

Lewisburg City Council
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020

PRESENT: Recorder Shannon Beatty; Mayor Beverly White; City Council members Arron Seams, Joshua Edwards, Mark Etten, Heather Blake; City Manager Jacy Faulkner; Treasurer Susan Honaker and Chief of Police Chris Teubert.

VIA TELEPHONE: Sarah Elkins

ABSENT: Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham, Director of Public Works Roger Pence, Fire Chief Joey Thomas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Seams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

Councilmember Etten reported on the following items from the March 10, 2020 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of General Fund budget for fiscal year 20-21.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the General fund budget for fiscal year 20-21 with changes. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Coal Severance fund budget for fiscal year 20-21.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the Coal Severance fund budget for fiscal year 20-21 as presented. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- It was the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee to hire an additional Police Officer.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to hire an additional Police Officer. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended the addition of a new Canine Officer.

Councilmember Etten made a motion the addition of a new canine officer.

Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Medical Evaluation bid for the Fire Department in the amount of \$28,236.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the medical evaluation bid for the Fire Department in the amount of \$28,236. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a Homeland Security Grant for nine radios.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve a Homeland Security Grant for nine radios. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the purchase of lawn mower for the Parks Department in the amount of \$12,837.75

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the purchase of a lawn mower for the Parks Department in the amount of \$12,837.75. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee tabled approval of an invoice from Mon Power for upgrades for the Stratton Alley Stormwater project. This would put all the power lines below ground. City Manager Faulkner presented an invoice in the amount of \$26,492.80 Treasurer Honaker stated the money would come from the Stormwater capital outlay line item.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve Invoice # 90655683 from Mon Power in the amount of \$26,492.80 for the Stratton Alley Stormwater Improvement project. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Lee Street Sidewalk demolition project in the amount of \$4,800.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the Lee Street Sidealk demotion project in the amount of \$4,800. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the installation of two electric car charging stations (one at Montwell Commons and one in the downtown Green Space) in the amount of \$1,721.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the installation of two electric car charging stations (one at Montwell Commons and one in the downtown Green Space) in the amount of \$1,721. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

VISITOR'S REPORT:

Greater Greenbrier Recovery Covid-19 Task Force Committee

Aaron Seams representing the Greater Greenbrier Recovery Committee stated he would like to inform City Council about a committee that has been formed in response to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. He stated that conference with folks from Homeland Security, the hospital, the Committee on Aging, Greenbrier County schools, the County Commission, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, local officials, state officials and medical providers will meeting via conference call three times a week being led by Senator Stephen Baldwin. He asked that the City designate a representative to participate in the conference calls.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 25, 2020 Regular Session Minutes

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 regular session minutes as corrected. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

March 5, 2020 Board of Canvass Minutes

Councilmember Blake made a motion to approve the March 5, 2020 Board of Canvass minutes as presented. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Women's History Month

Mayor White read a proclamation celebrating March as Women's History Month.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 285 City Charter Updates, First Reading

City Manager Faulkner stated this ordinance was simply changes that needed to be made to the City Charter to make the Charter in line with changes being made to the Codified Ordinances to clean up the City Code.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve Ordinance 285 on first reading. Councilmember Seams seconded the ordinance. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

Ordinance 286, City Code Updates, first reading

City Manager Faulkner stated these updates were merely changes that needed to be made to the Codified Ordinances to clean up the City Code. She noted that no changes were made to the Zoning Ordinance sections because an ongoing update to the Zoning sections would hopefully be completed within the next 6 months.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve Ordinance 286 as presented. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

Ordinance 287, Medical Marijuana, first reading

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Ordinance 287 on first reading. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Faulkner stated she was going to forgo her usual monthly report to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic. She stated she wanted to get City Council's input on what they thought the City and Faulkner should do in light of the pandemic.

She stated she did not feel the City needed to close the City Parks. She did note that ball practices were still going on that it concerned her. Edwards stated he did not feel it was necessary to close the parks to the public but he was also concerned about ball practice taking place for groups like Little League. She stated she felt like the City could ask citizens not to gather in groups more than ten people and to follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing for safety.

As far as City Operations go she stated that other cities in the state have already closed to the public and that they are not interacting with the public. She stated that she could close the city offices and not allow the public to come into the building. Council members stated they do not feel the public needs to come into the offices and that work could be done over the phone. Chief Teubert stated the Municipal court could issue continuances on all cases for now. She noted there are retail issues at the water plant with citizens

having a need to buy bulk water that need to be worked out. Council tasked Faulkner to work with Roger Pence to make that happen.

Councilmember Edwards stated he felt comfortable with allowing Faulkner to take any necessary precautions for the City and City employees that she felt was needed. Faulkner stated she was thinking the City may need to make provisions for vulnerable or non essential employees. She noted that this would not cover the Police and Fire Department as they are considered essential. Council indicated they trusted Faulkner's assessment of the situation. Councilmember Elkins stated she felt the city should err on the side of caution. Council discussed whether to make employees use their leave if an employee is exhibiting signs of sickness. Some council members asked if it would be possible to abandon the use of sick leave during a pandemic. Etten stated that any at risk employees should be provided the opportunity to go home.

Faulkner stated she would like to cancel all City meetings with the exception of the monthly City Council meeting. She noted the City could hold the City Council meeting via teleconference in April. She stated she was not sure what to do about any HLC or PC applications at this time. She stated she may be able to offer a teleconference option if any applications are received. Councilmember Seams stated the City could reevaluate the need for meetings in 30 day after seeing it was going in the community with the virus Covid-19. Faulkner stated the Mayor had closed the library to the public and that all special events had been suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Stated she had received a thank you note from the Greenbrier East Project Graduation Committee for their recent city grant approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the statewide opioid litigation. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

RE-ADJOURN INTO REGULAR SESSION:

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to re-adjoin into regular session at 10:05 p.m. Councilmember Etten seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to pursue the statewide opioid litigation to recover city costs. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.
Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With (5) in favor and (1) via telephone (Elkins) the motion carried.