

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 3, 2015

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

THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. MACDONALD, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Macdonald, Councilors Dubois, D’Auteuil, Libby, Bouchard, Cloutier, Cayer and Lachance, City Administrator Edward Barrett and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A member of the public announced that the Emerge Film Festival will be held on April 9 and encouraged all local residents to attend to support this community event.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL PASSAGE REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BUILDING CODE AND THE RESIDENTIAL CODE

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

VOTE (66-2015)

Motion by Councilor Lachance, seconded by Councilor Cayer:

To repeal Sections 18-26, 18-27, 18-200 and 18-201 of the current City Code, and to adopt the proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18 “Buildings and Building Regulations”, Article II, “Building Codes”, Section 18-26 “Building Codes”, Section 18-27 “Permits Required”, Section 18-28 “Fees, and Section 18-29 “Violations” for final passage by a roll call vote. Passed - Vote 7-0

LISBON STREET UPGRADE – MOTHER INDIA PLAZA

Three members of the public spoke in support of these upgrades, noting lighting is needed and this plaza is an access to Lisbon Street from Park St, Oak St and the parking garage. This area forms a nice connection between Lisbon Street and Park St and should support pedestrian activity

VOTE (67-2015)

Motion by Councilor Bouchard, seconded by Councilor Cayer:

To authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$30,000 from the Walnut Street Rehabilitation Project to the Lisbon Street Amenities project, for the upgrade to the plaza adjacent to Mother India, subject to a final design plan. Passed - Vote 7-0

LISBON STREET UPGRADE – DECORATIVE BIKE RACKS

Charles Soule of Bartlett Street inquired if the high school students could make the bike racks for a cost saving measure. Craig Saddlemire noted the Bike-Ped Committee is very supportive of the project of installing bike racks that are also decorative and add to the amenities in the downtown.

VOTE (68-2015)

Motion by Councilor Bouchard, seconded by Councilor Libby:

To approve the purchase and installation of thirteen bike racks along designated sections of Lisbon Street and to authorize the transfer of capital funds from the Walnut Street Rehabilitation Project to the Lisbon Street Amenities project to provide the necessary funds. Passed - Vote 7-0

LISBON STREET UPGRADE – ADDITIONAL STREET TREES

Mike Dostie of Lisbon Street stated the City cannot add too many trees to the downtown area and he feels this adds to the walkability of the area. Craig Saddlemire of Maple Street stated the Bike-Ped Committees supports the idea of adding additional trees and it adds to the canopy of the downtown.

VOTE (69-2015)

Motion by Councilor Libby, seconded by Councilor Cayer:

To plant 8 trees in the downtown area, five on Lisbon Street and 3 in Dufrense Plaza and to authorize the transfer of capital funds from the Walnut Street Rehabilitation Project to the Lisbon Street Amenities project to provide the necessary funds. Passed - Vote 6-1 (Councilor Lachance opposed)

RECONSIDERATION OF THE ELEMENT WITH THE LISBON STREET UPGRADE PROJECT REGARDING RESTRIPIING OF LISBON STREET TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE THROUGH LANE FROM CEDAR TO PINE AND ELIMINATION OF TURN LANES AT PINE AND ASH STREET

Numerous residents addressed the Council regarding this issue. Most were in favor of the changes citing such issues as traffic engineers have recommended these changes to make the traffic pattern less confusing and chaotic, these changes are not structural changes and only paint for the lines, so could be changed back if a problem, the ability to ride bikes on Lisbon Street makes the Lisbon Street area a destination instead of a pass-through/travel only street, traffic moves too fast now and business owners want it to slow down so people can look around more. Those opposed citing too many changes for residents to understand, these changes will increase traffic congestion which is bad for businesses because people will not want to deal with the traffic.

VOTE (70-2015)

Motion by Councilor Cayer, seconded by Councilor Libby:

To Reconsider the motion regarding the element within the Lisbon Street Upgrade Project regarding restriping of Lisbon Street to establish a single through lane from Cedar to Pine and elimination of turn lanes at Pine and Ash Streets. Passed - Vote 4-3 (Councilors Dubois, Bouchard and Lachance opposed)

Since the motion to Reconsider the Council's previous action on this matter was approved, the motion is now automatically on the floor for consideration by the Council:

VOTE (71-2015)

The preliminary design of the Lisbon Street resurfacing project from Chestnut to Main is hereby approved to include elements of the base project to be funded through a combination of federal/state/local funds:

Restriping Lisbon Street to establish a single through lane from Cedar to Pine, and Eliminating turn lanes at Pine and Ash Streets. Passed - Vote 4-3 (Councilors Dubois, Bouchard and Lachance opposed)

RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BIKE LANE ELEMENT WITHIN THE LISBON STREET UPGRADE PROJECT

Many speakers spoke in favor of the bike lanes citing benefits to the environment, community health, economy and an investment in the community. Some did express concerns regarding safety issues with increased bike traffic on Lisbon Street.

VOTE (72-2015)

Motion by Councilor Cayer, seconded by Councilor Cloutier:

To Reconsider the motion to approve the establishment of a bike lane from Spruce Street to near Main Street. Passed – Vote 4-3 (Councilors Dubois, Bouchard and Lachance opposed)

Since the motion to Reconsider the Council's previous action on this matter was approved, the motion is now automatically on the floor for consideration by the Council:

VOTE (73-2015)

Motion by Councilor Cayer, seconded by Councilor Libby:

The preliminary design of the Lisbon Street resurfacing project from Chestnut to Main is hereby approved to include elements of the base project to be funded through a combination of federal/state/local funds:

Establishing a bike lane from Spruce to near Main Street

Passed - Vote 4-3 (Councilors Dubois, Bouchard and Lachance opposed)

RESOLVE AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR A STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT TO INCREASE

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

VOTE (74-2015)

Motion by Councilor Libby, seconded by Councilor Bouchard:

To approve the Resolve authorizing the Fire Chief to apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant to increase Fire Department staffing:

Whereas, the Federal Government offers grants through the SAFER program that can support recruiting and hiring additional firefighters; and

Whereas, if a grant is awarded, it provides 100% funding for the additional positions for up to two years; and

Whereas, increasing staffing from three to four on the engine and ladder stationed at Central Fire would recognize the higher fire exposure in the areas served by Central and improve fire crew effectiveness in a number of areas, assisting the department in minimizing property damage, injuries, and loss of life;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the Fire Chief is hereby authorized to submit a grant application through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant program to increase Fire Department Staffing by 8 positions, these positions to be used to increase staffing levels on the Engine and Ladder operating from Central Fire Station.

Passed - Vote 5-2 (Councilors Cayer and Lachance opposed)

REQUEST FOR USE OF SIMARD-PAYNE PARK FOR A COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

VOTE (75-2015)

Motion by Councilor Libby, seconded by Councilor Dubois:

To approve the applicant's request to use Simard-Payne park as outlined in the February 27, 2015 letter from City Administration and to include the conditions that are identified in the letter regarding the existing Special Events Policy the addition of \$12,000 in Auburn Police Department costs regarding traffic congestion and other impacts. Passed - Vote 7-0

REPORTS AND UPDATES

No reports or updates were presented at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (76-2015)

Motion by Councilor Dubois, seconded by Councilor Cayer:

To enter into an Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, section 405 (6) (c) to discuss Acquisition of Property, of which the premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the City. Passed - Vote 7-0

Executive Session began at 10:25pm and ended at 10:45pm.

VOTE (77-2015)

Motion by Councilor Dubois, seconded by Councilor Lachance:

To adjourn at 10:46P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine