

**LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL
JOINT LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL/NEZ PERCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 27, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

Lewiston, Idaho 83501

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Collins; Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder; Councilor Blakey; Councilor Bradbury; Councilor Kelly; Councilor Pernsteiner; Councilor Miller

NEZ PERCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Don Beck; Doug Havens; Doug Zenner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Alan Nygaard; Jana Gómez; Aaron Butler; Allison Tompkins; Bill Reynolds; Brittnie Purington; Kari Ravencroft; Budd Hurd; Chris Davies; Justin Coleman; Dan Marsh; Laura Von Tersch; Suzanne Grow; Mike Isaacs; Nikki Province; Suzanne Seigneur; Tim Barker; Travis Myklebust; Mark Ridinger;

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Collins called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Collins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

A. COVID-19 UPDATE

It was reported by City Manager Nygaard that the City, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, Beautiful Downtown Lewiston, and Valley Vision are working on developing plans for certain businesses to reopen May 1st. He stated Bill Reynolds with Nez Perce County provided information for flyers to be given out to businesses, and has been working with the medical providers to be sure the information provided is appropriate. Mr. Nygaard said there will be advertising and information released to the public regarding what should be done as people start to reenter businesses as they reopen.

Emergency Management Coordinator Reynolds stated it is going to be important to focus on individuals and their efforts regarding social distancing and personal hygiene. He said businesses should have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizing supplies to be able to open next week. Mr. Nygaard reiterated that the focus should be more on the individuals and

educating the community to remain responsible for their own actions. He stated Public Health is working with the restaurant and daycare elements that will begin with Stage 2 of the Governor's order. The date set for Stage 2 is May 15th at this time.

B. TRANSPORTATION

1. *Streets and Roads*

a. *City Limit Lines in Road Right-of-Way*

City Manager Nygaard stated he would like to discuss some possible solutions to address the areas where the city limit line runs through the center of the street (right-of-way) and splits some roads between City and County ownership. Public Works Director Davies provided a visual overview of these areas. Mr. Nygaard stated this topic will need to be discussed on many levels, as well as worked on for the 20-21 budget. Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Supervisor Mark Ridinger stated that Nez Perce County has worked with the City in the past on various shared road projects and would be willing to continue doing so to resolve issues in those areas.

City Manager Nygaard responded to Councilor Pernsteiner's question stating sole jurisdiction on shared areas would make certain road projects easier to complete. Mr. Davies provided an overview of potential issues that could arise due to shared jurisdiction in the right-of-way areas in regards to projects being completed and new developments in certain areas.

Councilor Blakey said he feels there are several roads that have shared jurisdiction that would need to stay shared, but others may need to be turned over to City jurisdiction.

MPO Director Grow provided an overview of a study completed in 2017 on Gun Club Road. She stated the concerns found in the study did not point to congestion issues, but more towards safety. She stated Nez Perce County has a safety audit scheduled that should provide more insight on the updates needing completed. Ms. Grow said dual ownership is not insurmountable with regard to funding, but has pros and cons. She stated Bryden Avenue is in the design process and being funded through federal Service Transportation Funds (STP).

Mr. Nygaard stated the City would put packets together estimating timelines and cost to bring before County Commissioners and City Council for budget discussion. The Nez Perce County Commissioners agreed to move forward on this topic.

b. Gun Club Road

City Manager Nygaard asked if the upcoming project for Gun Club Road needed to be a budget item. Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Supervisor Mark Ridinger replied that Nez Perce County was granted funding for a safety audit in the amount of about fifty thousand dollars for Gun Club Road. He said a discussion should take place regarding what does need completed on Gun Club Road and there will be more information available after the safety audit is complete. Commissioner Havens asked if the studies taking place would allow for funding or grants to be applied for. Mr. Ridinger replied that he is unsure about funding, but the information from the safety audit could benefit in that regard.

Commissioner Havens indicated he wants to be sure that Gun Club Road can handle the stormwater runoff from the improvements being made to 10th Street and asked if there is a stormwater plan in place. Mr. Nygaard explained there would be swales placed between the curb and sidewalk to retain the stormwater.

Mr. Nygaard suggested working with Mr. Ridinger and MPO Director Grow on a plan for a budget package and future costs for development of a plan and engineering work needing done on Gun Club Road.

c. Area of City Impact

City Manager Nygaard reported he feels there needs to be standards set for new road construction that takes place in the Area of City Impact (ACI). He would like to discuss a set of standards that can begin to be enforced and are agreeable by both the City and Nez Perce County. Commissioner Beck stated Nez Perce County does not have an engineer on staff, but there has been discussion regarding obtaining an engineer to complete the road construction inspections needed. He would like to have the standards be more uniform so if the City ever obtained the ACI from Nez Perce County, the County could hand over the ACI in good faith. Mr. Nygaard stated the City would be willing to help in the development effort to come to an agreement and set the proper standards, as it would benefit the City in the future.

Commissioner Beck replied that Nez Perce County would like to move forward with further discussions on this topic.

Councilor Blakey asked if the City would be able to extend help to Nez Perce County through the City Engineering Department in regards to inspections. Mr. Nygaard replied that the City does do some of the inspections depending on where services are located, but it would be beneficial to first set the standards.

2. *Bridges*

Administrative Services Director Marsh explained with the travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19, there could be a reduction in the gas tax revenue of up to 20-25 percent. He stated he foresees having to decrease the gas tax revenue for the City, which goes fully to the Transportation Fund. Mr. Marsh said that a portion of that revenue is set aside in the budget for capital construction. He stated this will be an area that needs to be monitored.

Mr. Marsh asked how the Road and Bridge Levee funding is for the bridges in the County. Commissioner Zenner replied that the design for Cherry Lane Bridge is in the final stages, but the cost to remove the old bridge is still unknown. He said the grant received should cover that cost. Further, he noted stated the Lenore Bridge feasibility study will be done through a grant that was just awarded to the County. Commissioner Zenner said permitting through the Coast Guard became an issue at one point, but that has been handled. White Road Bridge was able to get funding through the Water Conservation District and will be reviewed as well. Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Supervisor Mark Ridinger stated that NPC has 32 bridges within their jurisdiction, with most needing routine maintenance. Mr. Marsh stated he will work closely with Patty Weeks as more information is available on the gas tax and provide an update to Council.

3. *Airport*

Airport Manager Isaacs reported that the CARES Act for Lewiston amounts to \$1,238,000 in available funding. He stated the grant application process for this funding is done through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Airport Improvement Project (AIP). He said the money can be used for capital or operating

expenses, but the FAA would like to see the money put back into the economy as soon as possible. Mr. Isaacs stated the focus will be on faster projects that do not take a lot of time to plan. He said the airlines have taken a huge loss nationwide and are having to consolidate or cancel flights based on lack of use. Marketing will be a big part of keeping the airport going, as well as bringing in a second airline like it had in the past.

Commissioner Havens asked if this information had been brought before the Airport Board and how they are looking to spend the funding. Mr. Isaacs replied the information had yet to go to the Airport Board, but the available information would be presented at the May 19th meeting. Commissioner Havens asked if the airport has started to compile a list of projects to delegate to the funding. Mr. Isaacs confirmed. He stated the funds are noncompetitive and can be applied for immediately. Additionally, he reported the airport is still researching the best way to apply for the funds to maximize the funding amount.

Mr. Isaacs responded to Councilor Pernsteiner's question stating that the amount of funding varies depending on the airport and there is a four year cap to use the funding received.

Mr. Isaacs answered Councilor Blakey's question by explaining the funding has to be used on the airport and for purchases or expenditures after January 20, 2020. The funds cannot be utilized for past losses.

Councilor Pernsteiner asked if Delta has done anything with regard to marketing the airlines to get the consumer back on flights. Mr. Isaacs stated most airlines rely on the local economy to market their service and do not generally fund marketing efforts. Councilor Pernsteiner asked if any of the funding could be used as seat guarantee funds. Mr. Isaacs stated the funding is not designed for that use, however the law is stating the funds can be used for any legal expenditure. He explained how the funding is used is primarily up to the Airport Board and where they want the funding to be assigned. Mayor Collins added that some of these monies might be utilized to assist in getting Skywest or another airline at the Lewiston Airport.

Commissioner Havens stated that Nez Perce County has not discussed using the CARES Act funds for reimbursement. Mayor Collins agreed with Commissioner Havens stating he was not looking

to use the funds for reimbursement on previous investments in the Lewiston Airport.

Councilor Blakey asked what board member assigned by the County is currently serving the two year term. Commissioner Beck stated that Gary Peters holds the current two year position. Councilor Blakey stated that the City of Lewiston has received a number requests from the public, via letters, to open the upcoming position. He suggested for there to be similar procedures on the City and County level when it pertains to appointing new Airport Board members. Commissioner Beck stated he was not prepared to discuss this matter and would like time to look into the letters submitted and if there is legality behind the decision. Councilor Blakey requested that the letters be forwarded to the County Commissioners.

4. Transit

Transit Director Seigneur provided an update on Transit and discussed the possibility of a North Lewiston route. She stated ridership has maintained strong pre COVID-19 and has only dropped around 2.5% during the current pandemic.

Ms. Seigneur reviewed the two fixed routes available for patrons. She stated the North Lewiston route is a popular discussion and within the top three requested rider destinations. The coverage provided by Appaloosa Express is a great help, but their resources are limited. She feels North Lewiston really needs to be connected so citizens can get everywhere within Lewiston.

Ms. Seigneur stated the staff and ridership is reduced as of now and staff is doing everything they can to stay safe. She feels post COVID-19 transit services will be needed even more and North Lewiston routes would be a great option.

Transit Director Seigneur would like to be able to discuss further how to coordinate schedules to provide the best solution to service to North Lewiston. Mayor Collins agreed that a North Lewiston route would be a great option. Commissioner Havens stated he does not feel that the route for North Lewiston is possible at this time, but may be a few years down the road and can always be discussed. Ms. Seigneur responded to Commissioner Beck's questions stating there are no routes provided to North Lewiston currently, but Transit has partnered with Appaloosa Express. Councilor Pernsteiner asked if the

North Lewiston location demand is mainly pertaining to the DMV and jail, and wondered if when the new courthouse is established if the demand will continue to increase. Ms. Seigneur replied the jail and Sherriff's Office brings more demand at this time than the DMV. Commissioner Havens asked for a copy of the survey that Ms. Seigneur covered.

Ms. Seigneur provided an overview of the updates taking place for the relocation of the Community Center pick up area. She stated there is a pullout being constructed on Lincoln Avenue where all services can be accessed. This new location will have bathrooms and shelters. She said this project was funded through an FTA grant.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council and Nez Perce County Commissioners, the April 27, 2020, Special Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.