

COUNCIL MEETING

February 9, 2022, 5:30PM

LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council meeting opened at 5:30 PM with Borough Council Vice-President James Steele presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call James Steele (Vice-President), Nelson Rieffannacht, Robert Hammond, Venus Shade, and Aaron Wilson were present. Larry Searer and William Wilson were absent. Mr. Searer called into the meeting after it had started.

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 Meeting January 12, 2022

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: December 31, 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: N/A

G. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Report

On a motion made by Mr. Robert Hammond and seconded by Ms. Venus Shade, Council unanimously moved to accept the consent agenda.

Hearing of Persons Present

Kathy Casner spoke to council about the ongoing sewage issue she has been having for most of 20 years. Ms. Casner is asking the borough to upgrade/update their sewage lines. She stated she is on a shared lateral. Mr. Kim Zimmerman stated that it is already planned to have a new individual lateral installed for Ms. Casner this spring to help alleviate her sewage issues.

Kari Coble with One Dog at a Time spoke to council regarding the rescue of abandoned and stray cats and dogs. She is concerned about cats and dogs that are left behind when tenants move out or are evicted. She asked council for stricter codes or ordinances to hold property owners, tenants, and pet owners more responsible for pet neglect and pet abandonment. Ms. Coble stated they are a nonprofit organization and asked for help with controlling the stray pet problem. Ms. Coble also asked for assistance in obtaining grant money. Council provided her with contact information for Lisa Stainaker with Mifflin County.

Borough Manager

The first item that **Mr. Kim Zimmerman** discussed was the ARPA guidelines and the expected or completed expenditures. Mr. Zimmerman stated that between 2021 and 2022 the Borough will receive approximately \$850,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Borough has given \$135,000 to the fire department out of these funds. Vacant or abandoned properties can be purchased and demolished with ARPA funds. It was discussed in the finance meeting about setting aside some of the money to help pay for these properties. ARPA is not forever. Funds need to be used by December of 2026. Mr. Zimmerman talked about inflow and infiltration data dealing with sewer lines. Mr. Zimmerman stated too much storm water is infiltrating our sewer plant which causes it to not work properly and causes costs to rise. Mr. Zimmerman stated we need to investigate updating our sewer lines. Mr. Zimmerman stated he received a quote of \$500.00 per meter to replace the current parking meters and about \$10,000 for a parking kiosk system. The Borough currently has over 800 parking meters. Mr. Zimmerman stated the next AFSCME contract negotiation session is scheduled for February 17th and 24th. Mr. Zimmerman discussed hiring summer interns, a Deputy DPW, WWTP Technician, Streetsweeper/Workman position, Workman position, and a Mason/Workman position is out to bid but also currently vacant. The pool manager resigned but we may have a current employee who is interested. We need to fill the Zone Hearing Board vacancy.

Fire Chief

Chief Barlett stated that in the month of January they had 43 alarms which consisted of 2 miscellaneous fires, 4 building fires, a chimney fire, 16 medical assists (the medical assists were high due to being on standby to assist with falls during the ice storm), 2 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 2 with entrapment, 3 gas leaks, a carbon monoxide incident, police assist, public service, 3 smoke odor investigations, and 5 automatic alarms. Chief Barlett brought in Assistant Fire Chief Markley from the United Fire Company to give an update on the progress made of the consolidation with United Fire Company. The two fire companies have been working with a consultant, Rob Brady since November of 2020. The fire companies have worked to create bylaws, SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures), a lease agreement for the Brooklyn social club, social club bylaws, social club budget. The goal is to have a clean, easy break from the social club, leaving it as its own entity. Brooklyn would then vote to separate from the social club and both fire companies would then vote to consolidate in March 2022. Once voted and approved all the paperwork would be sent to the state for final approval which could take up to 3 months. The completion of the consolidation is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Ryan Barlett spoke about City Hook & Ladder's separation from their social club. Ryan stated the process was started but was put on hold when the Covid pandemic started. Ryan stated the choices were between paying current bills or paying the attorney fees.

Mayor

Mayor Bargo stated all the residents are back in their apartments at Kish.

Police Chief

Chief Clemens stated there were 385 calls for service in January. 24 traffic citations, 18 non-traffic, and 18 written warnings. Chief Clemens stated the civil service testing was completed on the 16th of January. The written and the physical portion of the testing was completed. The oral portion of the test will be completed next week (Week of February 14th). Chief Clemens stated they are looking into a county wide RMS system. Chief stated that all the police stations in the county use the same software but are all in separate systems. Combining into one system would allow information to be shared between different departments. Chief Clemens stated the county is applying for a \$250,000 grant to cover this cost.

Recreation Board

Kim Zimmerman stated they talked about the baseball field usage, trouble with the geese, looking for pool stats from the summer, still waiting on estimates for Victory Park, CDBG-CV park on the corner of Catherine and Walnut streets was discussed, the board talked about donating some of the bicycles in the warehouse, talked about doing a breakfast with Santa in December 2022 in conjunction with the fire department, EMS, and police department. Mr. Zimmerman state the mural painting is on hold due to damage to the bridge. PennDOT will need to repair the bridge before the mural can be repaired.

Borough Solicitor

Mr. Mark Remy stated we had an ordinance to discuss regarding the Street references in the Street Sweeper ordinance. Some of the streets were misnamed and the schedule was incorrect. The ordinance was properly advertised.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously votes to approve the updated Street Sweeper Ordinance.

Mr. Remy stated they received a request to transfer a liquor license from outside the borough to inside the borough. Mr. Remy stated the borough needs to give an answer within 45 days. He proposed having a public hearing before the next council meeting.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zimmerman spoke about the MCMA board vacancy. He stated the only written request to be on that board is from Lonnie Griffith.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the finance committee recommended that council pay off the MCRPD loan of \$157,735.31. The loan also carries annual interest of approximately \$8,000 per year.

On a motion by Mr. Robert Hammond and seconded by Mr. Nelson Rieffannacht, council voted unanimously to pay off the MCRPD loan in the amount of \$157,735.31.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the finance committee recommended the borough switch to T-Mobile along with new phones. T-Mobile came in with a cost of \$800.00 per month, AT&T over a \$1,000 and Verizon was over \$2,000 a month. The overall monthly savings will be approximately \$2,000 per month.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, council unanimously votes to approve the switch in cell phone providers to T-Mobile.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the finance committee approves adding a third tier of pricing for Refuse tags. The tier would be \$60.00 per quarter and include 39 refuse tags and 3 bulk item tags.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, council unanimously votes to approve a Refuse Tag Tier at \$60.00 per quarter.

Mr. Zimmerman requested council approve a full Fire Department Audit. The audit would begin in March and be completed in April. The cost would be about \$7,500.00. The audit would help identify strengths and weaknesses in the fire department and help the borough identify areas where they can help.

On a motion by Mr. A Wilson and seconded by Mr. Steele, council unanimously votes to approve the Fire Department Audit.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the finance committee recommended \$45,000 per station to help fund the fire department.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, council unanimously votes to approve the use of 2022 ARPA Funds for the Fire Department at \$45,000 per station for a total of \$135,000.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the finance committee requested an increase in the parking fine to \$10.00. Council decided to hold off on approving this item until the new meters are installed.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the sewer calculations were done and the cost comes in at \$85.89 per quarter and \$2.17 per 1,000 gallons of water. Mr. Remy stated we would need to advertise the ordinance for 30 days before council can vote on the increase.

Mr. Zimmerman stated personnel issues will be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Zimmerman brought up the suspension of the street sweeper ordinance (November 20, 2021 – April 17, 2022) with the following exceptions:

Chestnut Street – Five Points to Logan Street

Market Street – Grand Street to Five Points

Valley Street – Five Points to 3rd Street

Academy Hill - Entire length

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, council unanimously votes to approve the Suspension of the Street Sweeper Ordinance with the above-mentioned exceptions.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, council unanimously votes to approve the addition of the 2020 CDBG-CV Fund modifications to the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Zimmerman stated there is a resolution for the 2020 CDBG-CV Funding modification.

On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Mr. Hammond, council unanimously votes to approve the 2020 CDBG-CV Funding Modification.

Mr. Jim Zubler is concerned about the demolition of blighted properties and what the vision of the Borough is after those properties are demolished and the site cleaned of debris. Mr. Zubler asked what the vision for the Point once the demolition is completed. Mr. Zimmerman stated it will be a cleaned-up site without construction for now until Council decides what they would like to do with the property. Mr. Zubler is asking for council to look at incentives for developers, both commercial and residential, for the future.

Council entered executive session at 6:59 PM

Council exited executive session at 7:56 PM

On a motion by Mr. A Wilson and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council unanimously votes to approve the hiring of a Deputy Director of Public Works.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously votes to approve the hiring of WWTP Technician.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council unanimously votes to approve the hiring of a Mason/Workman.

On a motion by Mr. A Wilson and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 4-2 to approve the hiring of an HR position.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 4-2 to approve the hiring of the Treasurer with the contract that was presented.

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

Council ended at 7:59 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary