

CITY OF LEWISTON

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 18, 2026

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

THE HONORABLE CARL L. SHELIN, MAYOR, PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Shelin, Councilors Nagine, Longchamps, Harriman, Roy, Noble, Chittim, and Martel, City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath, Deputy City Administrator Brian O'Malley, and City Clerk Kathleen Montejo.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

VOTE (299-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

To dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of August 4, 2026, and to accept and place them on file as prepared by the City Clerk. Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ronnie Paradis, Ward 6 – Please talk about issues and not people. Who will protect the mobile unit when it goes out into homeless encampments? The violence and shootings are still happening. Bangor has cases of HIV that are spreading quickly, the unhoused situation is out of control there.

Melissa Dunn, Blake St – There are classes of racism at City Hall and the Police Department with civic and human rights violations. Members of the Police Department and family members of Councilors have cyber stalked her. Her rights to observe activities in public have been violated, the officers on the streets need better training.

John Horton, Ward 2 – Opposed to the mobile home rent control ordinance. The ordinance, while well-intended, will not work. Park owners have expenses such as plowing, insurance, maintenance, etc, this ordinance will create a loss for them. The average lot rent in Lewiston is \$502 a month. There isn't a problem in Lewiston, the park owners are not the problem.

Chris Saroie – Lewiston mobile home park owner – If the income for parks is restricted, will have to cut reserved funds dedicated for future improvements such as cutting back brush, etc. Lot rent increases are low compared to other household expenses that have skyrocketed such as groceries, gas, oil, healthcare, etc.

Destiny Johnson, Windham and Lewiston shooting survivor – 18 people lost lives in mass shooting, public safety is supposed to be a priority for the Council. People expect accountability from the agencies that received funding what should have gone to the families of victims and survivors. Mayor is a board member of the Maine Mill which received \$65,000

Christine Holden, Ward 1 – The sidewalks and roads that have been recently paved look nice. At the one month mark of the new trash can program, the city should evaluate the success.

Concerns with electric bikes that are driving on the roads, not signaling, moving in between vehicles.

Nathan Pearl, Lewiston – This country has been able to build skyscrapers for 141 years but here are 800,000 unhoused residents in this country that are suffering and the effect is viewed locally.

Kim Bush, Ward 2 – Stores are open until midnight, but patrons are getting hurt from customers with mental health issues. The Calgary Methodist church is ending their food program, where will people go? Can the city provide funding for the program to continue?

Matt Agren, Ward 4 – What is the status of the third floor reorganization program? Has talked with residents, people do not feel safe coming downtown to attend Council meetings. Social media magnifies the issues and scares people away.

Ifraax Saciid-Ciise, Lewiston translated for Hola Noor – Was ill for three days, did not leave her home, parked car in lot close to house. Received a ticket for not moving and said the car would be towed. It is not a snowstorm, no reason to have it removed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The City Administrator reported the new Casella trash cans will be distributed starting on August 24. The Community Ambassadors program kicked off last week with 40 volunteers. The Balloon Festival will be held on August 21-23. Director of Social Service Elaine Brackett has 40 years of city service. The Department of Economic and Community Development will be rolling out new loan programs. The 1820 Spirits company Lewiston plant has been named the best plant in the company. The next Meet & Greet will be held at the Clarion Inn on August 20 for residents of Ward 7 and Councilor Martel will be present.

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TRANSFER OF FORFEITURE FUNDS

VOTE (300-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

That pursuant to Title 15, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Section 5824(3) and Section 5822(4)(A), the City Council hereby acknowledges and approves the transfer of \$2,340.00 or any portion thereof, in the case of the State of Maine vs. David Mockler, Docket Number ANDCD-CR-2022-00625 and the transfer of \$1,385.00 or any portion thereof, in the case of the State of Maine vs. James Roseney Docket Number ANDCD-CR-2022-02148 Court Records, being funds forfeited pursuant to the court process. It is further acknowledged that these funds shall be credited to the 'City of Lewiston Drug Enforcement Program' account.

Passed - Vote 7-0

AMENDMENT TO THE TRAFFIC SCHEDULE TO ADD TWO-HOUR PARKING ON A PORTION OF BATES STREET

VOTE (301-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

To approve an Amendment to the Traffic Schedule to add additional parking spaces on a portion of Bates Street for Parking Time Regulated, Monday through Friday, 2-hours 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and amend Section 48 Busses Only Parking to accommodate this addition, as outlined in the attached vote sheet. Passed - Vote 7-0

**ORDER, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF WAIVING UTILITY LIEN
FORECLOSURE ON CERTAIN DISTRESSED STRUCTURES ON LEASED LAND
ORDER, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS
FROM THE MAINE BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**

VOTE (302-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

To approve the Order, Authorizing execution of waiving utility lien foreclosure on certain distressed structures on leased land:

Whereas, the City has a long and successful history of working with property owners who have difficulty meeting their utility charge obligations; and

Whereas, utility liens automatically mature on property on which utility charges have not been paid eighteen months after the City files liens against them; and

Whereas, once liens mature, the City becomes the technical owner of these properties; and

Whereas, this process is established by State Law to ensure that the City is paid the utility charges owed, at which time the property is normally returned to its prior owner; and

Whereas, if a property on which a lien has matured is abandoned by its prior owner for a period of 60 days, the City may become liable for costs associated with the demolition and removal of distressed structures and/or any claims for damages that might arise as a result of the condition of, or hazards posed by the property; and

Whereas, in certain instances, especially where structures are located on leased land, the City may be unable to recover back utility charges and demolition or other costs associated with such properties; and

Whereas, in such instances, it may be in the best interest of the City to waive foreclosure while alternatives are sought to address these problem properties, including working with property and leased-land owners; and

Whereas, a number of distressed structures located on leased land on which liens will mature on August 20, 2026 have been identified; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the City that foreclosure on these structures be waived;

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston, that Utility Lien Foreclosure is hereby waived on the following distressed structures located on leased land:

- I. 2 Merton Boulevard – Structure owner: Edward Williams/Xochil Romero, Parcel 00006024, Account 009099
2. 41 Drew St, Lot 2 – Structure owner: Randy W Bourgoin, Parcel 90000222, Account 010809
3. 22 Circle Drive – Structure owner: Danial Williams, Parcel 90020139, Account 011878
4. 59 Oxbow Drive – Structure owner: Denise V Langlais, Parcel 90020081, Account 011893
5. 53 Village Drive – Structure owner: Leslie Crosson, Parcel 90000183, Account 012472
6. 49 Autumn Lane – Structure owner: Debbie D Berry, Parcel 90000198, Account 012475
7. 85 Village Drive – Structure owner: Kelli/Joseph Madore, Parcel 90000493, Account 012510
8. 51 Autumn Drive – Structure owner: Kara Glaser, Parcel 90011985, Account 012540
9. 39 Oxbow Drive – Structure owner: Lynes, Eric, Parcel 90020543, Account 012547
10. 1048 Sabattus St, Lot 9 – Structure owner: Dennis/Anita Rousseau, Parcel 90012545 Account 012947
11. 397 Cotton Rd, Lot 1 – Structure owner: Nicole A Dyer, Parcel 90013306, Account 013091

Passed - Vote 7-0

**ORDER, CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED CITY
CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

VOTE (303-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

To approve the Order, Calling for a Public Hearing for the proposed City Charter amendments:

Whereas, The City Council has authorized over the past few months three amendments to the City Charter to appear on the November ballot, and

Whereas, Maine state statutes require a public hearing to be held before election day regarding the amendments, and

Whereas, The statutes require a legal advertisement to run at least seven days before the public hearing,

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council that the City Council calls for a public hearing on the proposed Charter amendments to be held on September 1 and directs city staff to place the necessary legal notice as prescribed by state statutes.

Passed - Vote 7-0

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD

VOTE (304-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Nagine:

To confirm the Mayor's nomination and to appoint the following resident as a member of the Planning Board: Darren Gallant, 4 Benson Street, term to expire January 2, 2029

Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE LEWISTON FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION RELICENSING

Public Works Director Kevin Gagne and Director of Planning & Code Enforcement Jon Connor made a presentation to the Council regarding the background and history of this issue.

The Mayor opened the public hearing to receive input from the public regarding the proposed relicensing of the Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project. Matt Roy, Ward 6 – Last December, the Council voted down an AI Datacenter. This hearing is now being held days before the report is due. This should have been brought to the public's attention months ago. Christine Holden, Ward 1 – Access to recreation on the river is important and is outlined in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S ETHICS POLICY, POLICY MANUAL NUMBER 94

Motion by Councilor Nagine, seconded by Councilor Longchamps:

To approve the proposed amendments to the Ethics Policy, City Policy Manual Number 94.

VOTE (305-2026)

Motion by Councilor Martel, seconded by Councilor Noble:

To postpone this item to a future workshop. Passed - Vote 6-1 (Councilor Longchamps opposed)

ORDER, APPROVING THE AMENDED CITY FY27 (FEDERAL FY2026) HOME BUDGET AND ACTION PLAN FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

VOTE (306-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Martel:

To Adopt the Order, Approving the Amended City FY27 (Federal FY2026) HOME Budget and Action Plan for submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

Whereas, on May 5, 2026 after holding a workshop on March 17, 2026 and two public hearings on April 7, 2026 and May 5, 2026, and not receiving any comments, the City Council adopted a HOME Budget and Action Plan for the City's FY27 (Federal FY2026) upon recommendation of the Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee on how Lewiston's share of the Auburn Lewiston HOME Consortium FY27 proposed allocation and the previous year's funding to be rolled forward would be invested; and

Whereas, the City has been notified of the final Consortium Budget for FY27 (Federal FY2026) which has been approved by HUD at \$484,730.26 and is to be divided between Lewiston and Auburn; and

Whereas, the amended HOME Budget for FY27 (Federal FY2026) is \$1,195,374.04 for Lewiston which is an increase of \$2,614.37 or .22% over last year's budget; and

Whereas, HUD requires local acceptance of the amended HOME Budget and Action Plan resulting in the grant; and

Now, therefore, be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the Amended HOME Budget and Action Plan for City FY27 (Federal FY2026) is hereby approved and authorized to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Passed - Vote 7-0

**ORDER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXPLORE THE
DISSOLUTION OF THE LEWISTON AUBURN RAILROAD COMPANY**

VOTE (307-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Martel:

To postpone this matter indefinitely. Passed - Vote 7-0

**ORDER, APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF A 1.44 ACRE PORTION OF
9 FOSS ROAD**

VOTE (308-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Martel:

To approve the Order, Approving the Acquisition of a 1.44 acre portion of 9 Foss Road:

Whereas, Jordan Road Bridge was identified as deficient by Maine DOT in 2021 due to voids in the stone abutments and erosion at the corners; and

Whereas, the bridge was constructed in 1966 and rehabilitated in 2002 and services four residents and multiple vacant parcels; and

Whereas, the bridge is identified as scour critical such that it needs to be closed when flood waters reach a certain level and as a dead end road there is no alternative access for residents except through the Vineyard Pathways Church parking lot; and

Whereas, there is an existing public crossing over No Name Brook 250 feet upstream on Foss Rd; And

Whereas, engineering studies have recommended that repairs to the bridge would only be temporary and a full replacement is required at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million; and

Whereas, construction of a bypass road across 9 Foss Rd and removal of the bridge would result in significant cost savings; and

Whereas, funding for construction of a bypass road was approved by City Council as part of the FY26 LCIP; and

Whereas, the owners of 9 Foss Rd, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, have agreed to split off 1.44 acres to sell to the City for the purposes of constructing a bypass road; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston to authorize the acquisition of a 1.44 Acre portion of 9 Foss Rd for the agreed amount of \$35,000 from the Jordan Rd Bridge Project (Acct# 7703 703721).

Passed - Vote 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public addressed the Council at this time.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Councilor Noble expressed concerns about a school bus on Marcotte Avenue and Barron Avenue going too fast. She noted that half of Sylvan Avenue is one way and people do not know that. She asked that a Council workshop be held on abandoned vehicles and the current city ordinance, she asked for rezoning to make the process fairer for residents who must park on the streets. Councilor Nagine asked for an ordinance to address the safety of e-bikes and e-scooters, noting that lights should be required for nighttime operation, reflectors, etc. Read a statement from the Public Health Committee on the importance of childhood vaccines. The Maine Resiliency Center survey closes in one week, how will the Council receive their findings? Councilor Martel noted the Ward 7 Meet & Greet to be held on August 20 at the Clarion Inn. Councilor Longchamps said she asked to have the Ethics Policy on the agenda because two local businesses are having a dispute and it is escalating, the Council received emails and complaints about comments from residents that could be harmful.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business was brought forth at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (309-2026)

Motion by Councilor Chittim, seconded by Councilor Martel:

To enter into an Executive Session pursuant to MRSA Title 1, section 405(6) (A) and (E) to discuss a legal matter with the City Attorney and an Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, section 405(6) (c), to discuss the acquisition or disposition of Real Estate, 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 8:25 pm and ended at 9:10 pm.

VOTE (310-2026)

Motion by Councilor Nagine, seconded by Councilor Harriman:

To adjourn at 9:10 P.M. Passed - Vote 7-0

A true record, Attest:

Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC
City Clerk
Lewiston, Maine