

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 11, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Shade (President), Mr. Campbell (Vice-President), Larry Searer (Councilman), Mr. Terry (Councilman) *arrived at 5:45*, and Mr. A. Wilson (Councilman) were present.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT**

**\*\*CONSENT AGENDA**

The following are routine, procedural, and informational non-controversial items and do not appear to require discussion or explanation prior to Council's action. These items will be acted upon by one motion unless any member of Council desires to move an item to the Regular Agenda for further discussion.

- A. Approval of Minutes:
  - 1. Council – December 14, 2020, December 29, 2020, & January 4, 2021
  - 2. Finance – December 3, 2020 & December 10, 2020
- B. Approval of Treasurer's report
- C. Acknowledge receipt of Tax Collector's Report
- D. Approval of Schedule of Bills
  - 1. General Borough/Speciality/Refuse/Wastewater Collection & Treatment/State Liquid Fuels
- E. Acknowledge receipt of Fame meeting minutes & statistics
- F. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Office monthly report
- G. Acknowledge receipt of DLI minutes
- H. Acknowledge receipt of MABL minutes
- I. Acknowledge receipt of WWC 2020 report
- J. Acknowledge receipt of WWt & WWC summary report
- K. Acknowledge receipt of WWT 2020 report

**On a motion by Mr. A Wilson and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council agrees to approve the consent agenda.**

**TREASURER/BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY'S REPORT**Ms. Miller states that a letter was received from the commissioner's office stating that we have received an amount of \$4,233.37 for the CARES act relief grant. Ms. Miller request approval to continue with the order of the recycling truck, vactor truck, streetsweeper, and skid loader that were previously budgeted for capital purchases.

**On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council agrees to approve the order of the budgeted capital purchases.**

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Barlett states that there were no major fires during the month of December. There were 2 building fires, 1 brush fire, 12 medical assists, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 1 removal of persons from a stalled elevator, 2 gas leaks, 1 water related electrical issue, 1 lock out, 2 smoke odor scares, a smoke detector activation, and 3 alarm system activations. Chief Barlett states that the fire investigator, Mike Force, passed away on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Barlett would like to thank Mr. Force for his dedication in serving the Borough on behalf of himself and the fire department.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bargo presents her report for the month of December, as well as her end of year report. Mayor Bargo also wishes to send her condolences to Mr. Force's family.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Clemens states that in the month of December 336 calls for service, 5 DUI arrests, 6 traffic citations, and 4 non-traffic citations. Chief Clemens states that there are plans to host a 3-day field sobriety testing class. A Lewistown officer will be instructing the class for both our and other local police departments. Mr. Clemens states that he has reached out to Ms. Rupp regarding Community Center availability and is hoping to hold the class in February. Ms. Shade inquires as to how many attendants are expected. Chief Clemens states that there will be at least 10 participants.

Chief Clemens states that he was not present at the end of year meeting and would like insight as to why the decision was made to remove the purchase of a new police vehicle from the budget, as the current vehicle that was to be replaced has significant issues. Ms. Shade inquires as to what exactly the issues are. Chief Clemens states that the vehicle needs a new catalytic converter, new tires, and is beginning to burn oil. Mr. Campbell states that various things needed to be removed from the budget; he was made of the catalytic converter issue and a line item had been increased to cover the costs of repair, however he was not made aware of the other issues the vehicle has. Chief Clemens states that he understands that cuts must be made, however the repair costs of the vehicle are already approaching what was offered for trade-in. Mr. Campbell questions the need for z rated tires in the vehicle. Mr. Clemens states that in the event of a pursuit taking place, a lack of pursuit-rated tires may prove a liability to the Borough.

Chief Clemens states that the current Police Department lease expires at the end of February. There are 3 realistic options available once the lease expires. Chief Clemens states that if the Borough were to pay up front to cover the currently desired renovations, the landlord would discount rent over the next ten years to cover the renovation costs. The landlord also offered to

provide a generator, LED lighting, and would correct the back door security issue. The landlord would pay up front for these costs and rent would maintain its current rate @\$4,000 per month for 10 years.

Mayor Bargo states that the owner of the Crider Mitchell building contacted her and stated that as he has buyers interested in purchasing the warehouses on the property, he is considering sub-dividing the land. The office building is 4500 sq feet, sits on ½ an acre of land, and would be priced at \$299,000. Ms. Shade inquires as to what would need to be renovated in the building. Mr. Clemens states that there are only a few renovations that would likely need to be performed, such as the addition of an ADA ramp to the front entrance as well as assuring proper security. Mayor Bargo states that there are other non-profits interested in the property. Mr. Terry states that he believes small renovations may have to be made, but otherwise the building’s interior is in immaculate condition. Mr. Campbell states that for the proposed price, it may be possible to perform more major renovations that may increase options such as the previously discussed United building. Mayor Bargo states that there may be an opportunity o lease out a section of the property as well. Mr. Terry questions whether leasing part of the property will leave the Police department with adequate operating space. Chief Clemens states that utilities for 2019 totaled \$4,683; this includes gas, electric, water, sewage, and refuse. Mayor Bargo states that there may be an option to lease the C-M building as well, she does not currently have the leasing agreement information, but she can get in contact with the owner for terms. Council agrees that they would need leasing information to properly weigh these options. Mr. Campbell states that he is uncomfortable signing a lease for a ten-year span. Ms. Shade agrees. Mr. Terry states that as the budget is scrutinized as firmly as possible, it would be beneficial to continue the discussion at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with more information. Ms. Shade suggests the mayor contact the property owner and email any pertinent information to further facilitate the discussion.

**BOROUGH SOLICITER**

Mr. Remy states that he has advertised the sewer rate ordinance following the budgeted values, leaving the ordinance up for adoption if it pleases council.

***Roll call vote was taken: Sewer Rate Ordinance***

<i>Dave Campbell</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Marc Terry</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Aaron Wilson</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Venus Shade</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Larry Searer</i>	<i>Nay</i>

***By Roll call vote Council agrees to accept the sewer rate ordinance as written.***

**On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Larry Searer, Council unanimously agrees to approve the release of the 2017 CDBG funds.**

Mr. Campbell inquires if the 122 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street property was previously a topic for discussion. Ms. Miller states that the property had just come in from the repository this week.

**On a motion by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously agrees to approve the \$1,000 bid for 122 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**On a motion by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously accepts Mark Sievers' resignation from Borough Council.**

Ms. Shade states that Council has 30 days to fill the vacant seat. Ms. Shade would like the opening to be advertised on the Borough website and Facebook so that there is enough time to properly evaluate and meet candidates prior to the February 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mayor Bargo inquires if a person who works for Mifflin County could apply. Mr. Remy states that the problem would likely not arise from appointment but may arise when the time comes to run for re-election due to the Hatch Act of 1939.

**At 6:09pm Council enters executive session to discuss Water Authority Litigation.**

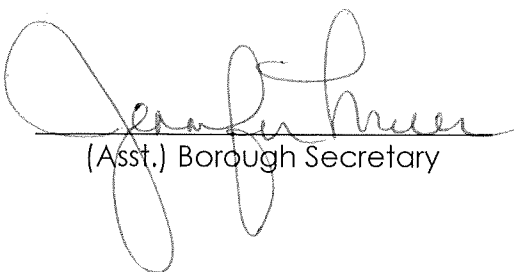
**Council exits executive session at 6:46pm.**

**On a motion by Larry Searer and seconded by Mr. Campbell, Council adjourned at 6:47pm.**

  
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(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
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(Asst.) Borough Secretary