

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT 6:00 P.M.

THE HONORABLE KAILEIGH A. TARA, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Moment of Silence.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the August 21, 2001, meeting and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL PASSAGE REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTIONS ORDINANCE

Mayor Tara opened the public hearing. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue.

VOTE (2)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 32 "Elections", Article II "Initiative and Referendum", Section 32-40, receive final passage by a roll call vote. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST PASSAGE REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ORDINANCE

Mayor Tara opened the public hearing. No members of the public spoke for or against this issue.

VOTE (3)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 54 "Parks and Recreation", Sections 7 and 8, receive first passage by a roll call vote and that the public hearing on said ordinance be continued to the meeting of September 18 for final passage. Passed - Vote 7-0

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AN ORDER FOR A MUNICIPAL
REFERENDUM FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PENSION BONDS**

Finance Director Richard Metivier explained the issuance of this bond issue will allow the City to retire the outstanding debt for the retirement funds and will result in a savings to the City. Councilors questioned the wording of the question and the complexity of the issue and wanted to make the issue very clear for voters. Councilors also suggested adding a phrase into the question wording itself, noting that there would be a savings, rather than just having it in the explanation section, which people may not read.

VOTE (4)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Gousse:

To add the amendment: “thereby achieving a net savings for the City” at the end of the question wording. Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (5)

Motion by Councilor Adams, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

Be it hereby Ordered by the City Council that a Municipal Referendum Election be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 for the purpose of allowing the registered voters of Lewiston the opportunity to vote on the following referendum question:

“Shall the City of Lewiston be authorized to issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$16,600,000 to fund, refund, pay or create reserves for the payment of the City’s unfunded pension liability with the Maine State Retirement System, thereby achieving a net savings for the City?”

Summary and Explanation of Proposed Bond Issuance:

The purpose of this referendum is to determine whether the voters will approve the issuance of bonds or notes to deal with the City’s unfunded pension liability with the Maine State Retirement System. If the referendum is approved, the issuance of bonds or notes for this purpose will result in savings for the City by retiring the current unfunded pension liability.

Passed - Vote 7-0

PROPERTY ACQUISITION OF 22 HARKINS DRIVE

It was noted by Councilor Samson that parking is an issue at Montello, the largest elementary school in the City, and the purchase of this property for use as a parking area would be of great help.

VOTE (6)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To authorize the acquisition of property at 22 Harkins Drive by the Lewiston School Department to provide increased parking for Montello Elementary School.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**AMENDMENT TO THE REAL ESTATE TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR
84 LISBON STREET**

VOTE (7)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

Be It Resolved by the City Council that the City Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute the Real Estate Transfer Agreement, pertaining to the transfer of the property at 84 Lisbon Street to L/A Arts, and that the City Administrator be and hereby is authorized to make, execute and deliver such deeds and other documents as he, in his discretion, may deem necessary or convenient to accomplishment of such transaction.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**AMENDMENT TO THE LEWISTON-AUBURN E911
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

VOTE (8)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To amend Article III of the Lewiston-Auburn E911 Interlocal Agreement to amend the monthly committee meeting requirement to allow the committee to meet on a monthly basis or at the designation of the Committee. Passed - Vote 7-0

AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC SCHEDULE

VOTE (9)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To amend the Traffic Schedule as following:

Section 47 Parking Prohibited Overnight 11:00pm to 6:00pm

WARE STREET Even numbered side, north side from Main St. to College St.

Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (10)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To amend the Traffic Schedule as following:

Section 16 Parking Prohibited - Even Numbered Side - Winter

ST. CECILIA STREET

From Webber Avenue to Dumont Avenue

Passed - Vote 7-0

ADOPTION OF CITY POLICY REGARDING FLAG DISPLAY

Mayor Tara thanked City staff for preparing this policy. She requested that a city-wide policy for flag protocol be established for use by all impacted departments. Councilor Bilodeau asked City Administration to look into the cost of illuminating some of the flags at night.

VOTE (11)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To adopt and establish a new City Policy: Policy Number 15 - Flag Display Policy

Passed - Vote 7-0

REQUEST FROM UNITED WAY TO PLACE SIGN NEAR VETERAN'S BRIDGE

VOTE (12)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To authorize the United Way to place a campaign thermometer sign near the Veteran's Bridge on Main Street from September 12 - November 19, 2001 to promote their annual fund raising campaign. The sign shall be installed per requirements of the Public Works Department. Passed - Vote 7-0

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

VOTE (13)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To approve the slate of Androscoggin County Budget Committee members as presented for District I. Passed - Vote 7-0

ADOPTION OF HOLIDAY MEETING SCHEDULE

VOTE (14)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To suspend Section 1,(a) of the Rules Governing the City Council and to hold one regular meeting during the month of November and one regular meeting during December, said meetings to be held on Tuesday, November 13th and Tuesday, December 11th.

Passed - Vote 7-0

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau reported a major Service Centers meeting will be held on Thursday and any interested Councilors are welcome to attend. Councilor Adams suggested starting the legislative breakfast meetings again, after election of the new Council but before the legislative session starts in January and the state delegation gets busy.

REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Councilor Samson reported on the Middle School and Martel School renovations. He also noted the School is working with a staff liaison to service the Somali students.

OTHER BUSINESS

VOTE (15)

Motion by Councilor Gousse, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To authorize the Auburn-Lewiston Sports Hall of Fame to occupy space, under the terms and conditions specified by the Recreation Director and authorized by the City Administrator, for the specific purposes of storing Hall of Fame artifacts and to conduct meetings of the Executive Board for a period beginning September 5, 2001 through September 30, 2003. Passed - Vote 7-0

Councilor Bernier mentioned that she has material from the City of Augusta regarding a park and beach area that they recently developed, and she thought the plan would be good for the No Name Pond area. Copies of the Augusta plan will be distributed to Councilors.

Mayor Tara announced that the Bates Mill Board will be participating in a two-day strategic planning retreat. The Council was reminded of the upcoming Employee Recognition Award dinner next week. Mr. Vitas reported that Public Works is working on the new frames for the Mayor's photos. Councilors inquired about increased lighting in the hallway once the photos are in place. The Mayor suggested displaying work from local artists in the Council Chambers, perhaps rotating the displays each month and holding a reception to honor the featured artist each month. Councilor Carignan reminded the group

that the City Administrator has been on board for almost a year now, and the current Council should conduct his personnel evaluation. Mr. Vitas announced the upcoming reception for St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad.

Mr. Vitas noted that L/A Excels is working with a consultant to explore the re-utilization of Bates Mill Building Five as possible conference space. The Council will not be holding the September workshop on September 11, but will instead be meeting in executive session for real estate negotiation issues. Councilor Bilodeau announced that the proposed changes to the firearms ordinance will be brought before Council at a future workshop. Councilor Bernier inquired about the art structure in storage at Public Works and asked about having it installed in Railroad Park. Councilors also asked about the status of the Libbey Mill cupola and wondered about its re-use. Mr. Vitas reported that he met with representatives from the local Humane Society this week about their new proposed animal shelter, and the group's need to re-evaluate their plans.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD IN THE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 7:20P.M.**

VOTE (16)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Gousse:

To enter into executive session to discuss Labor Negotiations. Passed - Vote 7-0

Executive Session began at 7:20pm. Session ended at 8:20pm.

VOTE (17)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, second by Councilor Jean:

To adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine