

# City of Lewiston Press Release

**Members of the Media:** Below please find a press release providing [an overview of the Lewiston City Council’s March 10th all-day planning session](#). Any media coverage that you could render would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Dottie

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**March 29, 2012**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEWISTON:** During a March 10<sup>th</sup> all-day planning session, the Lewiston City Council established its priorities and action items for the next two years. According to Mayor Robert Macdonald, ***“The planning session was extremely productive and set out an aggressive agenda designed to improve Lewiston’s quality of place through improving housing, our downtown, redeveloping Riverfront Island, planning for our future, and publicizing the great things that have and will continue to happen in Lewiston.”***

Those priorities, along with some action items, include:

- **Budget:** Adopting budgets that keep property taxes stable, manages the City’s debt, and maintains service levels, all on a long-term basis.
- **Improve Housing City-Wide:** Support mixed-income residential development; provide incentives to increase owner-occupied properties; review and revise City loan programs; address parking requirements and winter parking rules; and assess the effectiveness of the additional position in Code Enforcement.
- **Downtown Redevelopment:** Review parking policies and improve the parking system; promote downtown living to downtown businesses and

employees; improve City loan programs; establish design standards for new construction; and coordinate with Riverfront Island Master Plan.

- **Riverfront Island Development:** Adopt a master plan; determine priority projects for remaining earmark funding; acquire the canal system; and decide the future of Mill 5.
- **Strategic and Master Planning:** Integrate the City's strategic and comprehensive plans; review city-wide zoning on high-traffic corridors, transitional and rural areas, and open space; and include bike and pedestrian plans.
- **New School:** At an appropriate time, take a position on the location of a new elementary school.
- **Marketing the City to Change Perceptions:** Develop a new brand and logo and a city marketing plan that dovetails with regional efforts; aggressively publicize positive stories.
- **Pursue Public/Private Redevelopment Efforts:** Identify existing properties that could benefit from early city involvement in pursuing redevelopment opportunities.

Other areas of interest included working with Auburn and other entities on regional economic development efforts; improving collaboration with Auburn, local hospitals and higher education institutions, the Young Professionals of the Lewiston-Auburn Area, The Visible Community, the immigrant community, and other major community stakeholders; and promoting waste reduction and expanded recycling.

Council President Mark Cayer added, ***"It's clear that there is a strong consensus among the Councilors on the priorities we must pursue over the next several years. While we can never lose focus of our efforts to achieve a sustainable budget and tax rate, while managing our debt in line with recently adopted guidelines, we are also committed to working actively to improve our community and our relationships with Auburn and other stakeholders. We have a great group of Councilors to work with and a skilled and experienced staff, and I know we'll make great progress."***

The Council plans to hold a series of workshops on each of its major priorities following completion of this year's budget process.

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