

MINUTES  
**SPECIAL CITY OF LEWISVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Wednesday, 15 November 2023  
Lewisville Community Center, 3451 E 480 N, Lewisville, Idaho

Prior to the beginning of the meeting Mayor Thomas read the guidelines for conduct in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas at 7:04 p.m. at the Lewisville Community Center at 3451 E 480 N, Lewisville, Idaho. Present were Mayor Curtis S. Thomas; Council Members Brigham Briggs, Blake Ball, James Ball and Celena Lewis; Clerk/Treasurer, Donetta Fife; City Attorney, Kris Meek; residents and non-residents.

**ROLL CALL**

- Mayor Thomas – present
- James Ball – present
- Celena Lewis -- present
- Brigham Briggs – present
- Blake Ball – present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Brigham Briggs**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Update progress on the restoration of the WWII gun on loan from the City of Lewisville to Legacy Flight Museum
- Gather input from residents on the memorial and possible negotiation on the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding with Legacy Flight Museum
- Establish a plan of action on said MOU

Mayor Thomas indicated that restoration of the gun is progressing but it will take time and money. After 2 meetings where the memorial was discussed it becomes apparent that this is perhaps more of a contest between personal pride and doing that which would put in place something that exhibits respect and tribute to those who fought, sacrificed much and died to protect the freedoms of this country. Those who have served this country willingly put aside their self interest in order to try to preserve those principles of agency which God so willingly gave us. He expressed a hope for a reasonable compromise to be reached in order to preserve the integrity of all those involved.

Legacy Flight Museum paid for the transportation and is providing the restorative efforts and will return the gun to the City at the end of the MOU period. The Council acted the way they thought would be best for the City. If the residents did not make themselves aware of the Agendas and workings of the City government, even though Agendas were clearly posted and an article was published in the Jefferson Star, we are not responsible to go house to house to inform them.

The curator of Legacy Flight Museum is willing to negotiate a shorter stay for the gun on the MOU but not less than 10 years. They have put a lot of volunteer hours and volunteer money into the restoration of the gun to this point and there is still a lot that needs to be done.

A special interest group designating themselves as "Family and Friends of Lewisville Veterans" composed of residents and non-residents of the City of Lewisville and identifying themselves as the "Committee" proposed a resolution to the City outlining what they felt the City's responsibility and financial obligations should be and what the special interest group would be willing to do.

- A non-resident WWII veteran expressed the feelings he had when he viewed the gun. The Council and those in attendance expressed their appreciation for his service.
- Several residents and non-residents expressed their feelings over the removal, restoration and return of the gun.
- The cost of the plans as set forth by the Committee had not been obtained.
- Blake Ball as Council Member over beautification was asked to be the liaison between the Committee and the Council.
- Allena Lewis, a resident, volunteered as a veteran to work with the Committee to give them a more rounded perspective.
- The Committee indicated that the modified 10 years proposed is still too long and they request that the gun be returned as soon as possible to the City.
- It was agreed that a memorial plaque should be placed at the gun in its current location and a memorial should be placed at the location where the gun will rest upon its return to the City. This would be a good first step in preparation for the return of the gun. The future location of the gun needs to be determined and development of the site needs to be finished before the return of the gun can be considered.
- A resident proposed wording for a memorial plaque to be placed with the gun, citing that it is a 40 millimeter anti-aircraft gun used by the U.S. Navy in WWII, that it is on loan from the City of Lewisville, that it was obtained by the City of Lewisville in 1959, that it was dedicated to the memory of the veterans of Lewisville and Jefferson County and that it stands as a symbol of a nation that was willing to give of itself for the freedom of all.

Brigham indicated that he is not convinced that the actions of the Committee represent the feelings of the majority of the residents of the City of Lewisville and he would not be voting for modification of the MOU unless he felt it was the desire of the majority of the City residents.

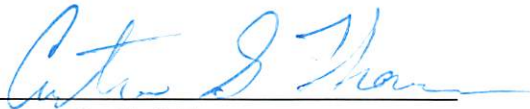
James was excused.

Mayor Thomas indicated that no action on the issue would be taken until actual figures as to what the cost to the taxpayers of the City would be and how much money the Committee would have to contribute to the project. He further indicated that a well-defined plan would need to be in place prior to the negotiations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Celena moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m., Brigham seconded, motion passed.

Minutes approved by the City Council of the City of Lewisville on the 13th day of December, 2023.

Mayor  Date 12/13/2023  
Curtis S. Thomas

ATTEST:

Clerk  Date 12-13-2023  
Donetta R. Fife