

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 26, 2019 AT 5:30 PM  
LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with Borough Council President Venus Shade presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Berrier, Mr. Campbell, Larry Searer, Mr. Sievers, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Shade, and Mayor Bargo were present. Mr. Felmlee was absent.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT**

Zolly Rayner, Director of Afscome, addressed council with an error they feel has been made on behalf of their member Ms. Debo. He would like council to reconsider and extend her position another 30 to 60 days and review the facts. He would be more than happy to have one of his staff sit down and explain. He said once it's done, he feels the Council will see their error.

Adam Maguire, Staff Representative for Afscome, wanted to thank the members of Council and the Mayor that committed to stand with Ms. Debo. He felt that council was making decisions based upon inaccurate information. One of those being Jim Felmlee, who signed a petition with Afscome saying they felt she should be reinstated. There was a Grievance Hearing recently and there has been no response back from those conversations. He said he thought he made it perfectly clear at the hearing what direction they would be forced to go if there was no resolution. At the end of the day, he feels that everyone will end up losing. Ms. Shade stated that per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Council is not permitted to make any comment on grievances or disputes at hand.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

Ms. Walter informed council that the tax upset sale is January 2, 2020 at the Court House if those would choose to attend. Information was provided to them. Mr. Remy said this is a rule to show cause in court by the county to confirm and distribute the money listed on the sale.

Ms. Shade discussed the approval to advertise with the Juniata Valley River. Council had already approved to advertise with the big book, but this is a different one that reaches different businesses. Copies of the advertising information for the big book and the small book were provided to council so they can see what the difference is. The representative would like to have an answer by January 1, 2020. She is asking Council to advertise with the smaller book in which 30,000 copies are distributed to the visitor center, area businesses,

local events, and area hotels. Ms. Shade stated that it cost \$674.00, same as the small book. Mr. Campbell felt that it could wait until the next year. Larry Searer said they are willing to spend \$2,000 on a vehicle lease but they won't pay to advertise?

***A motion was made by Larry Searer to advertise with Juniata Valley River.***

***Motion died for lack of a second.***

Ms. Walter stated that last year's cost for the audit was \$19,975.00, and this year's quote is for \$20,575 which was still cheaper than the prior quote of \$29,085.00.

***On a motion by Mr. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council by unanimous vote approved the auditors, Young, Oaks, & Brown by Resolution.***

Ms. Shade discussed the authorization to advertise the yearly meeting schedule. She said she would like to change the end of the year meeting to December 29, 2019.

***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Sievers, Council by unanimous vote approved to advertise the yearly meeting schedule with the change of the end of the year meeting.***

***On a motion by Mr. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Campbell, council voted to approve the Per Capita Tax Exonerations with discussion.*** Mr. Berrier questioned the report submitted by the Tax Collector regarding the double assessed numbers being different from the second page document. Mr. Sievers stated that she had the summary wrong. Mr. Berrier suggested voting on Page 2 that shows the exact numbers. Ms. Shade stated the totals still equal.

***On a motion amended by Mr. Berrier and seconded by Mr. Sievers, Council by unanimous vote approved the Per Capita Tax Exonerations as shown by name and category on the second page document equaling \$90 dollars.***

***On a motion by Mr. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council by a 5-1 (Searer) vote approved the adoption of the Wage and Salary Resolution with a 3% increase across the board.***

Ms. Walter stated that the transfer resolution represents the budget versus actual figures for the General Borough expense accounts. Since the General Borough is a tax-based account, and we are on a cash modified basis of accounting, a transfer resolution is required to offset any deficits or unencumbered balances.

***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Sievers, Council by a 5-1 (Searer) vote approved the Transfer Resolution.***

The Sewer Ordinance was discussed. Mr. Berrier had reviewed the numbers and presented a new rate. Larry Searer questioned what the increase would be? Mr. Berrier stated that there

was a 5% increase from 2018 and it goes to pay increased expenses. Ms. Shade stated that the difference was less than a dollar from what Gannet Fleming had originally presented.

***On a motion by Mr. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council by unanimous vote approved to advertise the Sewer Ordinance.***

***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Sievers, Council by a 4-2 (Searer/Wilson) vote approved the 2020 Budget.***

***On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Sievers, Council by unanimous vote to approve the Real Estate Tax Resolution with No Increase.***

The Cost and Fee Schedule was discussed. Mr. Campbell stated they worked on the Community Center rates to bring in more revenue. Mr. Sievers discussed the rental rates at the Community center they changed. Ms. Shade said she hoped it would boost revenue. Mr. Sievers then reviewed the pool rate changes to make the pool more competitive with Burnham. Mr. Sievers stated he feels the wording of Friday-Saturday should be removed from the Activity room rental rate. Also, they discussed offering a 10% discount to those who use the Community Center multiple times.

***On a motion by Mr. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council by a 5-1 (Searer) vote approved the Cost N Fee Schedule by Resolution with removing the Friday-Saturday wording from the Activity room rate.***

A Resolution was passed at the last Water Authority meeting to refinance their bonds and freeze up additional funds. The Borough can pass a resolution to hold off any further projects by the Water Authority. Mr. Remy stated that the Resolution was prepared from the Bond Counsel and it addresses their Resolution made by the authority from December 18, 2019, to authorize a barring up to 30 million dollars. It states before they do any more projects, they must get Councils written approval in excess of over \$10,000.

***On a motion by Mr. Berrier and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council by a 5-1 (Searer) vote approved the Water Authority Resolution.***

Ms. Shade stated they would discuss the 30-day extension for Ms. Debo in executive session since it was personnel related.

Council went into executive session at 5:59 p.m. for personnel reasons.  
Council came out of executive session at 6:33 p.m.

***A motion by Larry Searer and seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve to retain Suzanne Debo for additional 30 days.***

**Roll Call**

<b>Frank Berrier</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Dave Campbell</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Larry Searer</b>	<b>Yea</b>
<b>Mark Sievers</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Venus Shade</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Bill Wilson</b>	<b>Yea</b>

Mayor Bargo stated she reached out to all Police Advisory Board members, and Mr. Stephan Russell declined to continue for personal reasons. Mayor Bargo would like to ask Steve Knudson to be on the Police Advisory Board. Council agreed.

Mayor Bargo stated that Will Campbell from Juniata Valley Bank reached out to her about Council Members joining their round table discussion on January 8, 2020, from 8 – 9 a.m. They would like to hold the meeting in Council Chambers. It would be a leadership group. Ms. Shade stated she was told it would include students and it was part of the Chamber. Mr. Will Campbell would like to see Ms. Walter there as well.

***The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.***

  
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(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
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(Asst.) Borough Secretary