

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 15, 1999

6:05 P.M. BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT: Councilors Lynch, Carignan, Samson, Bilodeau, Putnam, City Administrator Robert J. Mulready, Purchasing Agent Norman Beauparlant and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

ALSO PRESENT: School Committee Members Rotundo, Silva, Paradis and Superintendent Leon Levesque.

ABSENT: Councilor Albert and School Committee Members Bernier, O'Brien, Handy, Shannon and St. Pierre.

VOTE (1) Motion by Councilor Lynch, second by Councilor Bilodeau to elect Councilor Putnam to serve as chairperson of this meeting. Vote: 3-0-1 (Abstention - Putnam)

Councilor Putnam called the meeting to order.

At this time, Council President Kelly arrived. Also at this time, Mayor Tara arrived. The Mayor called the meeting to Order at 6:08pm and the workshop began.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of silence.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

School Chairperson Peggy Rotundo made an opening statement on behalf of the School Committee. She noted the work of the City Council and the School Committee these past few months to work toward excellence in local education and the need to work to achieve funding of the GPA at levels promised by the state. Mayor Tara complimented the City Administrator and the School Superintendent for working closely together and for the improved communication between the two groups.

Leon Levesque, Superintendent of Schools, presented the proposed School Department 2000 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Levesque provided an overview of each school, reviewed the school systems goals and then discussed the FY2000 budget. He reviewed enrollment, academic profiles, program development, athletics, community links and adult education.

The Superintendent's working budget total is \$30,238,359 which reflects at 4.86% increase over the FY 1999 budget total. Projected total revenues are estimated at \$14,839,869. This figure does not reflect potential additional state funding as a

result of the Governor's Part II budget. The amount left to the local tax effort to support the schools is \$15,398,490.

Mr. Levesque noted the state average for local tax dollars raised to support public education is 11.07 mills. Lewiston is below the state average with an education mill rate of 11.05.

Lewiston will receive \$13,771,660 in General Purpose Aid, which is an increase of \$287,967 over 1998-99. It was noted that the average salary of a Lewiston teacher is \$39,000 and the state average is \$34,000. A discussion took place regarding the current under-funding of the General Purpose Aid (GPA) to Education program.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

VOTE (2)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Kelly:

To adjourn at 7:25 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine