

**December 13th, 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:**

**Wendy Smith**, Community Center Coordinator, spoke to council about repairs that are needed at the Lewistown Community Center. She stated the Community Center needs a new roof. The roof leaking could lead to safety concerns about slips and falls and lead to replacing items that might be ruined by the roof leaks. Wendy Smith stated the kitchen needs new appliances. She stated the building needs to be refreshed. The freezer leaks and creates a safety hazard. She states the electric panel needs to be upgraded to correct the issue of breakers tripping from overuse. **Mr. Searer** stated the roof should be the number one priority. **Mr. Zimmerman** stated the roof project would need to be sent out to bid.

**Mr. Aaron Wilson** read a letter from Arthur Kreps that was sent to The Sentinel praising the fire department and EMT crews who went to the fire at Kish Apartments on Thanksgiving. He thanked Mayor Bargo, the Red Cross and the office and maintenance staff at Kish Apartments.

### **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. 08 and 28 November 2023
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report. End of November 2023
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills. \$923,938.45
- D. Facility Use Requests. Army Reserve Banquet (with alcohol)
- 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 5-0 to approve the consent agenda. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.**

## **Borough Manager:**

### **1. Digester DCED ARPA Grant**

No projected meeting date by the state.

### **2. December 22, 2023, Employee Christmas Party**

- a. Borough Hall Closure at Noon.

### **3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Hall Meeting**

Meeting will be postponed until February.

### **4. Important Dates:**

- a. December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Council meetings.
- b. December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day
- c. December 27<sup>th</sup>, End of Year 2023 Council Meeting
- d. January 1, 2024, New Years Day
- e. January 2, 2024, Council Organization Meeting
- f. January 10, 2024, Council Meeting
- g. January 24, 2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Hall Meeting (tentative)-being moved to February.

### **5. Heritage Fire Station**

Boiler is inoperable. Cost to replace is \$300,000.00.

The bays are still heated. The social club and the bingo hall are without heat.

### **6. Rec Park Pool Study**

- a. Committee Meeting January 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

### **7. WWTP Sludge Removal Contract**

Zeke Phillips is researching two new sites and getting quotes.

### **8. Fire Chief Appointment at the December 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

Bob Douglas will be appointed the Fire Chief.

### **9. Chestnut Street Handicapped Parking Space**

### **10. Delinquent Utilities**

Some of the same people on this delinquent report also appear on the tax delinquency report. Shut off letters are being generated to send to the delinquent utility customers.

## **Fire Chief**

**Chief Barlett** for the month of November the fire department responded to 30 alarms; 4 miscellaneous fires, 3 building fires with one fatality (Kish Apartments on Thanksgiving), 1 fuel burner fire that was contained to the furnace, 4 brush and grass fires, 3 medical assists with EMS, 4 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, an oil spill, 2 natural gas investigations, 2 carbon monoxide incidents, a power line down, 1 mutual aid for another fire company, 2 odor of smoke scares, and an automatic alarm.

## **Mayor**

**Mayor Bargo** thanked the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors center for the Festival of Ice event. She stated they predicted 4,000 people attended on Thursday and even with inclement weather on Friday they had 2,000 attendees.



## Police Chief

Chief Clemens stated they had 325 calls for service in November. They had 27 traffic citations, 14 non traffic citations, 44 written warnings. There were 5 active drug investigations, 5 new investigations, 1 misdemeanor arrest, assisted the State Police with the arrest of a person wanted for arson and attempted homicide and an active investigation involving fraudulent id's being used at pharmacies.

Chief Clemens stated the RMS (Records Management System) is in full use and the license plate readers were just delivered. They should be installed for the new year. A new ticketing system will be used starting January 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a new E-Citation software called TraCS. The accreditation grant was awarded for \$91,659.00. It is for an enhanced server, evidence lockers, and accreditation software. The K9 grant application was submitted for \$121,336.00. There is no timeframe for when the grant will be awarded. The mental health co-responder program has been chosen to present at the next national convention in Omaha in June of 2024. All expenses are covered by co-responder grant fund.

Chief Clemens stated that officers participated in Shop with a Cop today. Officers from all over the region participated and there were 30 children who participated.

The Fill a Cruiser event is Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Giant parking lot on Dorcas Street. All items donated are given to Mothers Cupboard and the Lumina Center.

The officers will be assisting Granville United Methodist Church delivering Christmas meals on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Recreation Board

No meeting. Next Meeting is 2024

## Borough Solicitor

**On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council voted 5-0 to approve adding the Tax and Sewer Ordinances to the agenda for discussion. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.**

Mr. Remy stated that because the tax rate for the fire department was raised, the Tax Ordinance would need to be advertised. The general tax is staying the same at 13.859 mills, The lighting tax stays the same at 0.734 mills, the fire tax increases to 2.617 mills, and the ambulance and rescue tax stays the same at 0.121 mills. The sewer rates ordinance would be advertised at a flat rate of \$89.32 for up to 1,000 gallons and then \$89.32 plus \$6.35 for each gallon of water used over that.

Mr. Remy stated he sent a letter to Mr. Bill Wilson, and it was received and signed for. There has been no response back from Mr. Wilson.

## UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS

### 1. CY 2024 Budget

Mr. Zimmerman stated there are two parts to the budget. One part includes sewer rate increases. Mr. Searer made a motion to approve the budget except for the sewer rate increase because we currently have attorneys studying the 1982 agreement since DEP is involved.

On a motion by Mr. Searer and seconded by Mr. A. Wilson, Council voted 4-1 to approve the CY2024 Budget without the sewer rate increases. Nelson Rieffannacht voted against the motion. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

**2. 236 West 5<sup>th</sup> Handicapped Parking Space Request**

On a motion by Mr. Rieffannacht and seconded by Ms. Shade, Council voted 5-0 to approve the handicap parking space request for 236 W 5th Street. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

**3. Fire Department Audit 2024 (\$9,995)**

Mr. Zimmerman is recommending more research and bids for the fire department audit for better pricing options.

**4. DEP CAP status (2<sup>nd</sup> iteration with EADS)**

The analysis is still ongoing, and an extension can be given until January.

**5. Cost and Fee Schedule CY2024 Updated fees.**


**a. Commonwealth Code Inspection Service (\$20.00 increase)**

On a motion by Ms. Shade and seconded by Mr. Searer, Council voted 5-0 to approve the Commonwealth Code Inspection Service fee increase as mandated by the state. Robert Hammond and Bill Wilson were absent.

**b. Sewer Rates**



Sewer rates were not increased at this time.

Council ended at 6:15 PM

  
James Esteek Jr  
(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:

  
  
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(Asst.) Borough Secretary