

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council meeting opened at 5:30 PM with Borough Council Vice President, Aaron Wilson presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call Robert Hammond, Venus Shade, Larry Searer, Nelson Rieffannacht, Aaron Wilson (Vice President), were all present. Jim Steele (President), and William Wilson were not present.

### Hearing of Person's Present:

Mr. Steve Ward spoke to his employment termination from the Borough of Lewistown, Streets Department. Mr. Ward summarized the situation that led to his termination and asked the council to reinstate his position with the Borough of Lewistown Streets Department.

Mr. Jim Zubler, with Downtown Lewistown Inc., shared information regarding an upcoming event. There will be a workshop with the Community of Economic Development where Various funding will be presented on Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the ANNEX.

### 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: N/A
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: End of July 2023
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills
- D. Facility Use Requests: Annual Good Day 5k Race
- E. Acknowledge receipt of Frame Meeting Minutes
- F. Acknowledge receipt of Tax Collectors Report
- G. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Report

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Hammond, Council voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.

Borough Manager:

#### 1. Parking Authority

Members were invited and did not attend tonight's council meeting to discuss deeded lots; if the parking authority dissolves those parking authority lots will be released to the borough's ownership.

## 2. Street Sweeper

Street Sweeper will be returned to borough on/around August 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Remy is handling issues regarding how the claim was managed.

Street Sweeper Bid: Borough Manager declares emergency position that needs filled. Street Sweeper bid will open to external candidates on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 3. Fire Convention

Fire Convention is on schedule. All permits and insurance items have been completed to ensure the borough is compliant with laws and regulations to hold an event to this extent.

## 4. United Way

United Way, Day of Caring is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 5. Digester DCED ARPA Grant

The state budget is passed; however, it could be as late as November until grants are voted upon.

## 6. Rec Park Community Pool; Pool Study

Pool study has commenced; all aspects of the pool's facilities are being studied.

## 7. Cemetery Research

A letter was received from Pete Searer providing confirmation that research is being conducted.

## 8. Code Enforcement Vehicle (\$40,000)

Looking to replace the vehicle soon. Currently waiting for 2024 quotes.

## 9. Heritage Fire Station HVAC (approximately \$250,000)

A physical quote has not been received.

## 10. 22 Ridge Road Lot

Seeking permission from the council to sell the lot.

**On a motion by Mr. Searer and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve selling the 22 Ridge Road Lot. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

## 11. Tire Day

Tire Day is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 08:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Lewistown Borough Warehouse.

## 12. Future Town Project

Looking to incorporate military veteran memorial banners to display in Lewistown. Designs are in the process and will be decided upon later.

### 13. Juniata Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau

Jenny Landis wants to reserve Rec Park on Goose Day to display a 30-minute synchronized drone-light show. Contracts will be provided at the beginning of September for the council to review. The borough will have zero expense relationship with this event, the Visitors Bureau will own the expenses.

#### Fire Chief

**Chief Barlett** stated that during the month of July 2023, the Fire Department had reported to 24 incidents; 1 rubbish fire, 4 building fires, 4 medical assists with an ambulance, a motor vehicle accident with injuries, and rescued 2 victims from apartment elevators, both individuals were unharmed. Elevator inspectors were contacted to inspect the elevators at the Kish Apartment and the Mann Edge Apartment complex. There were also 4 water related incidents, 3 in Juniata County because of flooding conditions where people were trapped in vehicles because of the amount of rainfall that was received, a water leak at the Coleman house, 1 public service, 1 odor of smoke in a resident's home, and 4 automatic fire alarms.

On Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Fire Chief met with the Red Cross regarding the Day of Caring. The Red Cross is going to be installing an estimated 400 smoke detectors in residential homes located in the borough of Lewistown on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The smoke detector installation will be free of charge.

#### Mayor

**Mayor Bargo** commented on the work that has been completed by the fire companies and she is proud of the work that has been completed. The mayor also shared that the local restaurants and stores are looking forward to the fire convention.

#### Police Chief

**Chief Clemens** stated the police department had 566 calls for service, 44 traffic citations, 12 non-citations, 73 warnings issued, 6 active drug investigations, 3 new investigations, 1 felony arrest, 3 search warrants, 2 grams of fentanyl seized, and 40 grams of methamphetamine and one firearm were seized in the month of July.

The SRO contract with the school district has been signed. Officer Ciccolini will work at the school 8 hours a day. This is an increase from the previous year.

The National Night Out was hosted on August 1<sup>st</sup>; was a successful event for first responders and those that attended.

The department would like to purchase a 2017 Taurus Police Interceptor in place of the crown vic. and have the money in the budget to cover the purchase of a newly used vehicle. The price as \$16,400 with additions needed for upgrades such as 4 new tires will increase the cost. Three quotes have been received to ensure compliance prior to moving forward with a purchase. Council has given the borough manager permission to post vehicle that is being replaced for bid.

**On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve purchasing the used 2017 Taurus Police Interceptor for \$18,409.00. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

The police department would like to purchase a drone. It can be utilized between departments as the current drone being utilized is an officer's personal drone and has limited capabilities in comparison to the one that the police are wanting to purchase. Three quotes have been provided ranging from \$15,000-\$18,000 (The

quote is for the same drone but includes extra accessories hence increasing the cost). To utilize the drone for purposes that would serve both the police, fire department, and codes office, an employee in each department would need to be licensed. This license provides the ability for the employees to fly the drone or to supervise the flight of the drone by an employee with a recreational license. Currently two Lewistown borough employees are licensed to operate the drone, Richard Leight and Katelyn Rauch.

**On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 4-1 to approve the purchase of a drone for the police at the cost of \$16,750.00. Mr. Searer voted against the purchase. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

Recreation Board

No Meeting: next scheduled meeting is in September 2023

Borough Solicitor

No Updates to provide.

### **UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS**

1. August 25<sup>th</sup> Municipal Hall closed at 12:00pm – Employee Appreciation Picnic

**On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve closing Borough Hall on August 25, 2023, at 12:00 PM. Mr. Searer voted against the purchase. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

2. Employee Handbook – finished & under revision.
3. County 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly Salary Reimbursement (\$11,677.23)

**On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council votes 5-0 to approve paying \$11,677.23 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter County Salary Reimbursement for CDBG management . Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

4. Kish Investment Opportunity (\$500,000) to gain 4.9% interest.

**On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve the Kish Investment Opportunity in the amount of \$500,000.00 at 4.9% interest. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

5. City Rescue Tools (\$78,000)

**On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht, Council votes 5-0 to approve the purchase of rescue tools for City Hook and Ladder in the amount of \$78,000 with the funds coming from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) account. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.**

6. EMS (Fire Department) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Payments

On a motion by Mr. Hammond and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment of \$7,500.00 to each fire department. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.

7. Parking Authority Rent (\$12,300)

On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council votes 5-0 to approve the payment of \$12,300 to the Parking Authority for rent. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.

**Public Comments**

No comments were made.

Executive Session Started: 6:14 PM

Executive Session Ended: 6:38 PM

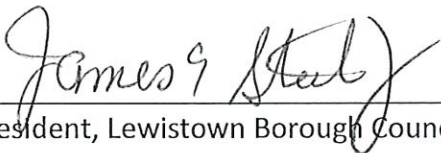
A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Rieffannacht to approve the termination of the employee. Council voted 4-1 to approve the termination of the employee. Mr. Searer voted against the termination. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.

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

A roll call vote was taken on a motion by Ms. Shade, seconded by Mr. Hammond to approve the recruitment plan for hiring police officers. Potential hires would receive 75% tuition reimbursement and 45% of their wages. Council voted 5-0 to approve the Police Recruitment plan. Mr. Steele and Mr. W. Wilson were absent.

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

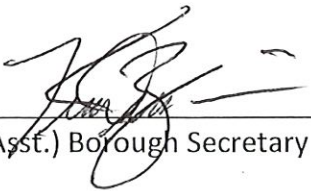
Council ended at 6:41 PM

  
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President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Vice)

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
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(Asst.) Borough Secretary