

Borough Council Meeting

October 9, 2024

LEWISTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

Prayer

Roll Call

Larry "Heavy" Searer, Steve Knudson, Jim Steele, Lisa Knudson, Scott Gutshall, Robert Barlett and Matt Moore were all present.

Hearing of Person's Present:

Dawn Croisette, 123 E Third Street, read a prepared statement addressing the parking situation in the neighborhood. She stated the neighborhood was not given advance notice of the parking lot closure (either occasion) and asked that information be shared with residents in advance. Mrs. Croisette also asked Council to consider utilizing opinion polls to gauge the views of residents before changes are made. Mrs. Croisette pointed out that her neighborhood is mostly residential, yet they have parking meters on their street and pointed to other residential areas in town that do not have parking meters.

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: September 25, 2024
- B. Approval of Treasurer's Report: As of September 30, 2024
- C. Approval of Schedule of Bills: \$899,125.98
- D. Facility Use Requests: N/A
- E. Acknowledge receipt of Fame Meeting Minutes: N/A
- F. Acknowledge receipt of Tax Collector's Report.
- G. Acknowledge receipt of Codes Enforcement Report.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mrs. Knudson, Council voted 7-0 to approve the consent agenda.

Borough Manager:

1. Junior Council Program

Mayor Bargo stated she presented this program to the previous Borough Council, and they were all in agreement to allow her to pursue it. Mayor Bargo stated a resolution is needed to participate in the Junior Council Program.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council voted 6-1 to approve the Junior Council Program. Mr. Searer voted against the motion.

Mayor Bargo then introduced both Junior Council members.

Our first Junior Council Member is **Leanne Weaver**. Ms. Weaver is a Junior at MCSD (Mifflin County School District). She is on the Debate Team, Government Study, and Dance. After high school, Leann would like to study Law.

Ava Kelly is our second Junior Council Member. Ms. Kelly is a Junior at MCSD, as well. She is in the Key Club, sings with the Cantare group, Debate Team, Government Study and is on the tennis team. After graduation, Ava would like to study Government.

Mayor Bargo proceeded to have both Junior Council Members recite the Junior Council Person Pledge. The pledge confirms their commitment to attending monthly council meetings, observing meeting rules, and to actively participate in borough business.

2. GSL Consulting

Tyler Fink, Lewistown Borough Manager, briefed council on his meeting with Nick Soccio, with GSL Consulting. Mr. Fink stated GSL would be able to identify available grant opportunities that meet the Borough's needs for funding of planned future and current projects. GSL would seek Borough approval first, before applying for any grants and payment is only made to GSL if funding is secured. The agreement would not be exclusive. Mr. Fink stated Mr. Soccio normally deals with private sector applicants, but he wants to help and give back to the Borough. There are no upfront costs and the GSL fee is 12% of the awarded grant money. The fees cannot be paid out of the grant.

3. Comcast 10 Year Agreement Renewal

Mr. Fink stated Mr. Remy is working on the agreement. **Mr. Remy** stated Comcast pays the Borough a franchise fee because they use our right of way to run cable wire. Mr. Remy stated the Borough uses a law firm located in Pittsburgh to examine this agreement. He stated the law firm specializes in cable renewals.

4. Upcoming Energy Contract Approval (Electric Supplier)

Tyler Fink stated our Penelec Electric Supplier expires in February of 2025. Mr. Fink stated he is still working on gathering information and will be sending out information as he gets it.

5. North Plaza Paving Project Completed

6. Sacred Heart School Zone Signage

Tyler Fink asked the Borough to approve placing School Zone signs near the school. Sacred Heart would pay for the signage.

7. 22 Ridge Road/Bingaman Property Appraisals

Tyler Fink stated the appraisals were delivered this afternoon and he would share them with the finance committee.

8. Gannett Fleming IT Support

Tyler Fink stated that EADS does not offer IT support and referred the plant to Systems 21 for IT support. Systems 21 will need to break through the firewall to understand the system. Gannett Fleming installed the system. They can remote into the system and can offer immediate assistance, something that Systems 21 is currently unable to offer. Mr. Fink and Zeke Phillips both requested approval from Council to allow them to use Gannett Fleming for IT support at the treatment plant. Mr. Fink stated it is a \$7,000.00 fee and on call services would be billed up to \$8,000.00 but not beyond that. Zeke Phillips stated the \$7,000.00 also includes them doing an inspection at the plant.

9. Engineering Fees- \$43,090.30

10. Paint the Town Pink Banners- Central PA Pink Zone

Tyler Fink stated the Borough has hung 22 banners through Market Street and the parking meters have pink ribbons on them.

11. Domestic Violence Purple Lights- The Abuse Network

Mr. Fink stated the lights at the fountain are purple to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

12. DCNR Pool Study Reimbursement- \$15,000

Tyler Fink stated the DCNR Pool Study reimbursement of \$15,000 was received on Monday, October 7th.

13. Important Dates

- a. Borough Hall will be closed on Monday, October 14th for Columbus Day.
- b. Law & Ordinance Meeting on Thursday, October 17th at 5:00 PM in the Community Center to discuss the Rental Ordinance Proposal.
- c. Halloween Parade is on Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:00 PM.
- d. Trick or Treat is on Thursday October 31st from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Larry Searer asked if the Law & Ordinance meeting would be advertised. Mr. Fink stated it has already been sent to the Sentinel to be advertised.

Safe Night Trick or Treat is on Friday, October 25th from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Fire Chief

Chief Douglas stated that City Hook & Ladder responded to 24 calls for service, 22 in town and 2 out of town in September. They responded to 1 automatic fire alarms, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 vehicle fire, 4 fires, 1 carbon monoxide, 2 gas leaks, 1 spill, 3 local alarms, 6 medicals, 1 brush fire and 1 public service. Heritage responded to 23 calls for service, 19 in town and 4 out of town. They responded to 5 fires, 3 local alarms, 3 automatic fire alarms, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 vehicle fire, 4 medical assists, 1 carbon monoxide, 2 gas leaks, 1 spill, 1 police assist.

Chief Douglas commended his fire department for their response and actions at the recent structure fires in October. Chief Douglas stated that 2 firefighters were close to becoming trapped in the attic. Chief Douglas stated they escaped with what amounts to a severe sunburn.

Chief Douglas asked for Council's opinions on making major purchases must run through the Fire Chief and Council first. Scott Gutshall stated he was in favor of that change and stated Chapter 24 is currently being reviewed and one thing that has been discussed is a spending limit for purchases before it needs council approval.

Bob Barlett spoke about the fire call on Valley Street. Mr. Barlett stated the damage was devastating but it could have been worse. He stated the fire department did an excellent job keeping that fire confined to the area it was. He stated it could have easily taken out the entire block.

Steve Knudson then spoke of the respect he has for the fire department and commended them for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor

Mayor Bargo echoed Mr. Barlett and Mr. Knudson in her gratitude for the fire department.

Mayor Bargo stated that the Safe Night Trick or Treat is Friday, October 25th from 5-7 PM.

Mayor Bargo also mentioned the Goose Day celebration. She stated the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Center organized a great event.

Mayor Bargo stated that Friday, October 18th is the grand opening/ dedication of the extension of the Juniata River Trail. The trail is approximately 5K.

Police Chief

Chief Clemens stated the police had 390 calls for service in September. They had 67 traffic citations, 16 non-traffic citations, 34 warnings, 3 DUI arrests, and 578 parking tickets. Revenue ticketed was \$7,590 and the amount collected in September was \$4,260. The Narcotics Investigator had 2 active investigations, 1 new investigation, 3 misdemeanor arrests, 1 search warrants, approximately 2 grams of heroin and fentanyl, 6 grams methamphetamine.

Chief Clemens stated they are going to start doing a weekly blotter on the department Facebook page.

Borough Solicitor

1. Omnibus Ordinance Approval

Mr. Remy stated the Omnibus Ordinance was properly advertised and is ready for Council approval.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mrs. Knudson, Council voted 7-0 to approve the Omnibus Ordinance amendments.

2. Chapter 30 Manager Ordinance Amendment.

Mr. Remy stated the requirement that the Borough Manager live within Mifflin County has been removed. Mr. Remy stated this ordinance has been properly advertised and is ready for Council approval.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mrs. Knudson, Council voted 7-0 to approve the Chapter 30 Manager Ordinance amendments.

UNFINISHED & NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommend approval of the contract with GSL Consulting for Grant Funding.

On a motion by Mr. Barlett and seconded by Mrs. Knudson, a roll call vote was taken, and Council Voted 7-0 to approve the contract with GSL Consulting for grant funding.

Bob Barlett	Yes
Steve Knudson	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Larry Searer	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Scott Gutshall	Yes
Lisa Knudson	Yes

2. Recommend approval for School Zone Signs- Paid for by Sacred Heart School.

On a motion by Mr. Knudson and seconded by Mr. Steele, Council voted 7-0 to approve the School Zone signs at the expense of Sacred Heart School.

3. Recommend approval to accept the Teamsters Police Contract effective 1-1-2025 through 12-31-2027.

Tyler Fink stated he has looked through the contract and it runs from 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2027. Mr. Gutshall stated he looked through the contract and it is aligned with what was discussed and approved during negotiations with the union.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mr. Steele a roll call vote was taken, and Council Voted 7-0 to approve the new police contract that runs from 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2027.

Bob Barlett	Yes
Steve Knudson	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Larry Searer	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Scott Gutshall	Yes
Lisa Knudson	Yes

4. Recommend approval to remove a handicap spot at 320/322 Bratton Avenue.

On a motion by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. Gutshall, Council voted 7-0 to approve removing the handicap spot at 320/322 Bratton Avenue.

5. Recommend approval to utilize Gannet Flemming for IT Support for WWTP.

On a motion by Mr. Gutshall and seconded by Mrs. Knudson a roll call vote was taken, and Council Voted 7-0 to approve Gannett Flemming for IT support for the WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant).

Bob Barlett	Yes
Steve Knudson	Yes
Mr. Moore	Yes
Larry Searer	Yes
Jim Steele	Yes
Scott Gutshall	Yes
Lisa Knudson	Yes

Executive Session Started: 6:16 PM

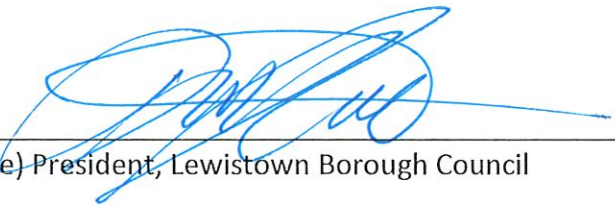
Executive Session Ended: 7:16 PM

6. ****Added to the Agenda**** Recommend approval to authorize a pay increase of \$1.50 per hour and back pay for Officer Vallimont (\$1,107.00) and Officer McLaughlin (\$1,223.25) effective June 19, 2024.

On a motion by Mrs. Knudson and seconded by Mr. Gutshall, Council voted 7-0 to approve amending the agenda to authorize backpay to Officer McLaughlin and Officer Vallimont.

On a motion by Mrs. Knudson and seconded by Mr. Searer, Council voted 7-0 to approve the payment of backpay of \$1,107.00 to Officer Vallimont and \$1,223.25 to Officer Mclaughlin.

Council Ended: 7:18 PM



(Vice) President, Lewistown Borough Council

(Seal)

ATTEST:



(Asst.) Borough Secretary