

Minutes of City Council

September 19, 2023

Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 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, Valerie Pritt & Arron Seams; City Manager Misty Hill, City Clerk Shannon Beatty, Police Chief Teubert, Deputy Chief Jonathon Hughes, Fire Chief Joseph Thomas, Director of Public Works Tony Legg and Treasurer Susan Honaker

ABSENT: Councilmember Franklin Johnson

VISITORS: Reporter Carolyn Cleaton with the WV Daily News (ZOOM), Reporter Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger; Greg Belcher with Chapman Technical (ZOOM), Pat Bauserman, Donna & Phil Scibilia; Mike Kidd, Board President for the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Center, Kara Dense, Executive Director of the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Center; Mary Cole Dietz, Beth Gill and Delilah Dixon employees of the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Center; Danny Gray & Darren Campbell with the Greenbrier Valley Shrine; Phyllis Johnson, Karen Johnson; Tammy Shifflett Tincher Greenbrier County Commissioner; Travis Blosser Executive Director of the West Virginia Municipal League; Margaret Hambrick, with the Greenbrier Historical Society; Bruce Ramsey, Lewisburg Fire Fighter/Driver/Operator; Jake Teubert, Lewisburg Fire Fighter/Driver/Operator; Jason Boone, Lewisburg Fire Department Chief's Aide; Amber Sanford, Lewisburg Police Department receptionist and Kelly Gwinn, Lewisburg Municipal Court Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

Travis Blosser, the Executive Director of the West Virginia Municipal League presented Mayor Beverly White with two awards that she had been given at the August 2023 West Virginia Municipal League Conference in Wheeling, WV: The Lydia Main Breaking Boundaries award and an induction in the West Virginia Municipal League Hall of Fame for her 20 years of service in City Government. Blosser also presented Mayor White with a plaque, medal and award for her induction as an honoree at the Governor's Civil Rights Day for advancing Civil Rights in the State of West Virginia through advocacy. Mayor White had been honored for her work in civil rights by Governor Jim Justice at a ceremony on August 25, 2023.

RESOLUTION:

Resolution 530, Water System Improvement Project Pay Request #16

City Clerk Beatty read the title of Resolution 530 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 530 in the amount of \$1,451,169.37 Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

Resolution 531, Public Works Building Pay Request #7

City Clerk Beatty read the title of Resolution 531 for passage:

“RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING INVOICES
RELATING TO SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.”

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Resolution 531 in the amount of \$207,450.00 Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Greenbrier Valley Shrine Day

Mayor Beverly White read a proclamation naming September 23, 2023 as Greenbrier Valley Shrine Day 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Greenbrier County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau Annual Report

Kara Dense the President and CEO of the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau presented the annual report to City Council. She noted the CVB had recently finished the accreditation process with the CVB association. She stated they had to be accredited to receive any funds. Dense indicated they had brought back the mini grant program last year and had granted \$13,000 to local entities. They have also completed a brand refresh and are looking forward to making changes at the Visitor’s Center in downtown Lewisburg with new furniture and paint.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

- City Manager Hill asked Greg Belcher from Chapman Technical to give a water system improvement project update:
- He indicated that 81% of the work on project #6 was complete on Dwyer Lane, Ruffner Lane and Teaberry Road. He stated crews would begin flushing, testing and disinfecting

the lines soon. He estimated that after the work was complete that paving would occur by November 1, 2023.

- Belcher noted that project #8 which is the water plant is approximately 51% complete
- Project #8A which includes the intake pump is 73% complete.
- Project #10, the finished water line is 98% complete.
- Project #10a, the new water tank at Yates is 49% complete.
- Project #10b, the new tank at Ruffer is just getting started and is only 11% complete.
- Project #11, painting the new tank at Ruffner has not been started yet.
- He stated that some has been spent of out the original \$2.6 million contingency fund on land right of way costs and the old sludge at the water plant.
- City Manager Mill reported the new “My Lewisburg” app will be released on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. She stated she was very excited about the app. The app was created by Go.gov. Hill stated she feels the app will help with communication to the public. The City will be able to use the app to communicate about city water advisories, road work, meetings and emergencies, etc.
- The Lafayette Street sidewalk project is set to begin in 3 weeks.
- Is meeting with the City’s historic preservation consultant Michael Mills on the wayfaring signage project on Thursday, September 21. She announced the wayfaring kiosk would be located between the outdoor piano beside City Hall and the City National Bank Parking Lot.
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COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission Chair Little reported that a working session of the Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

- The Planning Commission reviewed the Draft Zoning Ordinance and the Permissible Use Table with part of the discussion centering on Air BnBs in the City.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmembers Pritt and Seams thanked City Manager Hill for her hard work with the “My Lewisburg” App. They both indicated they were excited about the new application.

Councilmembers Elkins, Little, Seams and Pritt stated they were proud to work with Mayor White and congratulated her on her recent awards.

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:

Public Safety Committee Report

Public Safety Chair Councilmember Seams stated the Public Safety Committee recommended the hire of Jeff Vance as a Corporal with the Police Department with a starting salary of \$47,800.00 with a three month probationary period. After the three month probationary period, he will receive a \$1,200.00 annual increase.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to hire Jeff Vance as a Corporal with the Police Department with a starting salary of \$47,800.00 with a three month probationary period. After the three month probationary period, he will receive a \$1,200.00 annual increase.

Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Johnson)

Finance Committee report

Councilmember Seams reported on the following events of the August 8, 2023 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended that to allow the City of Lewisburg to act as project sponsor for a pass through grant for the Greenbrier Historical Society with a matching share of \$5,250.00 paid by the Greenbrier Historic Society leaving \$12,250.00 for the grant with a total of \$17,500.00 with the State Historic Preservation Office at no cost to the City of Lewisburg.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to allow the City of Lewisburg to act as project sponsor for a pass through grant for the Greenbrier Historical Society with a matching share of \$5,250.00 paid by the Greenbrier Historic Society leaving \$12,250.00 for the grant with a total of \$17,500.00 with the State Historic Preservation Office at no cost to the City of Lewisburg.

Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended the dirt excavated from the Public Works Building site on Stonehouse Road be sold to the public to drivers having the proper insurance, they must accept all responsibility for the load and hauling. Dirt is to be paid for at City Hall and scheduling for pick up to be arranged with the Director of Public Works at \$50 a load.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to allow the dirt excavated from the Public Works Building site on Stonehouse Road to be sold to the public to insured drivers, they must accept all responsibility for the load and hauling. Dirt is to be paid for at City Hall and scheduling for pick up to be arranged with the Director of Public Works at \$50 a load. Councilmember Little

seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended the appointment of City Council member Arron Seams, Mayor Beverly White, City Manager Misty Hill, Treasurer Susan Honaker and local citizen Collette Lewis to the 2023 Fiscal Year Audit Procurement Committee.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to appoint City Council member Arron Seams, Mayor Beverly White, City Manager Misty Hill, Treasurer Susan Honaker and local citizen Collette Lewis to the 2023 Fiscal Year Audit Procurement Committee. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five in favor and one absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT:

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session, August 15, 2023

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Regular Session August 15, 2023 minutes. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Johnson) the motion carried.

VISITOR'S REPORTS:

Pat Bauserman approached City Council to inform them of a situation that has occurred at the top of the hill of Route 60 West near Windhaven Lane. Each year when Mon Power has their contractors trim trees near the electric lines, the contractors leave behind tree limb debris. The debris has built up over many years and is causing an eyesore. Bauserman states the contractor won't clean up the area because it is not a lawn area. She has contacted Mon Power, Asplundh Tree Trimming and the New River Technical and Community College without being able to secure help in having the area cleaned up. As well there are natural gas lines situated above the ground on the campus area of NRTC which create a public safety issue. Bauserman has reached out to Lewisburg Fire Chief Thomas who has been trying to get a hold of NRTC to see if they are willing to help clean this area. Thomas stated that City Attorney White has indicated the City cannot enforce zoning regulations on State owned property like the college campus.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Johnson) the motion carried.