

Minutes of City Council
February 15, 2022
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St West, Lewisburg, WV also VIA a Zoom Teleconference call because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White, City Manager Misty Hill, City Clerk Shannon Beatty; Councilmembers, Franklin Johnson, John Little, Valerie Pritt & Arron Seams. Police Chief Chris Teubert, Director of Public Works Tony Legg, Fire Chief Joey Thomas and Treasurer Susan Honaker and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham.

ABSENT: Sarah Elkins

VISITORS: Reporters; Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger (via Zoom), Lyra Bordelon with the West Virginia Daily News, Martha Hylton, Aisa Bargman, Carol Carter, Tricia Hoover, Michael Meadows, Ryan Keece, Andy Kelso, Ben Kelso, Charles DePriest, Andrew Angus, Cole Morgan, Carter Higgonbotham, Trevor James, Eli Trusty, April Trusty, Andrew Blake, Ryan Blake and Frank Lokant.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor White presented the invocation and Council member Pritt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

VISITORS REPORT:

No visitors reports were given.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 18, 2022

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 City Council minutes as presented. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Volunteer of the Year 2021

Mayor White read a proclamation celebrating January 1st as the Volunteer of the Year Day in Lewisburg in honor of the Covid-19 Task Force.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor White read a letter she wrote in response to a “letter to the editor” in the WV Daily News. She stated that City elections were set up as nonpartisan and that elected members of City Council belonged to different parties and served all the citizens of Lewisburg.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Misty Hill reported on the following items of interest:

Finance Committee & City Council schedules

City Manager Misty Hill stated she had consulted with the City Attorney Tom White if it were permissible to change the City Council meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He stated there was nothing in the City or State Code to prevent a time change.

Councilmember Little made a motion to change the time of the City Council meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

City Manager Report

- A pre-bid meeting will be held on March 3 for the upgrades to the water plant and a bid opening on March 22.
- City Manager Hill and Fire Chief Thomas have been meeting with the Thrasher Group over plans to develop the designs for the new fire station building.
- The Historic Landmark Commission called a meeting to order for a wayfinding meeting on February 15 with various members from the downtown community. Hill stated it was a very productive meeting.
- City Manager Hill stated she was working on the possibility of creating a dog park at Dorie Miller Park this year.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

No communications were given.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham reported on the events of the February 2, 2022 Planning Commission meeting:

- A Final plat on the Wal-Mart property at 1976 Jefferson Street North for Wal-bucks to build a Starbucks was approved.

- A sewer project extension for the Rolling Hills subdivision was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated that a copy of Chief Teubert's report had been included in the information packet and asked if City Councilmembers had any questions for Chief Teubert.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated that a copy of Chief Thomas's report had been included in the information packet and asked if City Councilmembers had any questions for the Chief.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

Councilmember Seams reported on the following events of the February 8, 2022 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended the renewal of the employee Health Insurance with Certus America with a maximum liability of \$948,609.99

Councilmember Seams made a motion to renew the employee health insurance with Certus America with a maximum liability of \$948,609.99 Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended hiring John Stump with Steptoe & Johnson as bond council to handle the bond for the construction of the new Public Works building.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to hire John Stump with Steptoe & Johnson as bond council to handle the bond for the construction of the new Public Works building. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

- The Finance Committee recommended granting approval to hire an additional police officer as recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to hire an additional police officer with a \$146,637.36 first year cost (vehicle and uniforms etc). Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of granting an additional \$1 per hour salary increase for Jason Hanna to \$18.04 and John Mcmillion to \$14.60 for the completion of water distribution certification to be effective February 16, 2022.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to grant an additional \$1 per hour salary increase for Jason Hanna to \$18.04 and John Mcmillion to \$14.60 for the completion of water distribution

certification to be effective February 16, 2022. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated that a copy of the Public Work's Director Legg's report had been included in the information packet and asked if City Councilmembers had any questions for the Director.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.