual laws have worked to improve equity in the state, these laws can be repealed or reduced and these decisions are not always comprehensive or uniform.

Equality for all, under the law is a fundamental value for our state and our city. Approval of this amendment to the Maine State Constitution would help to ensure all individuals, regardless of gender, have the same protections under the law.

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Lajoie:

To amend the motion to substitute the version of the Resolve proposed by Councilor Clement.

Councilor Clement noted the wording change in the Resolve would be to remove the word “women” and replace with “all persons”. Councilor Lajoie noted the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn tonight and take up all bills in their next session starting in December. It was questioned that even if the City Council passed a Resolve on this topic, it would not be addressed by the Legislature until much later. Based upon the information shared by Councilor Lajoie, Councilor Clement withdrew his motion to amend.

VOTE (90-2020)

Motion by Councilor Clement, seconded by Councilor Lajoie:

To postpone this matter until the Legislature reconvenes and comes back into session.
Passed - Vote 4-3 (Councilors Khalid, Rea and Jensen opposed)

VOTE (91-2020)

Motion by Councilor Rea, seconded by Councilor Pettengill:

To suspend the Rules and to add four additional items to the agenda, topics based upon city actions recommended due to the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE DELAYING THE DUE DATE FOR THE PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020

During discussion, it was determined to amend by friendly amendment and mutual consent the original proposed date of May 1 to June 1.

VOTE (92-2020)

Motion by Councilor Gelinas, seconded by Councilor Khalid:

To approve the Resolve, delaying the due date for the payment of municipal property taxes to June 1, 2020:

Whereas, The United States Center for Disease Control has recommended that measures designed to implement social distancing be adopted throughout the United States; and

Whereas, it has been further recommended that certain vulnerable elements of the population avoid public places and gatherings to protect themselves against the potential for serious complications should they become ill from the COVID-19 virus; and

Whereas, this year's second half taxes were initially due on March 16, 2020; and

Whereas, some individuals who may have planned to pay these taxes in person at City Hall prior to March 16th may have been deterred from doing so due to this public health emergency;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the initial property tax due date of March 16, 2020 is hereby extended to June 1, 2020 in recognition of the current public health emergency and the economic challenge faces by some in our community.

Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS REGARDING ACTION DURING ANY PERIOD WHERE THE COUNCIL IS NOT MEETING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

VOTE (93-2020)

Motion by Councilor Rea, seconded by Councilor Lajoie:

To approve the Resolve, authorizing the City Administrator to execute certain documents regarding action during any period where the Council is not meeting due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency:

Whereas, a state of emergency has been declared both within the United States and the State of Maine; and

Whereas, public health officials have recommended that social distancing measures be implemented, including avoiding meetings of ten or more individuals; and

Whereas, as a result, meetings of public bodies may be postponed or their agendas reduced to limit meeting time; and

Whereas, in the normal course of business, City authorization is frequently required to allow regular business to continue; and

Whereas, certain legal documents such as quitclaim deeds, release deeds involving Code Enforcement violations, grant applications and agreements, and other documents generally require City Council authorization for their execution by the City Administrator; and

Whereas, delaying such execution could create problems and difficulties for the city and other parties to those agreements;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that under circumstances where the City Council is unable to meet or wishes to limit the number of items on the agenda, the City Administrator is hereby authorized, after consultation with the Mayor, to execute such documents and agreements as are necessary to avoid an unnecessary delay that could result in harm to the City or other parties to such agreements. The City Administrator shall notify the Council via electronic means of the intention to take such actions in advance of doing so.

Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY SUBJECT TO THE MAINE OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS ELECTRONICALLY SHOULD SUCH PROCEEDINGS BE AUTHORIZED BY THE MAINE LEGISLATURE

VOTE (94-2020)

Motion by Councilor Gelinas, seconded by Councilor Clement:

To approve the Resolve, authorizing the City Council and other boards, committees, and commissions of the City subject to the Maine Open Meeting Requirements to conduct business electronically should such proceedings be authorized by the Maine Legislature:

Whereas, the Governor of Maine has proclaimed a state of emergency to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus; and

Whereas, recommendations from the State and Federal Government suggest that the size of meetings and gatherings be limited in order to slow the spread of this virus; and

Whereas, certain individuals within our community are at higher risk of serious illness or death should they contract this disease; and

Whereas, such individuals are likely to hold positions on bodies subject to open meeting requirements; and

Whereas, while non-essential meetings have been postponed during this emergency, it may be necessary for the City Council and these other bodies to meet from time to time;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that in the event that the State amends the open meeting laws to permit covered bodies to meet via electronic means, those bodies are hereby authorized to do so in compliance with the requirements established by the State of Maine.

Passed - Vote 7-0

RESOLVE CALLING UPON THE RESIDENTS OF AND THE VISITORS TO THE CITY OF LEWISTON TO COMPLY WITH THE GUIDANCE FROM THE UNITED

**STATES CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND THE PREVENTION REGARDING
PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

VOTE (95-2020)

Motion by Councilor Lajoie, seconded by Councilor Jensen:

To approve the Resolve, calling upon the residents of and the visitors to the City of Lewiston to comply with the guidance from the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the prevention, mitigation and response to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Whereas, the spread of the COVID-19 virus has characterized as a global pandemic and state of emergency have been declared in the United States and the State of Maine to allow extraordinary steps to be taken to limit its spread; and

Whereas, Maine has confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maine and in Androscoggin County with the expectation of an exponential increase in confirmed cases; and

Whereas, in order to protect the health and welfare of our community, it is essential that all residents of and visitors to Lewiston strictly adhere to certain precautions; and

Whereas, the United States and the Maine Centers for Disease Control have provided recommendations to communities based on public health best practice; and

Whereas, COVID-19 appears to be spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

Whereas, infected individuals may spread the disease before exhibiting any symptoms; and

Whereas, older adults and those who suffer from underlying chronic medical conditions such as heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from this illness; and

Whereas, social distancing and reducing contact with others is the most effective method of preventing viral transmission;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that we call upon all residents of and visitors to the City of Lewiston work collectively to protect our most vulnerable residents, prevent the spread of this disease, and ensure that medical care is available to those who need it by, at a minimum, adhering to the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We urge everyone to:

- Avoid events, meetings, and public and private spaces where 10 or more individuals are gathered; if possible, avoid all unnecessary in-person meetings;
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from others to prevent exposure to respiratory droplets;
- Wash hands frequently, using hot water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing, using a tissue or elbow;
- Stay home if you are sick;

- Monitor and adhere to guidance from the US DCD as recommendations evolve in response to changing circumstances.

Passed - Vote 7-0

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Councilor Rea reported the School Committee is working on the review of the budget and noted in the COVID-19 update at the start of the meeting that the School Department is running the feeding sites as well as mobile sites to bring food to as many students as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (96-2020)

Motion by Councilor Khalid, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To enter into an Executive Session pursuant to MRSA Title 1, section 405 (6) (D) to discuss Labor Negotiations regarding the International Association of Firefighters, Local 785.

Passed - Vote 7-0

Executive Session began at 8:20pm and ended at 9:10pm.

VOTE (97-2020)

Motion by Councilor Khalid, seconded by Councilor Rea:

To adjourn at 9:10P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine