

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 9, 2002

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AT 6:00 PM**

THE HONORABLE MAYOR LAURIER T. RAYMOND, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Philippon, Bernier, Jean, Samson, Paradis, Rousseau, City Administrator James Bennett, Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau, Finance Director Richard Metivier, Purchasing Agent Norman Beauparlant and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of silence.

Mayor Raymond explained the budget public hearing process and the budget workshop process. He noted that the public will have two opportunities to comment on the budget during two public hearings. The first hearing will be tonight and the final hearing will be in mid May at the end of the budget workshops, but before the Council takes final action to adopt the budget.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing. Four members of the public addressed the Council at this time. Jeannie Martin of 246 Old Greene Road stated that she, along with many residents, can not afford an increase in taxes. If the taxes increase again, she stated she would need to sell her property. Ms. Martin showed the Council a photo of her house and land, and stated that she has a 24 foot by 42 foot, three bedroom one-story ranch house. She is paying about \$2,000 in property taxes each year, and she stated this amount is too high for the property that she has, and the limited services that she receives.

Eloise O'Neal, executive director of Seniors Plus, urged the Council to fully-fund the Seniors Plus program. She stated the program takes care of many needs for Lewiston's senior citizens, which is a large population. She noted the group undertakes many fundraising projects as a means to keep their budget request for taxpayer money down, but reminded the Council that the senior citizens are taxpayers as well, and deserve to receive funds for the Seniors Plus program in return.

Jan Phillips of Jefferson Street reminded the Council of their responsibility to be visionaries for the City. She asked them to keep in mind the incredible power that government has on it's citizens, and to use it responsibility and to view the long term needs of the City.

Dan Dumont of Randall Road addressed the Council and stated he is representing the Little League program. The Little League received \$2500 from the city last year, but part of that funding was cut this current fiscal year. He is asking to have the \$2500 reinstated in the FY 2003 budget.

With no additional members of the public wishing to address the Council, Mayor Raymond then closed the public hearing at 6:16pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Presentations on the proposed 2002-03 Fiscal Year Department Budgets were then made by the following:

- 1) Library Richard Speer, Library Director
- 2) Recreation Director Margaret Chisholm
- 3) Development Development Director Gregory Mitchell and
 Deputy Director Gil Arsenault

No action was taken on the proposed budgets at this time.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Bernier, seconded by Councilor Philippon:

To adjourn at 7:55p.m. Passed - Vote 6-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine