

**Lewiston City Council**  
**Special Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 9, 2020**  
**Lewiston City Hall – 6:30 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order**

Electronic City Council Meeting called to order by Mayor Beth Mayor Carlson at 8:22 pm  
December 9, 2020.

**2. Roll Call**

Present (4): Mayor Beth Carlson, Councilor Dan Robertson, Councilor Carol Boynton, and  
Councilor Larry Rupprecht. Not Present (0).

Others present: City Administrator/Clerk Cheryl Knight, Ambulance Director Matt Essig, Police  
Chief Scott Chief Yeiter, Public Works Director Curt Benter, Ben Borchardt, Nick Ebnet and Polly  
Calhoun (reporter).

**3. Discussion topics: 2021 Budget**

Mayor Carlson stated she was looking at the workbook titled Prelim Levy Book 12.7.20. She had  
inquired if there was additional PPE in the budget for 2021? City Administrator/Clerk Cheryl  
Knight said no, but that she had created a new object code for COVID PPE expenses so that these  
expenses could be tracked for 2021 if desired.

This workbook had a \$3 per hour probationary raise and a 5% across the board raise in it.

Mayor Carlson had a question on the ambulance revenues, and wondered if the numbers were  
wrong? The totals were okay between the ambulance tab and the summary tab, just that the 2020  
budget amounts were placed into the wrong cells and needed to be shifted up one.

Discussion of the \$100,000 budget placed in the #400 repair/maint account in the sewer fund.

Bryan Holtz had stated approximately \$50,000 to \$55,000 could be needed for repairs, with a  
potential facility plan (\$45,000) needed for the WWTP rehab/repair. Knight stated she could move  
the \$45,000 budget into engineering fees and take it out of repair/maint. Mayor Carlson agreed that  
is what she wanted to see done.

Inquiry as to how the budget changes approved earlier at the City Council meeting will affect the  
levy. Knight turned ZOOM hosting duties over to the Mayor and populated those changes into the  
wage sheet of the revised workbook which now shows a 12.9.20 update.

Discussion on the water and sewer rates. The water rates annually increase 3%, the sewer rates do  
not because those rates are already borderline high. Public Works Director Curt Benter expressed a

desire to speak with the City's financial advisor about potentially raising the sewer rates to build up funds for needed updates and repairs to the WWTP.

Knight populated and shared an update to the budget workbook showing a levy increase of 4.40% after populating the changes made to salaries from tonight's earlier City Council meeting. Knight stated this represents the cost-of-living increase of 1.3%, changes to the wage for folks coming off probation, and the increase to the full-time police officer salary. The part-time officer salary changes will need to be adjusted in the line item for the police budget.

Councilor Rupprecht asked what other Councilors thought of the 4.40% levy as is currently shown. Mayor Carlson said her thoughts were initially from a 4-5% levy increase-definitely progress from where the process started at 16%. The cost-of-living amount was addressed separately from a raise and was glad for that.

Councilor Rupprecht further added that the 2018 street project, the Service Drive project, and the most recent street rehab project along Meadow Drive were pushed along to try to find a way for the EMS building to become a greater reality. From the original realization of CIP funds (city contribution) for an EMS building in 2027 of \$100,000 to the fact that now the City will be more capable to contribute towards that building in an amount well over a \$1,000,000 for 2027.

Mayor Carlson stated the Personnel Committee does need to look at wages and get some things straightened out and create a plan so that there are not huge jumps.

Councilor Robertson was happy with the current levy amount and agreed with Mayor Carlson that the Personnel Committee needed to look at wages. Councilor Boynton had hoped for 4.0% but thought that 4.4% was okay.

Discussion of having the Personnel Committee work on creating a plan to look at and incorporate the wage study into a recommendation for full Council.

Rather than make a motion to adopt the budget as most recently stated, this budget draft will be presented to the next regular Council meeting.

Councilor Rupprecht motioned to adjourn the special City Council meeting. Seconded by Mayor Carlson.

Approved 4-0.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm on December 9, 2020.

Submitted By:  
Cheryl A. Knight  
City Administrator/Clerk