

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 10, 2001

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD IN THE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 5:00 P.M.**

CITY CLERK KATHLEEN MONTEJO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

PRESENT: Councilors Bernier, Carignan, Jean, Samson, Adams, City Administrator Bogdan Vitas, Jr., Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau, Finance Director Richard Metivier, Development Director Greg Mitchell, City Attorney Robert Hark and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

The special City Council meeting was called to order by City Clerk Kathleen Montejo at 5:25 pm in a public session.

VOTE (1)

Motion by Councilor Adams, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To appoint Councilor Carignan as temporary chairperson for this meeting.
Passed - Vote 5-0

VOTE (2)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To enter into executive session to discuss real estate negotiations of which the premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the City and potential litigation. Passed - Vote 5-0

Executive Session began at 5:28 pm and ended at 6:25 pm. Mayor Tara arrived at 5:37pm and Councilor Bilodeau arrived at 5:38pm.

SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT 6:00 P.M.

THE HONORABLE KAILEIGH A. TARA, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Councilors Bernier, Carignan, Jean, Samson, Bilodeau, Adams, City Administrator Bogdan Vitas Jr., Assistant City Administrator Phil Nadeau, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Mayor Tara called the meeting back to order at 6:25pm and announced that Councilor Gousse has another commitment this evening and is unable to attend the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Moment of Silence.

FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET

Mayor Tara opened the public hearing to receive citizen input and comments regarding the final proposed fiscal year 2002 budget.

Mayor Tara opened the public hearing at 6:28pm to receive public comment on the budget. The Finance Director provided information on the budget process and noted that over \$1 million dollars was eliminated from the proposed budget, after a series of Council workshops reviewing each department budget directly. He noted that Council can make additional adjustments and changes this evening, prior to the final budget adoption.

Councilor Bilodeau noted this is a maintenance budget with very little new programs and that large increases in health insurance and debt service account for most of the increases in the total budget.

Mayor Tara called for a 15 minute recess to allow staff to prepare copies of the budget for members of the public who would like to review the changes before making comments. The meeting recessed from 6:30pm to 6:45pm. The Mayor reconvened the hearing at 6:45pm.

Jan Phillips of 40 Jefferson Street, addressed the Council. She noted she serves on the Library Trustees and has a son in elementary school. She urged the Council to consider adding funds back into the Library budget that were cut. The elimination of computers and software is a severe cut to the public services the Library can offer. She noted the book budget is flat funded, yet cost of books increases each year, so the City will not be acquiring as many books as it normally does each year. She is concerned that the quality of the Library services will fall behind state averages.

No additional public comments were made and the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:48pm.

FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2002 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Two members of the public inquired if they could address the Council regarding specific items listed in the budget adjustments.

Paul Leclair representing the South Lewiston Little League urged the Council to include the money from their budget request. He noted the loss of the money will impact many kids who play in their program. Mr. Leclair stated he is requesting the Council grant the \$2500 which is the amount that has been received in the past. He mentioned the budget is \$15,000, of which \$3200 is spent on mowing, \$4000 for uniforms and \$2500 for equipment.

Mayor Tara explained that the Council is concerned that many local youth sports programs, not sponsored by the City, have a "pay to play" requirement, and many youth who can not afford to pay the fees are not allowed to participate in the program. The Council is

dedicating funds to a youth sports scholarship/sponsorship program to be administered through the Recreation Department. Lewiston children who want to participate in a non-city sports program, and who can not afford to pay the fees, can apply for financial assistance from the Recreation Department.

Paul Rubin of 11 Goulet Street inquired about the \$120,000 increase to the budget for a new housing initiative in the downtown and for a community center for this new project. Mr. Rubin stated he feels in this tight budget year, this should be postponed for one year. Councilor Carignan stated the new housing program is a collaborative initiative which will utilize a number of funding options such as CDBG federal money, McKinney Act Fund money through Lewiston Housing Authority, Sisters of Charity Health Services and various grants and private funding.

Councilors also discussed the 911 communications budget. The Lewiston Council decided to eliminate \$13,000 from the Lewiston side of the budget. Per the 911 Agreement, both Lewiston and Auburn commit the same amount of funding each year, so Auburn would be bound to reduce their contribution as well, yet Auburn has stated they do not wish to do so and are not in favor of the reduction. Councilor Jean, who serves as the chairperson of the 911 committee, reminded the Council this is a \$26,000 cut to 911, due to the match by both cities. He noted that the 911 communications service began in 1996 and it is a 24 hour operation, which will encounter overtime due to mandatory coverage.

VOTE (3)

Motion by Councilor Jean, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To reinstate the \$13,000 eliminated from the 911 budget. Motion failed - Vote 1-5 (Councilor Jean in favor.)

Mayor Tara reminded the group that many difficult decisions needed to be made in this budget cycle and many good programs and projects were cut or eliminated. She noted that when the departments submitted their budget requests, the total increase would have been over 3 mils. The Administrator made reductions in the department requests and the budget he presented to Council reflected a 1.86 mil increase. The budget the Council is about to approve contains a .97 mil increase.

VOTE (4)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To amend the City Administrator's recommended budget to make the following adjustments in the following accounts:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	
State Revenue Sharing	50,000
State Reimbursement - Truck Excise	10,000
Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Seniors Plus	4,000

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Additional Assessed Valuation \$2,000,000	56,800
Debt Service - School	-102,870
Travel - City Council	-800
Youth Council - City Council	400
Travel - Mayor	-400
Subscriptions - Mayor	-400
Marketing Service - Economic Development	-7,000
Records Preservation - City Clerk	-6,000
Restructure staffing in Audit division - Finance	-13,000
In-Service Training - Human Resources	-7,000
Defer 1 st floor bathroom renovations - Public Works	-8,000
1 Police Cruiser - Patrol	-14,900
Public Safety Equipment - Fire	-22,900
Phase II Traffic Light Pre-Emption Upgrade - Fire	-29,055
Laptop Computer - Fire	-2,000
Overhead Door Upgrade - Fire	-2,000
Personnel Turnover - Public Works	1,237
Defer replacement of telephone system- Public Works	-15,000
Personnel Turnover - Public Works	-7,241
Personnel Turnover - Public Works	-11,097
Sunnyside Bike Path - LACTS Project - Public Works	-32,000
Traffic Light Lamp Energy Improve. - Public Works	-30,000
Repair & replace fence at City Pit - Public Works	-5,000
Upgrade Public Easements - Public Works	-10,000
Defer a portion of Pleasant Street sidewalk - Public Works	-30,000
Defer general storm drain improvements - Public Works	-10,000

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Replace Mercury light fixtures Sodium - Public Works	-15,000
Eliminate collection to churches & private schools - PW	-7,200
Close holidays/ MLK, Pres., Patriot's, Columbus - PW	-7,600
Start All unit - Public Works	-4,200
Overhead Door Replacement - Public Works	-12,000
Repair Exterior Wall Annex - Public Works	5,000
Facility Environmental Evaluation - Public Works	-5,000
Close Department - Health	-53,273
Add: Medical Services - Health	5,000
Health Insurance - Insurance	-13,954
FICA - Retirement	-3,773
File Cabinet - Recreation	-400
Air Conditioning - Recreation	-400
Change Donations to Scholarship Prog (\$10,000) - Rec	-2,000
Rental of Ice Time Youth Hockey - Recreation	-10,000
Repairs to Buildings - Recreation	-3,000
Defer LAP Fence Replacement - Recreation	-5,000
Marcotte Park building renovation - Recreation	-3,000
Table replacement - Armory	-2,000
Flagpole - Armory	-2,600
Recreation Equipment - MPC	-6,000
Repave playground area - MPC	-4,000
Total Supplies & Materials - Library	-3,400
Replacement of Windows - Library	-40,600
Expand lighting in Circulation Room - Library	-1,600
LMRC - Urban Redevelopment	-14,000

Reduce Interest Cost - Debt Service	-21,716
City Subsidy - 911	-13,000
Testing - Private and Parochial Schools	-2,000
Books - Private and Parochial Schools	-3,000
Health Insurance - Insurance	150,000
Service Center Coalition - Dues and Donations	3,700
Downtown Housing & Community Center - Dues & Dons	120,000
L/A Excels - Dues & Donations	1,000
Joint Agencies Recognition -Dues & Donations	1,000
Credit for Position Review & Eval - Reserve for Salaries	-147,000
Credit for Personnel Reductions - Reserve for Salaries	-174,500
Capital Equipment Technology - City Wide	-50,000
TOTAL SCHOOL & CITY ADJUSTMENTS	<u>-\$1,010,542</u>

Passed - Vote 5-1 (Councilor Jean opposed.)

WAVIER OF SECTION 6.06 (F) OF THE CITY CHARTER (NGP-IPD)

VOTE (5)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

That the City Council deems it necessary to adopt a budget which exceeds the percent increase of the Gross National Product-Implicit Price Deflator, and hereby waives the provisions of Section 6.06(f) of the City Charter. Passed - Vote 5-1 (Councilor Jean opposed.)

ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATION RESOLVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

VOTE (6)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To approve the Appropriation Resolve for Fiscal Year 2002 for first passage:

Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the several departments of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and One, and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Two, for the payment of the State and County Taxes, for ordinary

indebtedness and expenses, for the interest on the debt, of the City of Lewiston, for the payment of lawful debts and dues from the City of Lewiston:

AGGREGATE BUDGET	\$67,704,336
MEANS OF FINANCING:	
General Property Tax	36,141,113
Anticipated Revenues	29,745,352
Prior Year's Surplus	1,817,871
Total	\$67,704,336

Passed - Vote 5-1 (Councilor Jean opposed)

VOTE (7)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To suspend Section 7 (c) of the Rules Governing the City Council to allow a second reading at this time. Passed - Vote 6-0

VOTE (8)

Motion by Councilor Carignan, seconded by Councilor Samson:

To approve the Appropriation Resolve for Fiscal Year 2002 for final passage:

Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the several departments of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and One, and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Two, for the payment of the State and County Taxes, for ordinary indebtedness and expenses, for the interest on the debt, of the City of Lewiston, for the payment of lawful debts and dues from the City of Lewiston:

AGGREGATE BUDGET	\$67,704,336
MEANS OF FINANCING:	
General Property Tax	36,141,113
Anticipated Revenues	29,745,352
Prior Year's Surplus	1,817,871
Total	\$67,704,336

Passed - Vote 6-0

FINAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE WATER AND SEWER 2002 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

VOTE (9)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To amend the proposed water and sewer budget as presented by the City Administrator and Finance Director to make the following adjustments in the following accounts:

Water Division	Health Insurance	-12,050
Sewer Division	Health Insurance	-5,500
Sewer Division	Sewer Main Re-Hab	-50,000
Sewer Division	SCADA Upgrade	-6,500
Sewer Division	Computer & Software	-1,500
Sewer Division	Pickup Truck	-20,000

Passed - Vote 6-0

ADOPTION OF WATER AND SEWER APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

VOTE (10)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To approve the Water and Sewer Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2002 for first passage:

Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the Water & Sewer Divisions of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and One and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Two:

Water Division Requirements	\$2,536,375
Sewer Division Requirements	\$3,876,400

Passed - Vote 6-0

VOTE (11)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Bilodeau:

To suspend Section 7(c) of the Rules Governing the City Council to allow a second reading at this time. Passed - Vote 6-0

VOTE (12)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Carignan:

To adopt the Water and Sewer Appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2002 for final passage:

Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated for the support of the Water & Sewer Divisions of the City of Lewiston for the fiscal year, commencing the first day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and One and ending the last day of June, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Two:

Water Division Requirements	\$2,536,375
Sewer Division Requirements	\$3,876,400

Passed - Vote 6-0

AUTHORIZATION TO USE THE INTEREST FROM THE FARRAR FUND

VOTE (13)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To authorize the use of the interest from the Farrar Fund for expenses incurred in the Human Services Budget, for medical and dental services. Passed - Vote 6-0

APPROVAL OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

VOTE (14)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Jean:

To authorize the Finance Director to approve payment for mileage reimbursement at the rates and manner as budgeted for the authorized use of privately owned vehicles in the conduct of official city business for each respective position:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>
Mayor	\$ 500.00
Auditor	\$ 125.00
Chief Assessor	\$ 480.00
City Clerk	\$ 300.00
Development Director	\$ 200.00
Downtown Development Manager	\$ 200.00
Economic Development Specialist	\$ 200.00
General Assistance Administrator	\$ 100.00
Library Director	\$ 200.00
Recreation Director	\$1200.00
Treasurer/Tax Collector	\$ 200.00

Per-mile basis. All others not specifically mentioned above shall be reimbursed at the rate of thirty-one (\$.31) cents per mile, excepting motorcycles which shall be reimbursed at the rate of 75% of the rate established for other vehicles, plus tolls and parking supported by receipted vouchers other than meters.

Passed - Vote 6-0

APPROVAL OF AID TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

VOTE (15)

Motion by Councilor Samson, seconded by Councilor Adams:

To accept the recommendation of the Finance Director, and to establish the following policy on aid to private and parochial schools for textbook services for Fiscal Year 2002:

\$29.70 per student in the elementary level and
\$37.80 per student at the secondary level for textbooks

Passed - Vote 6-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Tara asked if, in the future, City Administration could please have copies of the budget available for the public to review prior to and during budget public hearings. She noted that a summary of the budget is on the City website for residents to review if interested. Mayor Tara stated this has been a very tough budget year and that too much was cut from the budget for city services, but the Council needed to keep an eye on the bottom line total, which impacts the tax rate. It has been a difficult process in which all budget categorizes and departments were impacted.

The Mayor reminded the Councilors that the Shining Stars program will be held next Tuesday at 5:30pm and encouraged all Councilors to be present.

VOTE (16)

Motion by Councilor Bilodeau, second by Councilor Carignan:

To adjourn at 7:40 P.M. Passed - Vote 6-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, CMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine