

January 11, 2023

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), Nelson Rieffannacht, Robert Hammond, William Wilson, James Steele, Venus Shade, and Aaron Wilson were all present

Hearing of Persons Present:

Mark Colussy, the county Planning and Development Director, spoke about the easements needed for the planned River Walk Trail. Mr. Colussy also showed council the plan to connect Victory Park to the Stone Arch Bridge and Rec Park to Kish Park in Derry Twp. The county is looking at the feasibility of making those things happen. The county is developing a county wide action plan. Mr. Colussy asked if council would like to speak with HRG Engineering about the watershed plans and possible storm water solutions and the possibility of grants to help pay for those projects.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following are routine, procedural, and informational non-controversial items and do not appear to require discussion or explanation prior to the 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 of December 27th, 2022**
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: End of year account balance, 2022**
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills**
- D. Facility Use Request: None**
- 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 Mr. Steele and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Borough Manager

1. 22 Ridge Street Demolition Update

G & R has received the notice to proceed. They plan on starting, weather permitting, the week of January 16th.

2. Catherine-Walnut Park Update

The vendor for the playground equipment will be meeting with our employees the week of January 16th to start installing the playground equipment.

3. Delinquent Taxes

Nothing new. Waiting for Erin Anewalt, tax collector, to be in her office.

4. Community Pool Study

Still doing a study with DCNR. The RFP should be out in the next 30 days.

5. Southside Paving Project

Engineers are working on the RFP right now. This would complete all the ADA ramps and paving on the south side of town.

6. Town Hall 2023

Council agreed with Mr. Zimmerman to move the meeting to February 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Community Center.

Fire Chief

Chief Barlett stated the fire department responded to 27 alarms consisting of 1 building fire, 2 cooking fires, furnace malfunction, medical assist with EMS, 4 motor vehicle accidents with injury, 1 pedestrian hit by a vehicle, 2 gas leaks, 1 oil spill in a residential basement that they helped clean up, 1 lock out (incident where a person locks themselves out of their car), 3 public service, 1 odor of smoke in the area, 1 sprinkler activation due to malfunction at the Mifflin County High School when they had a pipe burst. The fire department helped them clean up. They also responded to 8 automatic alarms. Chief Barlett briefed council on the fire that occurred on Charles Street, Tuesday the 10th of January. Everyone was able to escape the fire except for 2 dogs. 11 adults and 3 children were displaced by the fire. The Red Cross met with them and helped them to make housing arrangements.

Mayor-No Report

Police Chief

Chief Clemens went over the LPD yearly report for 2022 breaking down all the individual statistics and comparing them with 2021 stats. Chief Clemens stated the police applied and were awarded two grants. The first grant is for \$306,882 and will help supply the department with a new record management system, new laptops and other related in-car equipment, license plate readers, funding for the Mental Health Co-Responder program, and assist with the new Therapy Dog program. The second grant that was received was for \$46,221 to help with funding for DUI Enforcement Training.

Recreation Board- meeting cancelled, next meeting February 7th.

Borough Solicitor

Borough Solicitor Mark Remy recommended Borough Council approve the proposed easements for the Walking Trail Easements that Mr. Colussy requested at a previous meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the Joinder Consent with Mifflin County on the Concrete Plant and Fire Academy Walking Trail Easements.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

1. Handicapped Parking Space Request

We received a request for a handicapped parking space on Montgomery Avenue

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve the installation of a handicap parking space on Montgomery Avenue.

2. Workman Position

Discussion was held for the executive session.

3. Parking Enforcement 2023

Chief Clemens stated one of our summer interns is willing to continue working as the parking enforcement officer. She would work approximately 20 hours a week over the winter at her previous wage. Ms. Shade asked how long she was willing to work in this position. Chief Clemens stated she is applying for the police academy so at least until July of 2023.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the rehiring of one of our summer interns as a part time Parking Enforcement Officer at their previous wage for approximately 20 hours a week.

4. Mifflin County Tax Collection Committee Vacancy (MCTCC)

Mr. Zimmerman stated the borough is required to fill a vacancy on that committee. The secondary member is Mr. Frank Berrier. Kim stated he was willing to volunteer to be appointed to this committee. Council unanimously approved the appointment.

5. Brooklyn Fire Company boiler repairs

Mr. Zimmerman stated the boiler needs \$7,556.00 in repairs. The boiler will need to be replaced eventually but it can take up to 2 years for the boiler to be available for service. These repairs are hopefully going to get us to that point, but a long-term decision is still needed. The repairs would be paid for out of the Borough's available ARPA funds.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve adding the Brooklyn Fire Company boiler repairs to the agenda so that it can be discussed.

On a motion by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the repairs of the boiler at Brooklyn Fire Company for \$7,556.00 with the money coming out of the available ARPA funds.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to add discussing the restructuring of Borough Council to the agenda.

6. Restructuring of Borough Council's executive positions.

Mr. Hammond nominated Jim Steele for Borough Council President. Mr. Rieffannacht nominated Larry Searer for Borough Council President. Mr. Steele nominated Robert Hammond for Borough Council Vice President. Ms. Shade nominated Aaron Wilson for Borough Council Vice President. Mr. Rieffannacht nominated Larry Searer for Borough Council Vice President. Mr. Hammond declined the nomination.

A roll call vote was taken to appoint Mr. Steele as Council President. Council voted 4-3 to approve Mr. Steele as Borough Council President with Mayor Bargo casting the deciding vote. Mr. Rieffannacht, Mr. Searer, and Mr. B. Wilson voted against the appointment.

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	No
Larry Searer	No
Venus Shade	Yes
Jim Steele	Abstain
Aaron Wilson	Yes
Bill Wilson	No
Mayor Deb Bargo	Yes

A roll call vote was taken to appoint Mr. A. Wilson as Council Vice President. Council voted 4-3 to approve Mr. A. Wilson as Borough Council Vice President with Mayor Bargo casting the deciding vote. Mr. Rieffannacht, Mr. Searer, and Mr. B. Wilson voted against the appointment.

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	No
Larry Searer	No
Venus Shade	Yes

Jim Steele	Yes
Aaron Wilson	Abstain
Bill Wilson	No
Mayor Deb Bargo	Yes

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve going into executive session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Council entered executive session at 6:07 PM

Council exited executive session at 6:19 PM

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the hiring of the candidate for the workman position.

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	Yes
Larry Searer	Yes
Venus Shade	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Aaron Wilson	Yes
Bill Wilson	Yes

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Searer, Council votes unanimously to approve the hiring of the candidate for the mason/workman position.

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

Jim Steele Yes

Aaron Wilson Yes

Bill Wilson Yes

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve adding Police officer hiring incentives to the agenda.

Chief Clemens stated that there is a civil service test coming up this year but departments across the state are having issues with filling open positions. Chief Clemens proposed an idea that is common in other municipalities which was to offer a tuition reimbursement program to potential new hires. Chief Clemens understood that the discussion on this subject would be ongoing, and nothing is final at this point, but Council gave him the ok to approve advertising the possibility of a tuition reimbursement program for future full-time police officers.

Council ended at 6:30 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary