

July 22, 2020

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Joint Special Meeting with the Nez Perce County Commissioners on Thursday, July 22, 2020, in a virtual setting. Commission Chair Beck called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mayor Collins; Councilor Pernsteiner

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Alan Nygaard; Jana Gómez; Aaron Butler; Bill Reynolds; Travis Myklebust; Nikki Province; Jeff Klone; Dan Marsh; Kari Ravencroft; Brittne Purington; Stephanie Cuddihy; Justin Coleman; KLEW; Laura Von Tersch; Carol Moerhle; Jeff Nessel; Debbie Baker; Courtney Kramer; Lynn Johnson; Kevin Messick; Judge Brudie

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission Chair Beck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT: *Update provided by Director of Public Health Carol Moerhle*

Public Health Director Moerhle provided an update on the newest data regarding COVID-19 within the North Central Idaho Health District. She stated that the District is reporting over 200 total cases as of today and there has not been a COVID-19 related death since April. Ms. Moerhle explained how Public Health is managing contact tracing with the reported positive cases in the District.

Ms. Moerhle said the Board of Health will be meeting on July 23rd to review data measurements for decisions that could be made in the near future. She noted that authority for COVID-19 decisions has been given to the individual cities and local public health districts by the Governor's office. She said that working closely together with the City and County to relay the same information to all parties involved is extremely important.

Commission Chair Beck asked how the positive tests are being counted. Ms. Moerhle stated that there are more people being tested for COVID-19 with an increase

in testing supplies and criteria set by the State of Idaho. She explained the criteria required for testing and that some positive tests are from asymptomatic patients required to be tested prior to elective procedures.

Public Health Director Moerhle responded to a question by Councilor Blakey stating the solid waste testing taking place in Moscow has varying results. She stated that the science behind the testing is just not available to validate the numbers being reported. Councilor Blakey asked if a person has to wait to for symptoms in order to be tested if they know they were exposed to COVID-19. Ms. Moerhle stated if a person has knowingly been exposed to the virus, they do not have to wait to show symptoms in order to be tested.

Councilor Bradbury asked if the number of positive cases being reported by Public Health includes the positive results from Nimiipuu Health. Ms. Moerhle confirmed. She noted that Public Health does not receive negative test result totals to compare with positive result totals. Councilor Bradbury asked if there is a testing regimen in place for asymptomatic people within the community. Ms Moerhle stated with supplies being limited, testing the vast community population is not viable at this time. She stated the time frame to receive test results is currently around 7-10 days with the increase in testing. Councilor Bradbury asked what could be done to facilitate the ability to find out the number of people infected with the virus regardless of symptoms. She replied that the Governor's COVID-19 Committee would need to implement the proper technology and capacity in local labs to be able to facilitate tests locally, rather than sending the tests out of state.

Councilor Kelly asked if the data that is received is coming directly from hospitals and clinics. Ms. Moehrle stated that it is a state law that all hospitals, labs and clinics report positive communicable disease cases directly to the local health department.

Commission Chair Beck asked if there is data regarding how many people have been admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19. Ms. Moehrle stated that Public Health is not included in the initial report of hospitalizations. The data goes directly to the state and the state sends it back to Public Health. Mr. Beck stated that it is a concern when the hospital data is not available to be able to keep the public informed.

Councilor Bradbury asked who in the state should be contacted in order to make changes to the testing regiment. Ms. Moehrle stated that the Governor's office would make that change.

Councilor Blakey asked if there is an appropriate place for the City and County to be using COVID funding to help with testing supplies. Ms. Moehrle stated that money does not seem to be the issue. She said early on in the pandemic the funding came from FEMA, but the testing supplies are now under government control due to the capacity issue.

City Manager Nygaard stated there is new messaging coming out early next week regarding COVID fatigue with the hope that it will reach a different level of the community to be able to get information out in a new way. Nez Perce County Emergency Manager Reynolds stated that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is also concentrating on the messaging going out to the community and employees. He said that the County is purchasing additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitizer when needed. Mr. Reynolds noted that the County is revamping procedures for County employees that are exposed or test positive with the virus.

Commission Chair Beck thanked all employees that worked on the committees and that have been able to update the community during the crisis.

B. COURTHOUSE/LEWISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

City Manager Nygaard opened a general discussion regarding the placement of the new courthouse and police department. He stated the Council expressed that they would like to work with the County on the new location of the courthouse downtown. The Council also discussed acquiring funding for a project of that magnitude would possibly require financing. He said that the City would need to research some programming details for a new police station in order to come up with a cost estimate and requested for some additional time to hire an architect.

Councilor Blakey stated there is a strategic plan that has been developed for the City and he feels that this type of project would need to be taken to the citizens for a bond vote.

Councilor Bradbury asked if there would be an advisory vote and the commissioner's intentions if it were to be negative. Commissioner Havens stated that he does not feel that there has been enough interest for the topic to be placed on the ballot. Commission Chair Beck stated that the County is looking at options and understands the implications of moving or building a new courthouse and dispatch and police department. He stated that knowing the value of the current police department would be helpful.

Mr. Nygaard stated that the process would need to be researched to acquire the necessary data regarding information on financing, cost estimates and locations. Administrative Services Director Marsh stated that he did some preliminary research regarding the project and provided options for funding projects. He asked if a temporary location would be considered while the new courthouse was being demolished. Commission Chair Beck stated that is an option that will need to be discussed.

Commissioner Havens stated he feels that the current location is not large enough for the new courthouse. He said there are several moving pieces to this project and a lot to consider. Mr. Marsh stated taxpayers are going to be asked to pay an

additional \$12-15 million and the discussions need to take place. Mr. Nygaard stated that he would like an additional few months to be able to acquire the information needed to make a solid plan for the police department.

Councilor Bradbury stated that the City would not have to fund the entire amount needed for a new police department. The amount that would be received from the purchase of the current police department would need to be subtracted from the overall cost estimate.

Councilor Blakey asked what the cut-off date is to get a topic on the ballot in November. County Clerk Weeks stated that she believes the date is the third week in August.

Mr. Nygaard asked if it would be beneficial to submit something in writing to the County Commissioners with regard to a plan of action. Commission Chair Beck stated that would be helpful as the project moves forward.

Mr. Nygaard and Mr. Beck suggested another joint meeting be scheduled to discuss other budgetary items.

Commissioner Zenner stated that the County would like to see an appraisal for the current police station in order to have a purchase price for County records.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City of Lewiston or Nez Perce County Commissioners, Mayor Collins adjourned the June 18, 2020, Joint Special meeting at 4:10 p.m.