

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 19, 1999

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

THE HONORABLE KAILEIGH A. TARA, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Lynch, Kelly, Carignan, Albert, Samson, Bilodeau, Putnam, City Administrator Robert J. Mulready, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Kelly:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 5 and 13, 1999, meetings and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (2)

Motion by Councilor Albert, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To take agenda items 9, 3, 4 and 5 out of order and to consider these items at this time. Passed - Vote 7-0

UPDATE REGARDING CITY ADMINISTRATOR SELECTION PROCESS

VOTE (3)

Motion by Councilor Kelly, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To appoint the following people to the City Administrator Search Committee:

Education	Margaret Rotundo
Business	Charles Day
Social Services	Sandra Knowles
Professional	Robert Stone
Government	Maggie Chisholm and Richard Metivier
Enterprise Community	John Bolton
Citizen At Large	Larry Gilbert

Passed - Vote 7-0

URBAN ENTERPRISE DISTRICT AMENDMENTS

City Planner Jim Lysen explained this amendment is to allow a veterinary clinic to operate in this zone. The neighbors do not object and this amendment is recommended by the Planning Board and is in compliance with the comprehensive plan.

The ordinance amendment pertaining to Urban Enterprise District received first reading at this time.

VOTE (4)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Putnam:

That the proposed amendments to Article XI, Section 14 of the City Zoning and Land Use Code to allow veterinary hospitals, Humane Society and related facilities as a permitted use in the Urban Enterprise (UE) District receive first passage by a ye or nay vote. Passed - Vote 7-0

VOTE (5)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To waive the Rules Governing City Council Procedure and to hold final passage at this time. Passed - Vote 7-0

The ordinance amendment pertaining to Urban Enterprise District received its second reading at this time.

VOTE (6)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Putnam:

That the proposed amendments to Article XI, Section 14 of the City Zoning and Land Use Code to allow veterinary hospitals, Humane Society and related facilities as a permitted use in the Urban Enterprise (UE) District receive final passage by a ye or nay vote. Passed - Vote 7-0

POND ROAD TRUCK TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Works Director Christopher Branch and Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau reviewed with the City Council their recommendations regarding the Pond Road traffic issue. Mr. Nadeau noted the Maine Department of Transportation will have the final say on the truck weight limit issue.

Several Councilors noted there is a concern about the number of tractor trailer trucks on Pond Road as well as a concern

about the enforcement of the speed limit.

Several residents of Pond Road addressed the Council at this time:

Dick Murphy requested the Council post the truck weight limit at four and one-half tons, which is the same posting at Webster Street to keep the area consistent.

Mr. White recommended aggressive action by the Police Department regarding ticketing speeding vehicles, as well as a four-way stop at Randall Road. He also noted that repairs to the road will encourage cars to speed.

Pauline Taylor suggested it is a disadvantage to post the road with prior approval from DOT.

Rick Boucher noted the recent repairs to the road have made the noise problem worse and he also noted the speed limit should be aggressively enforced.

Jim Cote stated he has a son who is legally blind and he has concerns about his safety due to the truck traffic.

Tony Robshaw noted the trucks do not slow down for school buses and cautioned against raised crosswalks due to potential damage to snowplows.

Roger Beaulieu noted he owns a company with five Class A trucks and noted that not all truck drivers disobey the speed limit. He stated that Pond Road is a good route because Sabattus Street is very congested, yet also recognized that trucks and neighborhoods do not mix well.

Mrs. Beaulieu stated that most truck drivers are very careful and very conscientious of the traffic and neighborhoods.

John Sheheen stated that posting Pond Road will solve the problem on a temporary basis, but not a long term basis. This change will shift the problem to another part of town. He suggested increased speed enforcement, a stronger noise ordinance and limiting the travel time for trucks to avoid the times that children are arriving or departing the schools.

Bill French noted the speeding is unbelievable and needs to be controlled. Encouraged the three-way stop at Webster and Pond and also requested a four-way stop at Pond and Randall Roads.

Tim Fox agreed with the four way stop suggestion and stated

his major concern with the issue is one of safety.

Officer Jeff Burrill is the "beat patrol officer" for Pond Road and stated he empathizes with the neighbors concerns. He noted the Police Department recently received a grant and will be dedicating part of the funds to additional enforcement in this area. Also suggested an electronic sign reminding people to slow down. He noted that every driver these days seems to be in a hurry and that traffic in general is too heavy and too fast.

Many residents thanked Officer Burrill and stated they do believe he is doing a good job in the area and realize that police officers have many duties, not just speed limit enforcement.

Additional suggestions will be reviewed and brought before the Council at the next meeting.

VOTE (7)

Motion by Councilor Albert, seconded by Councilor Lynch:

- 1) To post Pond Road at a vehicle weight limit of 19,500 pounds until notified by the Maine Department of Transportation that this is not allowable;
- 2) To adopt the following amendment to the Traffic Schedule

Section 38 - Stop Signs
Webster Street 2 signs at Pond Road

- 3) To have city staff take an aggressive approach to identifying acceptable truck routes within the city

Passed - Vote 7-0

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER POSITION

Human Resources Director Denis Jean updated the Council on finding a replacement for this position. He noted currently the position is on a contract basis for about eighteen thousand dollars a year and a full time employment position would be about thirty thousand dollar a year including salary and benefits. Many Councilors noted they are in full support of hiring a full time employee to serve as the Animal Control Officer.

VOTE (8)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To direct the city staff to proceed in hiring a full-time Animal Control Officer as soon as possible.
Passed - Vote 7-0

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT - BUTLER BROTHERS

VOTE (9)

Motion by Councilor Putnam, seconded by Councilor Kelly:

To continue the public hearing on establishing a tax increment financing district for Butler Brothers to the November 9, 1999 City Council meeting. Passed - Vote 7-0

YEAR 2000 COMPUTER READINESS REPORT

Finance Director Richard Metivier presented the Council with an update on the Y2K issue regarding the city's computers and related technology. The City's Y2K committee has been meeting for well over a year and has been working with outside consultants to ensure that all systems are compliant. Mr. Metivier assured the Council that the systems are in excellent shape and have passed all testing or will be upgraded in the near future. He reviewed the areas of public health and safety, financial systems and information, information systems, property management and public relations.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE POLICY AMENDMENTS

VOTE (10)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Kelly:

That the maximum amounts allowed for general assistance and the maximum amounts allowed for food and housing, for persons eligible to receive assistance in accordance with the standards of eligibility, be amended in accordance with HUD guidelines and the current Thrifty Food Plan.

Passed - Vote 7-0

REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Councilor Albert updated the Councilors on the school committee's work with the "promising futures" program and noted that Lewiston has taken an aggressive approach to working on the "learning results" oriented teaching methods. Councilor Carignan praised the work of the school committee in their "learning results" approach and noted this will make

the Lewiston school system one of the best in the state.

OTHER BUSINESS

1) Human Resources Director Denis Jean reviewed with the Councilors the need to hold a City Administrator Search Committee meeting in mid-November to begin the needs assessment process. He noted the committee will be made up of the eight residents appointed earlier in the meeting, the current mayor and councilors as well as newly elected councilors.

2) Councilor Samson requested a review of the city's contracts and agreements regarding the use of cellular phones and pagers and wondered if the city has put this expense out to bid recently.

3) Councilor Lynch requested a written update from the Mayor regarding the refugee resettlement program and asked to have the update addressed to the City Council and School Committee.

VOTE (11)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, second by Councilor Kelly:

To adjourn at 9:25P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine