

Minutes of City Council
August 20, 2019
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul R Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St West, Lewisburg, WV.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White, Recorder Shannon Beatty; Council members, Heather Blake, Sarah Elkins, Mark Etten, Edward Johns and Arron Seams. Treasurer Susan Honaker, City Manager Jacy Faulkner, Director of Public Works Roger Pence, Police Chief Chris Teubert, Fire Chief Joseph Thomas, Assistant City Manager Misty Hill and Zoning Officer Gary Ford.

VISITORS: Reporters Peggy Mackenzie with the Mountain Messenger; Bobby Bordelon with the West Virginia Daily News and Tina Alvey with the Register Herald; Bill Dyer, Jim Morgan, Jr., Donna Johns, Emil Stalis, Bryon Rausenberger, Lance Syner, Elizabeth Clark and Molly Arbogast, Bobbie & Angus McIvor.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Recorder Beatty presented the invocation and Council member Seams 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:

July 16, 2019

Councilmember Blake made a motion to approve the July 16, 2019 City Council minutes as presented. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

West Virginia Municipal League Conference Update

Mayor White reported the City had received an All Star Community Enhancement award at the conference for the work the Public Works Department has done with eliminating the use of Round up in the City Parks.

She noted the City has also received a certificate from the National League of Cities for participation in the National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program.

She announced that City Recorder Shannon Beatty had been named the West Virginia Municipal League City Recorder/Clerk of the Year for 2018/19.

Greenbrier Community School Update

Lance Syner stated the Greenbrier Episcopal School now called the Greenbrier Community School had purchased the Bolling School Building on the corner of Oak and Maple Street in 2018. He noted The Greenbrier Community school plans to renovate and move into the Bolling School building by June 2020.

Employee Health Insurance Update

Bill Dyer with Jaybrook Insurance Agency, Inc. gave an update highlighting the renewal status of the Lewisburg self-funded employee health insurance plan. He noted the plan has been in effect since 1995 and has been beneficial to the City and the employees. Misty Hill, stated that there are many benefits to the plan. One being the amount that each employee pays is based on their salary.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 284, update codified ordinances, second reading & public hearing

Recorder Shannon Beatty read the following ordinance by title for second reading:

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2017 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG.”

Mayor White opened the public hearing for comment at 7:53 p.m. hearing no comments from the public she closed the hearing.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 284 on first reading. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Ed Johns stated he would like to meet with Mayor White about a setting up a Public Safety Committee meeting.

Councilmember Ed Johns noted that according to the new City Charter section 3.08 (4) the City Manager needs to submit monthly financial reports to the Council. He asked when the City Manager would start giving these reports. City Manager Faulkner stated that these reports had not been presented in the past. However, she noted she would present any reports that Council wanted her to do. City Treasurer Honaker stated she would provide a report at the September meeting. Councilmember Seams noted that a Finance Committee meeting had not been held in July at which time to give such a report.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Zoning Officer Gary Ford reported on the following events of the August 1, 2019 Planning Commission meeting:

- A working session of the Planning Commission will be held on September 4.
- The regular session will be held on September 5.
- A review of the consistency of the draft zoning map with the future land use map was held at the August 1 meeting with Whitney Morgan from WVU Law.

Parks Commission Report

Councilmember Sarah Elkins reported on the following events of the August 6, 2019 Parks Commission meeting:

- Roger Pence gave a presentation to the Parks Commission about “Pickle Ball” The Commission discussed areas at Hollowell Park or Dorie Miller Park where a pickle ball court could be established.
- Roger Pence updated the Parks Commission concerning ongoing Parks project updates.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Teubert reported the Police Department received 296 calls for service over the past month. 67 traffic stops, 41 citations, 17 misdemeanors, 9 felonies and 11 traffic crashes.

He announced that Gina McClure had made a \$2,000 donation to the Police Department in honor of the late City Councilmember Wade McClure.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Thomas reported the Fire Department had received 106 emergency calls over the past month.

He noted that FEMA will allow the Fire Department to use The SAFER (\$108,000) grant money to pay for training expenses instead of college reimbursement expenses as it originally indicated. The money has to be used by December 5, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

Councilmember Etten reported on the following events of the August 13, 2019 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of an Arts and Humanities grant request in the amount of \$7,000 for outdoor lighting, improvements, marketing and promotional expense from Carnegie Hall.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the Arts and Humanities grant request from Carnegie Hall in the amount of \$7,000 for outdoor lighting, improvements, marketing and promotional expense. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval to purchase Tasers for the Police Department as presented, on the condition the description of the side effect on victims when used be more specific. Questions came up regarding the legality of entering into a five year contract for the tasers which extend beyond the length of time Councilmembers are on Council.

Councilmember Johns made a motion to purchase the Tasers for the Police Department as presented, pending approval by City Attorney Tom White and that an update of the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) to add tasers be completed. Councilmember Etten seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval to purchase nine single layer bunker gear sets as presented in the amount of \$7,877.83

Councilmember Etten made a motion to purchase nine single layer bunker gear seats in the amount of \$7,877.83 for the Fire Department. Councilmember Johns seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the “write off” of delinquent water accounts as presented.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the “write off” of delinquent water accounts as presented at the August 2019 Finance Committee meeting. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of salary adjustments for an increase of \$.50 cents an hour for Ryan Bostic and Travis Howard for green space play fountain maintenance certification specifying the salary adjustment will only continue as long as the certification remains valid.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve salary adjustments for an increase of \$.50 cents an hour for Ryan Bostic and Travis Howard for green space play fountain maintenance certification specifying the salary adjustment will only continue as long as the certification remains valid. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of a \$.70 cents an hour Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) with adjustment to pay scale for fulltime city employees effective September 5, 2019.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve a \$.70 cents an hour Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) with adjustment to pay scale for fulltime city employees effective September 5, 2019. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Public Works Committee Report

Director of Public Works Pence reported on the following events of the August 13, 2019 Public Works Committee meeting:

- Data has been collected regarding a citizen request to place a speed hump on Foster Street, Echols Lane and Davis Street. However, the Committee concluded that more data needed to be collected after school started.
- An update was given regarding ongoing Public Works projects.
- The total percentage of unaccounted for water loss in the water system was 37.29% for the month of July.

- The extension of the gravel on the Safe Routes to School project from the Greenbrier County Library to the Lewisburg Elementary School through the Confederate Cemetery will begin soon.

Councilmember Johns stated that a Public Safety Committee meeting needs to be held to discuss the safety of City streets soon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.