

**CITY OF LEWISTON**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2002**

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

THE HONORABLE LAURIER T. RAYMOND, JR., MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Philippon, Bernier, O'Brien, Paradis, Rousseau, City Administrator James Bennett, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

**VOTE (259-2002)**

Motion by Councilor O'Brien, seconded by Councilor Philippon:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the July 30 and August 6, 2002, meetings and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 5-0

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST PASSAGE FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REGARDING PUBLIC NOTICES**

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

**VOTE (260-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Paradis, second by Councilor Rousseau:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 "Administration", Article II "City Council", Section 2-33 "Public Notice", receive first passage by a roll call vote and that the public hearing on said ordinance be continued to the meeting of September 17, 2002 for final passage. Passed - Vote 5-0

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST PASSAGE REGARDING GARCELON BOG ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**VOTE (261-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Bernier:

That the proposed amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 “Administration”, Article IV “Boards, Commissions, Committees and Bureaus”, Division 7. “Garcelon Bog Advisory Committee”, receive first passage by a roll call vote and that the public hearing on said ordinance be continued to the meeting of September 17, 2002 for final passage. Passed - Vote 5-0

**PUBLIC HEARING ON LIQUOR LICENSE FOR R & B BOWLING**

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

**VOTE (262-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Rousseau, second by Councilor Bernier:

To authorize the City Clerk’s Office to approve the liquor license application for Sparetime Recreation/Porter’s Restaurant, 729 Main Street, pending final approval from the state background check. Passed - Vote 5-0

**SPECIAL AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR DEB’S PIT STOP**

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

**VOTE (263-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Philippon, second by Councilor Paradis:

To grant a Special Amusement Permit for Dancing and Entertainment to Deb’s Pit Stop, 1018 Sabattus Street, pending payment of back taxes due the City. Passed - Vote 5-0

**PETITION FOR SANITARY SEWER ON MARTIN DRIVE**

**VOTE (264-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Paradis, second by Councilor Rousseau:

To receive the Petition for Sanitary Sewer from the lot owners of Martin Drive; to forward this request to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation, and to direct the Public Works Department to prepare a report on the estimated cost and estimated assessment for this project. Passed - Vote 5-0

**HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC STUDY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councilor Bernier stated the high amount of traffic getting to the school building during peak hours was a top concern when she served on the School Committee a few years ago. She inquired about an alternate exit route, leaving the school, to eliminate some congestion on East Avenue. Public Works Director Chris Branch stated this option was explored in the past, but would put too much traffic in the Birch/Jefferson Streets area. Councilor Bernier mentioned that currently the School Committee does not have a policy to limit the number of students who can bring vehicles to school each day, and this is a topic that may need to be addressed to help with the traffic issue. She stated the bottom line is a safety issue.

Public Works Director Chris Branch stated the proposed traffic signal at the south entrance will be a light activated when vehicles need to leave the high school and they will have longer delays at the peak times in the morning and afternoon. He stated drivers have a very long wait currently, and many get impatient and take unnecessary risks in pulling out into traffic. Councilor O'Brien asked about adding a center turning lane, yet Mr. Branch stated there is not enough room to do this.

A resident addressed the Council and stated she has concerns regarding a lack of police presence to direct traffic during peak times. She also stated concerns regarding limiting the cars students can bring, since the school does not offer any sort of bus transportation for students.

**VOTE (265-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Rousseau, second by Councilor Paradis:

To receive the high school traffic study report, entitled Evaluation of Traffic Safety and Congestion at Lewiston High School, as prepared by the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center, and to direct the City Administrator to review the recommended options, to prepare information on the financial impact of the recommendations and possible alternative sources of funding, and to review the practical issues regarding the timing of the recommended actions, given no financial constraints, and to report the results to the City Council at a future meeting. Passed - Vote 5-0

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CONCEPT FOR NON-OPTIONAL LOCAL ONE-CENT SALES TAX**

The City Administrator Jim Bennett stated that the material in the Council's agenda packet is from the Belfast City Council regarding a proposal they have endorsed for a non-optional local one-cent sales tax. He noted that the Maine Municipal Association is currently working on a major initiative on tax reform issues and that perhaps this topic will be better addressed during a future workshop to allow for more in depth review and discussion.

Resident Robert Stone, chairperson of the Finance Committee, cautioned Council to review all tax reform plans carefully and to be sure not to just transfer the tax burden from the local taxes to the state taxes. He stated that Maine has the highest tax burden in the county, that Lewiston has the highest mil rate in Maine and that the high taxes are pushing young residents out of state and that he is opposed to a local option sales tax, citing that citizens already pay very high taxes.

**UPDATE FROM LEWISTON MILL REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Councilor Paradis stated the Board is reviewing the possibility of having the Mill operations benefit from the upgraded rail road track lines in the near future.

**REPORT FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Councilor Bernier stated the traffic signal issue is one of importance to the School Committee.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

City Administrator Jim Bennett reviewed with the Council the schedule of meetings and events for the month of September.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VOTE (266-2002)**

Motion by Councilor O'Brien, second by Councilor Paradis:

To enter into an executive session to discuss pending litigation. Passed - Vote 5-0

Executive session began at 8:25pm and ended at 9:18pm. Mayor Raymond and Councilor Rousseau left during executive session.

**VOTE (267-2002)**

Motion by Councilor Paradis, second by Councilor Philippon:

To adjourn at 9:19 P.M. Passed - Vote 4-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC  
City Clerk  
Lewiston, Maine