

COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2022, 5:30PM

LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council meeting opened at 5:30 PM with Borough Council President Larry Searer presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call Larry Searer (President), James Steele (Vice-President), Nelson Rieffannacht, Venus Shade, Aaron Wilson, and William Wilson were all present. Robert Hammond phoned in.

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: Council Meetings- 30 December 2021 / January 03, 2022
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report-as of 31 December 2021
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills
- D. Facility Use Request
- E. Acknowledge receipt of Fame Meeting Minutes
- F. Acknowledge receipt of Tax Collector's Report
- G. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Report

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously moved to accept the consent agenda.

Hearing of Persons Present

Mark Colussy, Director of the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department came to speak about the Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council vacancy and the council's inability to hold a quorum due to lack of attendance amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Colussy also spoke about Mifflin County's lack of an "Active Transportation" plan. Mr. Colussy handed out a page from the state's Active Transportation plan. The plan would discuss or address items like enhancing safety, providing transportation equity, and connecting walking and bicycling networks.

Borough Manager

The first item Mr. Kim Zimmerman touched on was the December 31, 2021, Budget Report. We are still working on the report with our consultant, Peter Melan. Lewistown Borough owes \$133,000 plus to the Mifflin County Regional Police Department and we are paying about \$8,000 a year in interest. This item will be discussed with the Finance Committee to see if this item should be paid off completely from the general fund. Mr. Zimmerman then brought up the borough's cell phone plan and stated he and Scott Falkner, our IT consultant have done a lot of research to determine what provider would give the borough the best price for service and cell phone replacement due to the age of the phones currently being used. T-Mobile would cost \$789.00 a month, AT & T \$1,050 a month, and Verizon over \$2,000 a month. This item will be discussed with the Finance Committee. Mr. Zimmerman stated the ADA Lift has been repaired and inspected. It is fully operational. There was a meeting this week with EADS, Codes Department and Penelec to discuss the Bingaman Property Demolition issues so the Borough can move forward with the RFP. One of the issues we are currently navigating through is that Penelec wants the existing power lines moved and entrenched for safety at a cost of around \$50,000. We are collaborating with executives at Penelec on alternate solutions. The Police Station Committee sent an RFP. The plan is still to have the Community Center be the Police station. Colonial Life and AFLAC have had meetings to discuss GAP coverage on insurance. The coverage would help with the \$2000/\$4000 deductible for the health insurance plan. AFSCME contract has not been approved and one of the major hang ups is the cost of the healthcare plan. The Tax Claim Bureau is closed thru February. The Refuse tag 3rd Tier has been discussed and will be discussed with the Finance Committee. The Fire Department Funding will be discussed at the Finance Committee. Mr. Zimmerman recommended the borough conduct a full audit on the Fire Department. The cost would be approximately \$7,500.00. ARPA guidelines have been passed out and will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. The last item is parking meters. The borough will start working on a plan of action at the next Streets meeting in March and Mr. Zimmerman has already talked with the Parking Authority.

Fire Chief

For the month of December, the Fire Department responded to 24 alarms. They were 2 building fires, 2 cooking fires, 1 grass fire, 1 outside garbage fire, 8 medical assists, 2 motor vehicle accidents with injury, 2 gas leaks, 1 downed power line, 1 police assist with coroner, 1 smoke scare or odor of smoke and 3 automatic alarms. Chief Barlett stated most of the residents are back in their apartments at Kish Apartments. The residents that are still in a hotel should be back in their apartments in 2 or 3 weeks. Chief Barlett spoke about space heaters and kerosene heaters. Chief Barlett stated they are not meant to be the primary heating source for a home and can cause safety concerns because of carbon monoxide poisoning and electrical fires.

Mayor

Mayor Bargo stated the change of the meeting times causes a conflict with the FAME meeting but wanted to inform us.

Police Chief

Chief Clemens went over the police report for 2021. In 2021 the police responded to 5,675 calls which is an increase of 778 calls over 2020. Chief Clemens stated a little over a 1,000 of those were officer-initiated incidents that started with a traffic stop. 131 criminal arrests, 342 traffic citations, 199 non-traffic, and 4,574 parking tickets. The total revenue was \$34,415.00. Chief Clemens stated they purchased new pistols for the department, a body camera system was purchased thru a grant. He stated it was over \$20,000 worth of equipment and training supplied thru the grant. Two new vehicles were purchased (one because of an accident) in 2021. The mental health co-responder program will be up in October of 2022. It is currently being paid for with a grant. Chief Clemens stated the department had over 1,000 training hours in 2021 which averaged about 66 hours of training per officer. 12 hours of training per officer was required. The department is working towards accreditation, and they are hoping to finish that this year. The department participated in multiple community service events, encrypted their new radios, a new contract was negotiated, 320 pounds of unwanted prescription medications in the departments drug take back initiative, signed a 5-year lease for the current station.

Solicitor

Mr. Remy stated that council needs to reappoint the Civil Service Commissioners. The Civil Service Commissioners responsibility is to evaluate, hire and promote potential police officers. Mr. Remy stated there is only one alternate right now but up to three can be named.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council unanimously votes to pass the Civil Service Commission Resolution.

President Searer took a moment to express his appreciation with the employees responsible for the snow and ice removal.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zimmerman stated that Councilman Rieffannacht resigned his position on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Zimmerman stated that as of now, he has no interested parties.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that we need a member of council to join the Mifflin County Parks & Recreation Council. Aaron Wilson volunteered to join that council and was appointed to that post. No vote was required.

Mr. A Wilson and Ms. Shade represent council on the Recreation Board. Cassandra Goss is interested in staying on the board, but she would need to join as a citizen.

On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously votes to approve the 2018-19 CDBG Funds in the amount of \$14,206.94.

Council approved retaining Mr. Remy as the borough solicitor, EADS as the Borough engineer, Young Oakes, Brown & Company were retained as the borough's auditor, Gannett Fleming would work with the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the remainder of the year, but a RFQ would be done to open the position up for bid in 2023.

Council entered executive session at 6:05 PM

Council exited executive session at 6:16 PM

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously votes to set the SRO (School Resource Officer) salary at \$25.00 per hour.

On a motion by Mr. A Wilson and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council unanimously votes to approve advertising for the open positions of Workman, Street Sweeper, Deputy Director of Public Works, Treasurer, HR Coordinator, WWTP Maintenance and Operator.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Council ended at 6:20 PM

(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council _____

(Seal)

ATTEST:

(Asst.) Borough Secretary