

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 3, 2001

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD IN THE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 6:00 P.M.

THE HONORABLE KAILEIGH A. TARA, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Gousse, Bernier, Carignan, Jean, Samson, Bilodeau, City Administrator Bogdan Vitas, Jr., Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau, Finance Director Richard Metivier, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Tara at 6:10 pm in a public session.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Bernier:

To enter into executive session to discuss legal matters, with the City's legal counsel, pertaining to personnel. Passed - Vote 6-0

Executive Session began at 6:11 pm and ended at 6:50 pm.

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

THE HONORABLE KAILEIGH A. TARA, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Gousse, Bernier, Carignan, Jean, Samson, Bilodeau, City Administrator Bogdan Vitas Jr., Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau, City Clerk Kathleen Montejo and Student Representatives Karen Gagnon and Marc Moreau.

Mayor Tara called the meeting back to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

Mayor Tara made the following appointment to the Board of Appeals:

Elaine Makas, 10 Sheffield Avenue, for a term of five years as a full member of the Board of Appeals, said term to expire January 6, 2004 since this appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Arthur Montana.

Councilor Bilodeau requested that the meeting minutes of March 20, 2001 be tabled until the April 3, 2001 meeting so additional information can be added to the discussion portion regarding the LePage Bakeries Tax Increment Financing District item. The Council concurred.

**PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Commissioner Steve Monier of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies made a presentation to the City Council and the Chief of Police, William Welch, honoring the Police Department for their recent national re-accreditation award. Commissioner Monier spoke of the importance of a nationally accredited police department and noted the high standards that departments must achieve in order to receive such an honor.

Mayor Tara spoke of the City's pride in our police department and noted this achievement represents the high level of dedication, commitment and professionalism that members of the department have demonstrated over the years. The Mayor and Council commended Chief Welch and members of the department for this recent national recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE LIBRARY ORDINANCE

It was noted that this amendment to the ordinance would remove the requirement for an annual appointment of a Library Director by the Library Board of Trustees and would have the Library Director position be classified as the other city department managers are categorized. This amendment is recommended by the Personnel Board and the Human Resources Director.

VOTE (2)

Motion by Councilor Samson, second by Councilor Bilodeau:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 48 "Library", Article II "Board of Trustees", Section 48-22 (c), receive first passage by a roll call vote and that the public hearing on said ordinance be continued to the meeting of April 17, 2001 for final passage. Passed - Vote 6-0

VOTE (3)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, second by Councilor Samson:

That Rule 7 (c) of the Rules Governing the City Council be suspended to allow for a second reading at this time. Passed - Vote 6-0

VOTE (4)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, second by Councilor Carignan:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 48 "Library", Article II "Board of Trustees", Section 48-22 (c), receive final passage by a roll call vote. Passed - Vote 6-0

STREET RENAMING OF NORTH MEADOW DRIVE TO AUTUMN LANE

VOTE (5)

Motion by Councilor Samson, second by Councilor Jean:

To change the name of North Meadow Drive to Autumn Lane. Passed - Vote 6-0

MAINE STATE PARADE

A question was raised regarding the peddlers being prohibited at the parade. This section of the motion refers to vendors during the parade, so they do not block the view of the spectators, plus prohibits vendors from servicing the parade route area if they are not licensed to do so by the parade sponsors.

VOTE (6)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, second by Councilor Bilodeau:

- A) To approve the proposed parade route for the Maine State Parade to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2001. The Parade will march from Main Street to Longley Bridge, and across the bridge into Auburn.
- B) To accept the recommendation of the Police Chief, and to prohibit parking on the following streets, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2001, and 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 5, 2001, and to authorize the Police Department to have violators towed from the area if necessary:

- Main Street - Lisbon Street to Fyre Street, both sides
- Frye Street - Main Street to College Street, both sides
- College Street - Union Street to Mountain Avenue, east side
- Campus Avenue - College Street to Central Avenue, both sides
- Vale Street - College Street to Central Avenue, both sides
- Wood Street - Sabattus Street to Campus Avenue, both sides
- Nichols Street - Sabattus Street to Campus Avenue, both sides
- Bardwell Street - Nichols Street to Campus Avenue, both sides
- Franklin Street - Sabattus Street to Campus Avenue, both sides
- Riverside Drive - entire length, both sides
- Central Avenue - Campus Avenue to Russell Street, west side

- C) That peddlers and/or vendors be prohibited from the area in front of the spectators along the parade route, immediately prior to and during the Maine State Parade on Saturday, May 5, 2001.

Passed - Vote 6-0

DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF MIDDLE STREET

This street discontinuance is in conjunction with the Lewiston Sun Journal construction expansion and the recent Tax Increment Financing District approved by Council at a recent meeting.

The Postmaster was in attendance and spoke in favor of this item. He noted the Post Office, as an abutter, does not have any concerns with the proposed street closure. In addition, Mr. Cote, the other abutting property owner, noted he is in full support of this project as well.

VOTE (7)

Motion by Councilor Samson, second by Councilor Bernier:

That the Order vacating and discontinuing a portion of Middle Street, from Pine Street to Ash Street, be adopted. Passed - Vote 6-0

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau updated the Council regarding recent MMA LPC discussions. He noted the state budget is being reviewed now by the House and the Senate, which are currently at odds regarding a few details such as the snack tax and the cigarette tax. He noted that LD 970 is a tax reform bill which would cap education spending at the local level at 4 mils, and this bill is being monitored by MMA. He also noted that Revenue Sharing II is most likely not going to happen this year. He reminded the Council that the next legislative breakfast meeting will take place on Saturday, April 14 at 8am at the Mayor's house.

REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Councilor Samson stated that he had nothing to report regarding School Committee activities and reminded the group that the Education budget workshop will be held in two weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor reminded Councilors of the April 4 public input meeting for the proposed Youth Advisory Council. She encouraged Councilors to attend.

Student Representative Karen Gagnon asked when the sidewalks and walkways at the Lewiston High School, and on the way to the school, would be cleared of the snowbanks. She noted that students need to walk in the streets because of snow covering the sidewalks, and the snowbanks in the streets create a visibility problem for drivers and a safety concern for the pedestrians. The Administration office will contact Public Works in the morning to ensure that all sidewalks for schools are cleared immediately.

Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau noted that two snowblowers at Public Works are currently under repair and there has been a delay in getting sidewalks cleared in a timely fashion, but the City recognizes the importance of getting this done for public safety purposes. He also informed Council that the Public Works snow removal budget is well beyond the budgeted amount, due to the number of snow storms these past few months. In addition, many of the past storms have fallen on weekends, so the employee overtime rate is higher as well. He noted for Council there are many budget related issues that will need to be addressed in the upcoming weeks.

The Mayor mentioned that her assistant is working to coordinate joint meetings with other cities, specifically the Bangor and Brewer City Councils, since they hosted Lewiston and Auburn for a joint meeting a few months ago.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (8)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, second by Councilor Carignan:

To enter into executive session to discuss economic development issues of which the premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the City. Passed - Vote 6-0

The executive session began at 7:45pm. and ended at 8:50pm. Mayor Tara left the meeting at 8:12pm due to another commitment.

VOTE (9)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, second by Councilor Gousse:

To adjourn at 8:50 P.M. Passed - Vote 6-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine