

November 28th, 2023

LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council meeting opened at 5:30 PM with Borough Council President James Steele presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call

Nelson Rieffannacht, Jim Steele (President), and Aaron Wilson (Vice-President), Venus Shade, and Larry Searer were all present. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

Hearing of Person's Present:

No comments.

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: N/A

C. Approval of Schedule of Bills: N/A

D. Facility Use Requests:

January 20, 2024, City Hook, and Ladder at Community Center with liquor

E. Acknowledge receipt of Fame Meeting Minutes: N/A

F. Acknowledge receipt of Tax Collector's Report: N/A

G. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Report: N/A

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

Borough Manager:

1. Digester DCED ARPA Grant

a. November 21st CFA (Commonwealth Financing Authority)

The CFA had their meeting, but the DCED ARPA Grant was not on the agenda.

2. DEP CAP status (working 2nd iteration with EADS)

DEP is happy with the first plan, but they would like to see some more condensed timelines and budget figures.

3. December 22, 2023, Employee Christmas Party

a. Borough Hall Closure at Noon.

4. 2nd Annual Town Hall Meeting

- a. January 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Community Center

5. Open Positions:

- a. Deputy Director of Public Works

This open position will be discussed in executive session. The borough will probably have a workman position open, after a recently completed job bid.

6. Important Dates:

- a. November 30th and December 1st Festival of Ice
- b. December 2nd Kiwanis Christmas Parade
- c. December 6, 13, 18 scheduled Council Meetings
- d. December 25th Christmas Day
- e. December 27th End of Year 2023 Council Meeting
- f. January 1, 2024, New Years Day
- g. January 2, 2024, Borough Council Organization Meeting

7. CGI Military Banners

We are still looking for military members to put on banners around town. There is some pricing confusion regarding the cost and the borough is working with CGI on that issue.

8. Delinquent Taxes

Mr. Remy and Mr. Zimmerman had a meeting with a law firm that specializes in collecting delinquent taxes. This would be at no cost to the Borough of Lewistown and would potentially start at the beginning of 2024.

Fire Chief

Chief Barlett did not have statistics due to the month not being completely over. Chief Barlett talked about the Kish Apartment fire on Thanksgiving Day that ended up with 1 fatality, 4 residents treated for smoke inhalation, and 1 firefighter treated for smoke inhalation. The firefighter, Lt. Eric Bowersox with Heritage Fire Department, suffered smoke inhalation because he found a resident who was overcome with smoke inhalation and used "Buddy Breathing" or rescue breathing training to get the resident and himself out of the building. Chief Barlett wanted to clear up some social media rumors about Kish Apartments. Chief Barlett stated the fire system is in working order. He stated the fire department and codes department have inspected the building and no violations have been found. Chief Barlett stated he participates in building fire drills. Chief Barlett stated the fires have all been human errors.

Mayor

Mayor Bargo continued the briefing on the Thanksgiving Day fire. She thanked the emergency responders for their response. Chief Barlett mentioned that all 3 fires at Kish apartments were contained to the apartment that the fire started in.

Police Chief

Chief Clemens stated he did not have a report for tonight but wanted to thank Council for meeting to discuss and hopefully approve the K-9 grant resolution.

Center when the grant opens back up for application. Ms. Peffer asked if the Community Center ever made money.

5. 236 West 5th Handicapped Parking Space Request

Mr. Zimmerman showed pictures of the property explaining the options for the person to park. Mr. Searer asked if the spot beside his house was currently being used. Mr. Zimmerman stated he would get with Mr. Rager to determine if it is being used. There is a possibility that the spot is not in use and could be moved down one spot. No vote taken at this time.

6. Deputy Director Public Works Candidate

Will be discussed in executive session.

7. Fire Department Audit 2024

Mr. Remy and Mr. Zimmerman examined the engagement letter from the auditor. The letter includes the social clubs for the fire department, but they have their own EIN, and the Borough cannot dictate an audit on those clubs. Mr. Zimmerman asked the auditor for a new quote for the audit, and it has not been returned yet. No vote taken.

8. Salary and Compensation Resolution 2024

Will be discussed in executive session.

9. FAME

FAME sent a letter asking the Borough to appoint someone to the Board of Directors at FAME. Mayor Bargo currently holds that position and stated she would continue that post.

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council voted 5-0 to appoint Mayor Deb Bargo to the FAME Board of Directors position. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

Public Comments

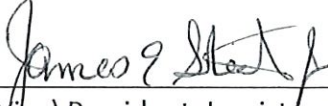
Ms. Peffer asked if the delinquent tax collection option that was previously discussed would be for 2023 or if previous years would be included. Mr. Zimmerman stated previous taxes were turned over to the County for collection so this company would just collect 2023 taxes and then delinquent taxes moving forward.

Executive Session Started: 6:03 PM

Executive Session Ended: 6:21 PM

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council voted 5-0 to hire the candidate discussed in executive session for the Deputy Director of Public Works position at the discussed rate of pay. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

Council ended at 6:22 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary