

Minutes of City Council
January 18, 2022
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St West, Lewisburg, WV 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, Director of Public Works Tony Legg, Fire Chief Joey Thomas and Treasurer Susan Honaker and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham.

VISITORS: Reporters; Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger, Lyra Bordelon with the West Virginia Daily News and Donna Ward with Region IV Planning & Development Council.

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:

December 21, 2021

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the December 21, 2021 City Council minutes as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Week

Mayor White read a proclamation celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Week in Lewisburg.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Asked to observe a moment of silence in honor Greenbrier County Commissioner Mike McClung's wife Marky McClung who had passed away recently.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

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

Approval of Evidentiary Material for a Storm water study

Donna Ward with Region IV Planning and Development stated approval was needed for the evidentiary materials for the \$250,000 Small Cities grant the City had received to do a storm water study. She stated the evidentiary package needed to be signed by Mayor White. Councilmember Little asked how long it would take until the study was completed. Ward answered that it was a two year process and that it could be 2-3 months before the process got started.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to authorize Mayor White to sign the evidentiary material for the Small Cities grant for a storm water study. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Cares Act reimbursement funding update

City Manager Hill stated that all construction on Parks projects had been closed out. She indicated that a placeholder for \$100,000 for the broadband infrastructure project was in place. She indicated the City was still waiting on Lowe's to deliver the generator for City Hall. She stated the City has expended all Cares Act reimbursement funds.

City Manager Report

- The City was awarded from \$5,000 from the Hollowell Foundation for equipment at the skate park at Hollowell Park.
- Eminent domain cases for right of way easements for the water plant project are being completed.
- Public Works crews have worked through several "snowstorm" events. The City has received praise from numerous citizens on the job they did clearing the roads and sidewalks from snow.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Seams thanked Director of Public Works Legg and the Public Works Streets crews for their hard work during the recent snowstorm over the holiday weekend.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham stated the Planning Commission met in working session on January 6, 2022 to discuss and review regulations for Air B & Bs, medical cannabis, wireless telecommunication facilities, and the permissible use table.

Final Plat, Wal-Mart Property, 1976 Jefferson St. North, Wal-bucks

Cunningham noted the final plat for Wal-Mart Property at 1976 Jefferson St. North for Wal-bucks was on the February 3, 2022 regular session agenda for the Planning Commission.

Parks Commission Report

Councilmember Elkins reported on the following events of the January 4, 2022 Parks Commission meeting:

- New Parks Commission member Ryan King was introduced and welcomed.
- Parks project updates were given.
- Parks member Katie Kilcollin related that she had heard one reason people did not use Dorie Miller Park as much was because there was not a sidewalk to the park from the downtown area. City Manager Hill stated that there were contracts in place to complete that sidewalk from Feamster Road to the former Bolling School Building which is close to Dorie Miller Park. She noted the work was supposed to begin in the spring.

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 18, 2022 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the bid from the lowest bidder (Alpine Tree Service) to remove trees in the rights-of-way for the water system upgrade project in the amount of \$13,350.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to accept the bid from the lowest bidder (Alpine Tree Service) to remove trees in the rights-of-way for the water system upgrade project in the amount of \$13,350. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval to go out for bids for the Public Works building.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to authorize the city administration to go out for bids on the Public Works building. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval the final pay request to Schleiff Construction for the City Hall exterior repairs in the amount of \$33,520.16

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve final pay request to Schleiff Construction for the City Hall exterior repairs in the amount of \$33,520.16. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a .70 cents an hour cost of living increase for all city employees as presented.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve of a .70 cents an hour cost of living increase for all city employees as presented to go into effect on February 3, 2022. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a competitive wage increase in the amount of \$1,000 per year for police officers.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve a competitive wage increase in the amount of \$1,000 per year for police officers. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried. This will be revisited at a later date.

- The Finance Committee discovered the issue related to the Police Department vehicle lease had been resolved.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to indefinitely table the lease purchase of Police vehicles as presented on the February 18, 2022 City Council meeting agenda. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor 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 8:01 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.