

March 8, 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 Jim Steele (President), Nelson Rieffannacht, Robert Hammond, William Wilson, Larry Searer, and Aaron Wilson were all present. Venus Shade arrived at 5:45 PM.

Hearing of Persons Present:

Charlotte Lepley stated that dog owners are not cleaning up after their pets at the fountain at 5 Points. This has infected both her and her nieces' dogs. The woman's niece lost her dog the week before she lost hers because of their dogs becoming infected with Canine Parvovirus (parvo). Parvo is most commonly contracted via contaminated feces. She is asking for help to force dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Josh Yetter Clark, with HRG, gave a brief presentation on the planning, funding, and benefits of the proposed multiuse trail from Victory Park to the Stone Arch Bridge. The trail would be 1.5 miles long and 10 feet wide. He outlined solutions to economic, logistical, and ownership issues. Most of the funds needed for this project would be obtained through grants that act as stand-alone funds and count towards matching funds required on other grants. He outlined a plan to Council to have his company be the grant writers to help obtain the available grant money that would be needed to cover construction costs and future maintenance costs and how they are actively involved in outreach with landowners to obtain easements for land ownership. He also mentioned that the materials and plants can be selected to help reduce future trail maintenance costs.

Councilman Aaron Wilson read a prepared statement thanking Sergeant Roberts and Sergeant Poff for their service with the Lewistown Police Department. Both officers are retiring at the end of March. Mr. A. Wilson thanked them both for their dedication to protecting and serving the good citizens of Lewistown.

Happy Retirement Sergeants Poff and Roberts! Thank you for your service to the community.

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 February 8th, 2023

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: End of February 2023

C. Approval of Schedule of Bills

D. Facility Use Requests: Calvary Church, Babe Ruth Baseball, Sip & Shop,

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 voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Borough Manager

1. 22 Ridge Road Demolition (in progress)

They are waiting for ordered materials to fix the side wall at the adjacent house. The basement has been sealed and the basement cleaned out.

2. Catherine-Walnut Park (in progress)

The sidewalks have been poured and the next step is fencing. We are working thru those quotes now.

3. Mechanic Position

We are still looking for a mechanic.

4. Rec Park Pool Grant, RFP

We are still waiting to hear back from the aquatic design firms.

5. Rec Park Community Pool

We are still moving forward with plans to open the pool this summer. We are in the process of working through issues involving possible sponsorships and fund raising ideas to help cover the costs opening and maintaining a pool. We are also working on repairing the cracks in the shallow end of the pool.

6. LFD Ladder Truck ISO Requirements

The Borough of Lewistown is required to have a ladder truck because of the size of the buildings and the population. Tax payer fire insurance rates are affected by this availability and if the fire department did not have a ladder truck rates would go up. The insurance company has released the first payment for the repairs of the damage, \$147,410.28. The insurance company will help us coordinate the repairs. If more damage is found, those repairs will be paid for as well. Also, before the truck can be returned to us it needs to be NFPA compliant so any of those items would be repaired and paid for by the insurance company as well. Insurance has a 40-day rental reimbursement program. We will have to work with the insurance company to see if they can extend that further than 40 days or not.

7. Fire Department Refuse/Water/Internet/Sewer bills to be paid by Borough (Specialty Tax Fund)

No decisions to be made yet. We have switched comcast to a better package with a cheaper rate.

8. Office Changes

The Sewer/Refuse/Parking Ticket Office and Codes Department Office have switched locations. There is a sign in the lobby to help direct people to the proper office.

9. Parking Meters

We are working with Dan Mort, our webpage director, to put together a parking meter survey on the Lewistown Borough Website. We hope to also add a survey for residents to let us know what additional activities or services they wish Lewistown had access to.

10. Lewistown Fire Department Chief Position

Borough Council will start accepting Fire Chief applications on April 1, 2023, to find the correct candidate to replace the current Fire Chief who is retiring by the end of the year.

11. Southside Paving/ADA Ramp Sealed Bids

March 30th is the pre-bid meeting; April 10th is the bid opening and April 12th is when Council will approve the bid to do the work.

12. Streetsweeper

The streetsweeper schedule picks back up on the first Sunday in April which is April 2nd in 2023. It will end on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year street sweeping will stop on November 26th.

Fire Chief

Chief Barlett stated the fire department responded to 21 alarms in February. They had 3 cooking fires, a chimney fire, 1 brush fire, 1 medical assist, 2 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 1 Natural Gas leak, 1 carbon monoxide incident, 1 animal rescue, 1 police assist, 1 public service, 3 standby assignments for neighboring departments, 3 different events where they were cancelled enroute, and 2 automatic alarms.

Friday, March 3rd there was a fire on East Charles Street; it was an electrical fire that started in the basement. The house is destroyed. The owner lives in Washington D.C and is in the process of removing items from the house before it is torn down; the owner will be taking care of that expense.

Mayor-No report

Police Chief Clemens stated the police had 419 calls for service in the month of February. 2 traffic citations, 16 non-traffic citations, 37 written warnings, and 366 parking tickets. The Narcotics investigators report had 6 active investigations, 4 new investigations, 1 felony arrest, 2 misdemeanor arrests, 3 search warrants were conducted, and various amounts of drugs were confiscated, 2 guns were seized. Chief Clemens thanked Sergeant's Poff and Roberts for their service to the community and the police department and wished them well as they pursue future endeavors.

Recreation Board

Mr. Zimmerman stated they had their meeting on Tuesday and did have enough for a quorum. Nothing was brought forth for council to discuss.

Borough Solicitor was not in attendance.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that although Mr. Remy was not able to attend the meeting Ordinance 2023-1 is ready for Council approval. Ryan Barlett was appointed to the Police Advisory Board for a 4-year term.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve the changes to the Open Burning Ordinance that have been properly advertised.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

1. CDBG-CV Catherine-Walnut Park Invoice \$7,550.00 and CDBG-CV Senior Center HVAC invoice \$6,600.00

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve paying the CDBG-CV Catherine-Walnut Park invoice for \$7,550.00 and CDBG-CV Senior Center HVAC invoice for \$6,600.00.

2. Abuse Network

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to allow The Abuse Network to place teal ribbons on the parking meters in the downtown area of Lewistown for the month of April to help raise awareness for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Council entered executive session at 6:04 PM

Council exited executive session at 6:18 PM

Council ended at 6:20 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary