

**Minutes of City Council
December 21, 2021
Regular Session**

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St West, Lewisburg, WV and VIA a Zoom Teleconference call because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White, City Manager Misty Hill, City Clerk Shannon Beatty; Councilmembers, Sarah Elkins, Franklin Johnson, John Little, & Arron Seams. Police Chief Chris Teubert, and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham.

ABSENT: Director of Public Works Tony Legg, Fire Chief Joey Thomas and Treasurer Susan Honaker.

VISITORS: Reporters; Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger, Bobby Bordelon with the West Virginia Daily News & Gailyn Markum (via Zoom) with Loot Press; J.D. Brackenrich, Adam Rogers, James Wrzosek and Todd Simmons. .

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor White presented the invocation and Council member Seams 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:

November 16, 2021

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the November 16, 2021 City Council minutes as presented. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 296

City Clerk Beatty read the title of the following ordinance for second reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THOSE PARCELS OF LAND DESIGNATED AS GREENBRIER COUNTY,

LEWISBURG MUNICIPALITY, TAX MAP 20, PARCEL 63, GREENBRIER COUNTY DEED BOOK 399, PAGE 482, **AND** TAX MAP 15, PARCEL 118.1, DEED BOOK 359, PAGE 560, LOCATED AT 1329 JEFFERSON STREET NORTH, LEWISBURG, WV, FROM **R-1** (TOWN RESIDENTIAL) TO **O-R** (OFFICE RESIDENTIAL) (MAP ATTACHED).”

Mayor White opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance 296 at 7:33 p.m. Adam Rogers remarked that Mr. Kortas was excited about having the property rezoned. Mayor White closed the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 296 on second reading. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 297

City Clerk Beatty read the title of the following ordinance for second reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND DESIGNATED AS GREENBRIER COUNTY, LEWISBURG MUNICIPALITY, TAX MAP 20, PARCEL 64, GREENBRIER COUNTY DEED BOOK 388, PAGE 329, LOCATED AT 1347 JEFFERSON STREET NORTH, LEWISBURG, WV, FROM **R-1** (TOWN RESIDENTIAL) TO **O-R** (OFFICE RESIDENTIAL) (MAP ATTACHED).”

Mayor White opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance 297 at 7:35 p.m. Adam Rogers stated that the property owner Dr. Richards could not attend the meeting because of his health issues. Mayor White closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Ordinance 297 for second reading. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 298

City Clerk Beatty read the title of the following ordinance for second reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND DESIGNATED AS GREENBRIER COUNTY, LEWISBURG MUNICIPALITY, TAX MAP 20, PARCEL 62, GREENBRIER COUNTY DEED BOOK 585, PAGE 527, AND DEED BOOK 630, PAGE 518, LOCATED AT 1315 JEFFERSON STREET NORTH, LEWISBURG, WV,

FROM **R-1** (TOWN RESIDENTIAL) TO **O-R** (OFFICE RESIDENTIAL) (MAP ATTACHED).”

Mayor White opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance 298 at 7:36 p.m. Adam Rogers stated that he owned this property and would be starting an investment company in the location. Mayor White closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Ordinance 298 for second reading. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 299

City Clerk Beatty read the title of the following ordinance for second reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND DESIGNATED AS GREENBRIER COUNTY, LEWISBURG MUNICIPALITY, TAX MAP 15, PARCEL 118, GREENBRIER COUNTY DEED BOOK 414, PAGE 673, FROM **R-1** (TOWN RESIDENTIAL) TO **O-R** (OFFICE RESIDENTIAL) (MAP ATTACHED).”

Mayor White opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance 299 at 7:39 p.m. J.D. Brakenrich stated he had owned the property since the early 1980’s. Mayor White closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 299 for second reading. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 489

City Clerk Beatty read the following resolution for passage:

“**WHEREAS**, the City of Lewisburg has applied to the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, for a \$144,097.50 (total project funds of federal funds) grant so as to US 60 South Lafayette Sidewalk Improvements.

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Department of Transportation has tentatively approved the

\$115,278.00 (amount of federal funds) grant contingent upon the City of Lewisburg executing the Agreement hereto attached and made a part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the 20% match by the City of Lewisburg is \$28,819.50.

WHEREAS, Lewisburg City Council is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the community for the project to be undertaken and the Agreement to be executed

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Lewisburg on this 21st day of December, 2021, that its City Manager is authorized to execute the Agreement hereto attached.

Mayor

City Clerk “

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Resolution 489 as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Volunteer of the Year

Mayor White read a proclamation celebrating the Volunteer of the Year Day in Lewisburg by honoring the Covid-19 Task force.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

BZA Reappointments

Mayor White offered the names of Sam Argabright and Jamie Crosier for reappointment to three (3) year terms to end on December 31, 2024 to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Little made a motion to reappoint Sam Argabright and Jamie Crosier to three (3) year terms to end on December 31, 2024 to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Parks Commission Appointment

Mayor White offered the name of Ryan King for appointment to a six (6) year term on the Parks Commission. She noted that King will be the new Ascend Lewisburg manager.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to appoint Ryan King to a six (6) year term on the Parks Commission. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

WV Living “Best of”

Mayor White announced that Lewisburg had won the Best Inclusive Community and Best downtown in West Virginia in the WV Living Magazine “Best of” contest.

Planning Commission Report

Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham reported on the following events of the December 2, 2021 Planning Commission meeting:

- The Planning Commission recommended approval of a minor subdivision for .65 acres at 1976 Jefferson Street North, from Wal-Mart to Wal-bucks to build a Starbucks. Zoning Officer Cunningham stated that construction won’t begin until the Spring or Fall of 2022. She stated the final plat would be presented at the February meeting because they had missed the deadline for the January meeting by a few days

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the minor subdivision for .65 acres at 1976 Jefferson Street North from Wal-Mart to Wal-bucks to build a Starbucks. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Planning Commission recommended approval of a preliminary plat for 1976 Jefferson Street North for Wal-bucks.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve a preliminary plat for 1976 Jefferson Street North for Wal-bucks. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Planning Commission approved the site plan for .65 acres at 1976 Jefferson Street North for Wal-bucks.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the site plan for .65 acres at 1976 Jefferson Street North for Wal-bucks. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

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

Invoice for Goldman Associates, Inc.

City Manager Misty Hill stated this was the invoice for the appraisal of three properties needed for the water plant upgrade in the amount of \$12,971.64 to Goldman Associates, Inc.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve invoice 7752 in the amount of \$12,971.64 for the appraisal of three properties for the water plant upgrade. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Cares Act Reimbursement Funding

Hill stated she had been working diligently with staff to complete all projects that need to be completed by the end of the year for the Cares Act funds. She stated projects at the football field are complete, lights have been installed at the skate park and pickle ball court. She stated that the outside work at City Hall is almost complete. She noted she was hoping to use any money left over from City Hall to update the bathrooms at Dorie Miller Park. New cameras are being installed on the outside of City Hall by Greenbrier Technologies. She stated that Emory Pentek would be conducting an audit of the Cares Act money in January.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Pritt noted she had participated in the Ascend WV interviews and had met Ryan King who was appointed to the City Parks Commission. She said she feels like he will make an excellent addition to the Parks Commission and the community.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Parks Commission Report

Councilmember Elkins reported on the following events of the December 7, 2021 Parks Commission meeting:

- A discussion was held about trail plans in the Lewisburg/Greenbrier County area.
- Parks project updates were given.

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 December 14, 2021 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of an Arts & Humanities grant in the amount of \$900 for the annual New Year's Day Shanghai Parade. However, the Shanghai Committee has decided to cancel the parade because of concerns regarding the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to table approval of the Arts & Humanities grant in the amount of \$900 for the annual New Year's Day Shanghai Parade for 2022. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of Change Order #3 from Schleiff Construction in the amount of \$15,185.15 for City Hall repairs.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Change Order #3 from Schleiff Construction in the amount of \$15,185.15 for City Hall repairs. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of pay request #4 for Schleiff Construction in the amount of \$50,000 for City Hall repairs.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve pay request #4 for Schleiff Construction in the amount of \$50,000 for City Hall repairs. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the adjusted pay scale change regarding the position of Customer Field Service and Meter Technician with a minimum hourly wage of \$12.70 and a maximum hourly wage of \$17.50.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the adjusted pay scale change regarding the position of Customer Field Service and Meter Technician with a minimum hourly wage of \$12.70 and a maximum hourly wage of \$17.50.

- The Finance Committee recommended an hourly wage increase from \$12.70 to \$14.50 for Tyler Lemons.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to increase the hourly wage from \$12.70 to \$14.50 for Tyler Lemons. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.