

Minutes of City Council
August 16, 2022
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St West, Lewisburg, WV also available VIA a Zoom Teleconference call.

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

VISITORS: Reporter Carolyn Cleaton with the WV Daily News (via ZOOM), Matthew Koepke, Geraldine Rogner, Lance Syner and Anne Dittman (via ZOOM).

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 7:00 p.m.

VISITORS REPORT:

No visitor report was given.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 19, 2022 Regular Session

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the regular session July 19, 2022 City Council minutes. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 305, Amend Article 1375.09 of the Lewisburg City Code
2nd reading & public hearing

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

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 1375.09 OF THE LEWISBURG CITY CODE.”

Mayor White opened the floor for public comment during a public hearing regarding Ordinance 305 at 7:02 p.m. Hearing no comments from the public she closed the hearing.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve Ordinance 305 on first reading. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 306, Revised nuisances, 1st reading

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

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 1111.02 OF THE LEWISBURG CITY CODE.”

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve Ordinance 306, Revised Nuisance on first reading. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 307, Home Rule Application 1% Sales Tax, 2nd reading

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

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LEWISBURG TO SUBMIT AN AMENDED WRITTEN PLAN TO THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE CITY OF LEWISBURG TO ADOPT A MUNICIPAL SALES AND SERVICE TAX AND A MUNICIPAL USE TAX PURSUANT TO W. VA. CODE § 8-1-5a”

Mayor White opened the floor for public comment during a public hearing regarding Ordinance 305 at 7:04 p.m. Hearing no comments from the public she closed the hearing.

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve Ordinance 307 for second reading. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Ordinance 308, Tap rate increase, 1st reading

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

“AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG.”

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve Ordinance 308. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 497, approving invoices relating to services for the water system improvements project and authorizing payment thereof

City Clerk Beatty read the title of the following resolution for passage:

“RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING INVOICES RELATING TO SERVICES FOR THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF”

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Resolution 497. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor White announced the City had received an All Star Community Award in the Enrichment Category for improvements made at Hollowell Park during the West Virginia Municipal League Conference in Morgantown, WV on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:07 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to reconvene into regular session at 7:28 p.m. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Mayor White declared that no decisions had been made in executive session.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Hill noted she had given a report at the August 9, 2022 Finance Committee meeting and that she did not have anything new to share.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Elkins stated a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony would be held on Friday, August 26, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. for the new pickle ball courts at Hollowell Park.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Councilmember Little reported on the following events of the August 4, 2022 Planning Commission meeting:

- Councilmember Little stated the Planning Commission hopes to wrap up the update of the Zoning Ordinances within the next 3-4 months.

- An informational training session was recently held by Christy DeMuth and Jesse Richardson of WVU Law for members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission. They learned that conditional use permits should be reviewed and completed by the Board of Zoning Appeals not the Planning Commission.
- Little noted that they learned during the training that if variances of specific type come up often they should be reviewed to see if they need to be changed like fence heights. The BZA gets a lot of requests for 6 foot high fences. He stated that approval of variances should be uncommon.
- City Manager Hill noted they learned that a variance should be seen as a hardship on the property not the owner. Councilmember Little stated it was a hard concept to understand at first.

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.

- Chief Teubert stated that Fair traffic was going well. He noted traffic on Saturday, August 13, was really busy.
- He noted the new police department cruisers should be ready in two weeks.

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 August 9, 2022 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a bid in the amount of \$4,170,000 from DCI Shires for the Public Works Building.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve a bid in the amount of \$4,170,000 from DCI Shires for the Public Works Building. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a bid and purchase of a zero trim Hustler brand mower in the amount of \$12,500 from Legacy Land and Lawn Equipment.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve a bid and purchase of a zero trim Hustler brand mower in the amount of \$12,500 from Legacy Land and Lawn Equipment. 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.

- Director of Public Works Legg stated he needed volunteers for the Lead and Copper pipe testing. He stated he needed 22 volunteers to sign up for the program. They can call Shannon at City Hall to sign up for the program.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.