

# COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 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, Robert Hammond, Venus Shade, were present. Aaron Wilson and Bill Wilson were absent.

### Hearing of Persons Present

Jim Zubler for Buchanan School project with Alliance Housing Development (Rick Slagle, Bill Brown) spoke about the proposed Buchanan School Senior Apartments complex would utilize the vacant Buchanan School and their 16.75 acres. The school would undergo extensive remodeling. It would have 43 units of Senior Housing. The apartments would be approximately 650 sq ft and 1 bedroom. It would be affordable to seniors at 20%, 50% and 60% of the area medium income. Rent would range from \$173.00 to \$661.00 a month. The project would cost approximately \$14.5 million. The primary funding would come from LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) equity worth \$11.8 million. Alliance Housing stated that what they needed from the borough immediately was letters of support. The letters are necessary for the funding applications, but they also want to make sure the community supports the project as well.

Mark Colussy, County Planning Director spoke about Mifflin County's Streetscape Plan. Mr. Colussy was asking for some changes with parking spots on Wayne St, adding a crosswalk, adding 30-minute parking meters on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and some additional handicap spots on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The county would like to paint one spot in front of the jail as no parking to utilize it as a loading zone.

Roll Call vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Ms. Shade to approve a portion of the Mifflin County Streetscape plan. Council voted on adding a "no parking" space on Market Street in front of the jail for the loading dock and moving the parking spaces approximately 10ft away from the alley on Wayne Street. The request to add a crosswalk and move handicap parking on 3<sup>rd</sup> street was denied.

Bobby Hammond Yes

Nelson Rieffannacht Yes

Larry Searer Yes

Venus Shade Yes

Jim Steele Yes

Aaron Wilson Absent

Bill Wilson Absent

On a vote of 5-0 in favor with two absent, the motion passes.

## **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 March 9th, 2022
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: 01 April 2022
- 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 made by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council unanimously votes to approve the consent agenda.**

### **Borough Manager**

Mr. Kim Zimmerman, Borough Manager, wished a happy birthday to Ms. Shade. Mr. Zimmerman then updated council to let them know the audit on the fire department was completed and the hope is that the full report will be available for the next council meeting. Then Mr. Zimmerman discussed the numerous open employment positions within the borough. Mr. Zimmerman stated interviews for the Deputy DPW position was completed and a candidate selected. That person has accepted the position and it will be discussed further in executive session. Mr. Zimmerman stated the borough received about 15 resumes for the Mason/Workman position and interviews will be scheduled. The candidate for the Refuse Collector position has accepted the position and it will be discussed further in executive session. We have received about 15 resumes for the Part-time HR Coordinator. Mr. Zimmerman stated our WWTP Maintenance Technician resigned from his position and would like to be moved back to his original position of Mechanic/Workman.

**On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council unanimously votes to accept the resignation of the WWTP Maintenance Technician and rehire him as the Mechanic/Workman effective April 16, 2022**

The WWTP Maintenance Technician position will be filled through the existing resumes we received from the last job posting. Mr. Zimmerman then discussed parking meters and cutting down the number of meters to approximately 300 parking meters. The meters would be focused on Main Street, Brown Street, Market Street, and Wayne Street and replacing them with 2-hour limits. This would be in conjunction with the Parking Authority. The PSAB 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is May 22<sup>nd</sup> thru May 25<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Bargo will be there, and Mr. Steele stated he may attend. The AFSCME CBA contract is out for final review by the Union and for Council. The union will be voting on it sometime in April and then Council would be voting on it in May. Mr. Zimmerman provided council with a Valley Street project update and proposed detours for the Valley Street Paving Project by PENNDOT.

**On a motion made by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council unanimously votes to approve the Valley Street Detours.**



## Fire Chief

Chief Barlett stated the fire department had 27 incidents, 6 building fires, a boiler malfunction that was contained to the basement, EMS medical assist, 5 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, flammable liquid spill, 2 natural gas leaks, 2 carbon monoxide incidents, downed power line, a public service, and 4 automatic alarms in March. No incidents with major fire damage occurred during the month.

## Mayor

Mayor Bargo stated that the County's Borough Association meets yearly. She stated the meeting is for Mifflin and Juniata Counties. The meeting will be held at the Clubhouse Restaurant on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Every Borough needs to be represented for the meeting to be official. Mayor Bargo stated that she has filled her ad hoc committee to address the blight issues in town. Venus Shade and Aaron Wilson from council has agreed to join the committee along with Jim Zubler, Marc Colussy, Jenny Landis, Rhonda Kelley, Lattimore Griffith, Katelyn Rauch, and Dave Clemens. Mayor Bargo stated the Policy and Resolution Committee with PSAB met and the first resolution discussed was the possibility of eliminating the Civil Service Test as a part of the local police hiring practice. The second resolution was to impose a liquor tax and a storm water fee to help recover lost taxes to tax exempt properties. These resolutions would be sent to a larger steering committee for final approval before potentially being passed along to lobbyists.

## Police Chief

Chief Clemens stated there were 526 calls for services, 25 traffic citations, 10 non traffic citations, and 4 written warnings.

## Recreation Board

Kim Zimmerman stated the Recreation Board meeting talked about the pool upgrades from EADS. Mr. Zimmerman stated they received their second estimate for the removal and construction of wooden steps for \$10,000. The mural painting is on hold until 2023 so that PENNDOT can repair the bridge. The playground on Catherine and Walnut is still in the survey stage. The bikes for donation are at the bike shop. A meeting with the police, fire department and EMS needs to be set up to discuss a Breakfast with Santa event on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Ads are published for the summer positions. Only 2 lifeguards have stated they are returning. Repairing the Victory Park bases will take place once the Mason/Workman position is filled. Fire Convention for 2023 needs to be discussed and is on the agenda. There was discussion to purchase umbrellas for the pool. That is tabled until lifeguards are hired, and the pool opened.

## Borough Solicitor

Mr. Mark Remy advertised for adoption the Street Sweeper Suspension Ordinance to be from the Sunday before Thanksgiving thru the Sunday in April. Mr. Remy stated the Civil Service vacancy needs to be filled to avoid the possible inability to hire new police officers. Mr. Jim Steele volunteered to be on the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Remy stated that Mayor Bargo has found someone to join the Police Advisory Board, Bryan Haines.

**Roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Steele, Council Voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the Street Sweeper Suspension Ordinance as advertised.**

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	Yes
Larry Searer	Yes
Venus Shade	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes

**Aaron Wilson                      Absent**

**Bill Wilson                        Absent**

**On a vote of 5-0 in favor with two absent, the ordinance passes.**

**Roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council Voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Steele to the Civil Service Commission**

**Bobby Hammond                Yes**

**Nelson Rieffannacht        Yes**

**Larry Searer                    Yes**

**Venus Shade                    Yes**

**Jim Steele                        Abstain**

**Aaron Wilson                   Absent**

**Bill Wilson                       Absent**

**On a vote of 4-0 in favor with one member abstaining and two absent, the appointment passes.**

**On a motion made by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council unanimously votes to approve Bryan Haines to the Police Advisory Board.**

**UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

The 2023 Fire Convention is raising some concerns within the borough. The discussion was tabled so that it could be discussed at the ad hoc Fire meeting.

**On a motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. B Wilson, Council voted unanimously to appoint Lonnie Griffin to the vacant MCMA position.**

**On a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council voted unanimously to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter CDBG Funds for \$2,504.85**

**On a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council voted unanimously to approve placing green ribbons on the parking meters for the month of May for Mental Health Awareness.**

**On a motion by Mr. Steele and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council voted unanimously to approve the National Moment of Remembrance “3 Minute Event” on Memorial Day.**

**On a motion by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a WWTP Motor Pump for \$13,299.00**

**On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council voted unanimously to approve Teal ribbons being placed on parking meters by the Abuse Network for April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness month.**

**Public Comments**

None

Council entered executive session at 6:48 PM

Council exited executive session at 7:22 PM

On a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council voted unanimously to hire the approved candidate for the Deputy Department of Public Works position and the selected candidate for the Refuse Collector.

On a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Steele, Council voted unanimously to hire the Street Sweeper/Workman candidate.

On a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the WWTP Maintenance Technician candidate.

Council Ended at 7:23 PM

  
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(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
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(Asst.) Borough Secretary