

April 12, 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, Larry Searer, Venus Shade, and Aaron Wilson were all present. William Wilson was absent.

Hearing of Persons Present:

Lonnie Griffith and Bill Wright spoke to Council regarding a subdivision for Mr. Griffith's family. All concerns that the Planning Commission conveyed have been addressed. Mr. Remy confirmed that all issues were taken care of, and that the decision is ready for council to approve.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council voted unanimously to approve the Griffith Subdivision.

Lucas Parkes then addressed council regarding the County's Black's Hospital Property. The County would like to split the property into 3 different properties. The County has addressed all Planning Commission recommendations. Mr. Remy confirmed that all issues were addressed, and the decision is ready for Borough Council to vote on. Mr. Zimmerman asked if this would be an auction and Mr. Griffith, representing Mifflin County, stated the auction would take place on April 27th, 2023, at 5:00 PM. All three will be sold individually.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade , Council voted unanimously to approve the Black's Hospital Property Subdivision.

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 March 8th, 2023
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: End of March 2023
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills
- D. Facility Use Requests: Community Center (alcohol), Parking Lot, Pavilion, Streets
- 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. A. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Shade , Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Borough Manager

1. 22 Ridge Road Demolition (in progress)

This is still in process. They are in the process of refacing the adjoining wall of the attached residence.

2. Catherine-Walnut Park (in progress)

We are waiting on the fence to finish the project and that is expected to take place in May of 2023.

3. Mechanic Position

This will be addressed in executive session.

4. Rec Park Pool Grant, RFP

We have received RFP (Request for Proposal) from a company. The bid was for \$31,000.00 of which the Borough of Lewistown would be responsible for half and DCNR would be responsible for the other half. **Mr. Hammond** asked what the Borough is hoping to receive from this pool study. **Mr. Zimmerman** stated the study will determine whether there is support for the pool, what might be needed to make it a viable park. **Mr. Parkes**, from EADS, stated the study is needed to receive any DCNR funds. The Borough submitted a request to receive money to cover construction costs at the pool. The grant could be used for a new pool, new pool equipment, new locker rooms, anything that study deems is needed at the pool.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council voted 5-1 to approve the Pool Grant RFP for \$31,000. Mr. Searer voted against the Pool Grant RFP.

5. Rec Park Community Pool

We are still moving forward with plans to open the pool this summer. We have moved forward with repairs to the pool. We are accepting applications for lifeguards and the concession stand. We are also working on a sponsorship program to hang banners at the pool.

6. LFD Chief Position

We have received 3 applications and are expecting more to be turned in.

7. Victory Park Debris Removal Grant

This would be a grant to remove all the debris in the river. It would cost the borough about \$100,000 to do this grant. No one has offered to help the Borough with this issue. **Mayor Bargo** asked why Granville Twp. isn't helping with this work since it is in their Borough. **Mr. Zimmerman** recommended that the Borough do nothing further with this issue.

8. Chicken Ordinance

Mr. Zimmerman stated this needed to be sent to the Law & Ordinance meeting scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:00 PM. The next meeting will be April 20th, at 5:00 PM.

9. Fire Department Accident

One of our trucks was damaged responding to a fire call. The damage was to the rental truck and is being handled through our insurance and the rental insurance company.

10. Street Sweeper

Street sweeper is currently down, and we are waiting for the insurance company to let us know where we can take it to be repaired. There is no street sweeping until it is repaired. Council stated that all parking restrictions will need to be enforced.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht , Council voted 4-2 to approve enforcing all parking restrictions, including moving vehicles for street maintenance nights. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Steele voted against.

11. Parking Authority

The Parking Authority was originally created so that the Borough had an additional avenue to borrow money, but rules have changed regarding that practice and the Borough doesn't have the same borrowing limitations today that it had then. **Mr. Zimmerman** asked if Council would like to dissolve the Parking Authority. He stated the money would be sent back to the general fund and decision making would be streamlined and limited to Borough Council. After some back and forth conversation it was decided to send this to the Law and Ordinance Committee so that the Parking Authority can be made aware of the plan. A motion was made by **Mr. Hammond** to dissolve the Parking Authority but was not seconded.

12. Valley Street Demolition

Valley Street Demolition has been completed and we received a check from DCED for \$202,000. **Mr. Rieffannacht** asked how much it cost the borough to complete that demolition and **Mr. Zimmerman** and **Mr. Parkes** stated it cost the Borough less than \$10,000.

13. April 22, 2023, Heritage Fire and Rescue Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Heritage ribbon cutting ceremony is April 22nd.

Fire Chief

Chief Barlett stated the fire department responded to 25 alarms in March. They had 4 building fires, 2 brush and grass fires, 3 medical assists, 1 water search (no one was found), 3 gas leaks, 1 oil spill, 3 carbon monoxide incidents, 1 power line down, 1 public service, 2 standby assignments, 1 odor of smoke, 1 incident of being cancelled while enroute, 2 automatic alarms. Demolition from the W. Charles St. fire back in January has been completed.

Mayor

Mayor Bargo stated the County Association of Boroughs meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will also include a meal. The meeting will be held at the Lewistown Community Center.

Police Chief Clemens stated the police had 442 calls for service in the month of March. 46 traffic citations, 16 non-traffic citations, 79 written warnings, and 251 parking tickets. The Narcotics investigator report had 5 active investigations, 5 new investigations, 2 felony arrests, 4 misdemeanor arrests, 3 search warrants were conducted, 2 guns were seized, and various amounts of drugs were confiscated. Civil service testing is April 30th at the Community Center.

Recreation Board

Mr. Zimmerman stated they didn't have enough people to attend for a quorum.

Borough Solicitor

Mr. Remy stated he didn't have anything to discuss.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

1. JVB & DS Greenlight Campaign for May

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services would like to place green ribbons on the parking meters downtown and change the light bulbs at the fountain to green.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to allow JVB & DS to put green ribbons on parking meters downtown and to put green lights at the fountain for Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

2. PennDOT TSMA Agreement/Resolution

This is a resolution for the traffic signal maintenance with PennDOT.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve the PennDOT TSMA Agreement and Resolution for traffic signal maintenance.

3. Griffith/ Planning Commission

Already discussed and approved.

4. County/ Planning Commission

Already discussed and approved.

5. Fire Department Ladder Truck Quote (\$1,623,189.00)

A quote was obtained for a new ladder truck for \$1, 623, 189.00. The quote is good for 30 days and it may take up to two and a half years for the fire truck to be delivered. A local fire department placed an order for a similar truck in December of 2020 for \$1, 200,000.00 and just recently had the truck delivered to them. Every month that we don't place an order, we risk having the price go up. No payments are made until the fire truck is delivered. After much debate about the need for bids vs. Costars quotes, it was determined the vendor that was utilized for our bid is a member of Costars and will be submitting a new quote with their Costars information included in the quote. There was a healthy debate about who is purchasing the vehicle and how it would be paid. It was determined that the Borough of Lewistown would be a cosigner on the fire truck, but Heritage would own it. The fire department discussed the increase of the fire tax by 1.5 mills to a total of 2.617 mills. The fire tax would then be used to pay for the ladder truck. **Brandon Basom** stated that failure to secure a fire truck could result in an increase in the cost of fire insurance for businesses and homeowners. The fire insurance could go up \$10.00 per month, while the increase in the fire tax would be an increase of \$5.00 per month.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Wilson, Council voted 5-1 to approve adding the Fire Tax to the agenda. Mr. Searer voted against.

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Mr. A. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hammond to approve ordering the Fire Department Ladder Truck for \$1,623,189.00. Council voted 5-1 to approve ordering the fire truck. Mr. Searer voted against the purchase order.

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	Yes
Larry Searer	No
Venus Shade	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Aaron Wilson	Yes
Bill Wilson	Absent

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson to approve increasing the Fire Specialty Tax from 1.117 mills to 2.617 mills with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Council voted 4-2 to approve the increase to the Fire Specialty Tax to 2.617 mills effective January 1, 2024. Mr. Searer and Mr. Rieffannacht voted against the tax increase.

Bobby Hammond	Yes
Nelson Rieffannacht	No
Larry Searer	No
Venus Shade	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Aaron Wilson	Yes
Bill Wilson	Absent

6. Handicap Sign Requests at 238 E. 4th Street, 227 Logan Street, 21 W. Charles Street

On a motion by Mr. A. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council votes unanimously to approve the handicap parking space at 238 E. 4th Street.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A, Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the handicap parking space at 227 Logan Street.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council votes unanimously to approve the moving the handicap parking space from across the street to 21 W. Charles Street

7. Valley Street Demolition DCED Extension Request

The Valley Street demolition grant was originally for \$300,000 and there is roughly \$100,000 left on the grant. We can file for an extension on the grant to potentially use the funds to demo another house in the Valley Street area.

On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve filing the extension on the Valley Street demolition grant.

8. Cost and Fee Schedule 2023

Ms. Shade wanted to discuss Refuse rates and pool rates. The 3rd Tier was missing from the Cost and Fees schedule. Also, fines for setting your garbage or recycling out early is \$25.00 but the time is before 1:00 PM not 5:00 PM. Ms. Shade did not want a price increase for the pool rates. She would like to keep them at \$6.00. Ms. Shade would like the recycling center to open on a Saturday at least once a quarter. Mr. Zimmerman stated he would work with the Director of Public Works, Ben Rager, to get this done.

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-1 to approve keeping the daily pool rates at \$6.00. Mr. Searer voted against the motion.

On a motion by Mr. Searer and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes unanimously to approve increasing the handicap parking price to \$50.00.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council votes 5-1 to approve increasing each tier of refuse billing by \$5.00 per quarter. Mr. Searer voted against the motion.

9. Sewer Rates

DCED stated the Digester Grant request was approved for review and approval by DCED in July. Sewage rate increases which included capital reserve funding were proposed with rates calculated as a flat rate of \$97.35 plus \$4.39 for each 1,000 gallons of water used, or part thereof. The Capital Reserve accounts would be \$50,000 a year for WWC (collections) and \$250,000 a year for WWT (Treatment). These accounts are required to be funded based on the 1982 agreement with Derry Twp and Granville Twp to accept and treat all or some of their wastewater.

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson to approve advertising the Sewer Rate Ordinance with the proposed rate changes. Council voted 4-3 to approve advertising the Sewer Rate Ordinance with the proposed rate changes. Mayor Bargo cast the deciding vote. Mr. Rieffannacht, Mr. Searer, and Ms. Shade voted against the Ordinance.

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

10. Employee Appreciation Day

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council votes unanimously to approve August 25th for Employee Appreciation Day.

11. Southside Paving/ADA Ramp Sealed Bids

The bids came out higher than expected. If lowest bids are approved, we will have enough funds from CDBG and State Liquid Funds to pay for the project.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council votes unanimously to approve the lowest bids for the Southside Paving and ADA Ramp project.

12. Community Center Coordinator Position

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council votes unanimously to add the Community Center Coordinator position to the agenda.

13. Fire Tax Discussion

Approved and discussed previously in the meeting.


Council entered executive session at 7:30 PM

Council exited executive session at 7:50 PM

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council votes unanimously to approve the part-time hiring of the proposed candidate for the Community Center Coordinator position.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson , Council votes unanimously to approve the hiring of the mechanic candidate at the union rate.

Council ended at 7:52 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary