

Minutes of City Council

October 17, 2023

Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 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, Franklin Johnson, John Little, & Arron Seams; City Clerk Shannon Beatty, Police Chief Christopher Teubert, Fire Chief Joseph Thomas, Director of Public Works Tony Legg and Treasurer Susan Honaker

ABSENT: Councilmember Valerie Pritt and City Manager Misty Hill

VISITORS: Reporter Carolyn Cleaton with the WV Daily News (ZOOM), Reporter Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger; Mary Surbaugh, Avery, Aaron & Eden McGuffin, Pam Hanlan, Steve Wilson and Khael Adaman.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

RESOLUTION:

Resolution 532, Water System Improvement Project Pay Request #17

City Clerk Beatty read the title of Resolution 532 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 532 in the amount of \$1,528,270.43 Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

Resolution 533, Public Works Building Pay Request #8

City Clerk Beatty read the title of Resolution 533 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 533 in the amount of \$306,000.00 Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

National Farmers Market Week

Mayor White introduced and congratulated 10 year old Avery McGuffin and her sponsor Mary Surbaugh. Avery was chosen as the 2023 Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture on August 11, 2023 by the WV State Commissioner of Agriculture.

Mayor Beverly White read a proclamation naming August 6-12, 2023, 2023 as National Farmers Market Week in Lewisburg.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Lewisburg wins awards at the America in Bloom Symposium

Mayor White stated that Lewisburg in Bloom Coordinator Shannon Beatty had accepted a plaque honoring Lewisburg's Floral Impact and an Outstanding Achievement Award for Floral Impact across all of the population categories at the America in Bloom Symposium in Greenwood, SC on Saturday, September 30. Mayor White thanked Shannon, the Public Works crews and the Lewisburg in Bloom Volunteers for their hard work.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission Chair Little reported that a working session of the Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

- The Planning Commission reviewed the Draft Zoning Ordinance and the Permissible Use Table with part of the discussion centering on short term rentals, signs and meeting constitutional requirements. They found out they have to offer a permissible space in a zone for shooting ranges to meet the constitutional rights of citizens.
- Little noted that City Attorney Tom White will review all the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinances. He stated the Planning Commission is hoping to present a draft of the Zoning Ordinance changes to City Council in January and February.

Parks Commission Report

Parks Commission Chair Elkins reported on the following events from the Tuesday, October 3, 2023 parks Commission meeting:

- Courtesy issues at the Pickleball Court were discussed such as loud music, playing without shirts or wearing flip flops, using foul language and playing for too long. It was discovered that some of these issues could be addressed in the City's latest nuisance ordinance and that others were of a nature the Parks Commissioners did not want to address as they were matters of taste. It was decided the Pickle Ball Court would use a

commonly practices “Paddle System”. A paddle would be placed in a box letting players know they wished to use the court after the current game had ended.

- The wood chips had been refreshed at the Dorie Miller Park playground and that the lights have arrived for Hollowell Park’s Little League Field.
- Elkins stated the Parks Commission will not hold any meetings until March 2024 unless it is necessary to do so.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Councilmember Little stated that it seemed like the Taste of Our Town Festival went well during the weekend of October 14th.
- Councilmember Seams wished Mayor White and Councilmember Johnson a Happy Belated Birthday.

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.

Councilmember Johnson asked Chief Thomas what the hours for a burning permit currently were. Thomas answered that burning was permitted between the hours of 5 pm until 7 am.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

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

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of Sam Mcmillion for a pay increase from \$20.90 an hour to the amount of \$22.20 an hour for obtaining a Class III Water Plant Operator certification, this would not include the \$2.00 an hour night shift differential pay.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to of Sam Mcmillion for a pay increase from \$20.90 an hour to the amount of \$22.20 an hour for obtaining a Class III Water Plant Operator certification, beginning on Thursday, October 26, 2023, this would not include the \$2.00 an hour night shift differential pay. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the annual year end employee incentive pay as presented.

•
Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the annual year end employee incentive pay as presented. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the employee end of the year luncheon activity allowance in the amount of \$25 per employee.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the employee end of the year luncheon activity allowance in the amount of \$25 per employee. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval to hire Makenna Blankenship as an officer beginning on November 1, 2023 with a starting salary of \$39,496.00.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to hire Makenna Blankenship as an officer beginning on November 1, 2023 with a starting salary of \$39,496.00, with a pay increase coming after she receives her certification as outlined in the Police Department Pay Scale. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

Chief Teubert stated the Police was excited to have Makenna joining them.

Public Safety Committee Report

Public Safety Chair Councilmember Seams stated the Public Safety Committee met and recommended the hire of Makenna Blankenship as an uncertified officer with the Police Department with a salary of \$39,496 with a starting date of November 1, 2023.

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, September 17, 2023

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Regular Session September 17, 2023 minutes. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.

VISITOR'S REPORTS:

No reports were given.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Pritt) the motion carried.