

Minutes of City Council
February 16, 2021
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. VIA a Zoom Teleconference call because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White, Recorder Shannon Beatty, Council members, Heather Blake, Josh Edwards, Sarah Elkins, Mark Etten, and Arron Seams, Treasurer Susan Honaker, City Manager Misty Hill, Fire Chief Joseph Thomas, Planning & Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham, Director of Public Works Roger Pence and Police Chief Chris Teubert.

VISITORS: Reporter Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger, Tina Alvey with the Beckley Register Herald; Rebecca Stalanker with the WV Daily News, Jean Markum and Tom White.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 19, 2021

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the January 19, 2021 regular session minutes as corrected. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 290, amend the Zoning Ordinance by rewriting the Planned Unit Development portion of the zoning ordinance, by among other things, changing allowed uses and densities, 1st reading.

Recorder Beatty stated that City Attorney White had informed the administration that Ordinance 290 needed to be presented as a first reading again because of the number of changes made to the ordinance after the January 2021 City Council meeting and the original first reading.

Recorder Beatty read the following ordinance by title for first reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLES 1335, 1339, 1351, AND 1355 OF PART THIRTEEN, CHAPTER THREE, OF THE LEWISBURG CITY CODE, REGARDING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS.”

Councilmembers discussed changes to the ordinance which included language to clarify what features restaurants and/or bars in the development are permissible such as drive-thrus, delivery service or consumption outside the structure. Councilmember Etten stated the Planning Commission did not recommend allowing drive-thru service to be permissible in the Planned Unit Development. Councilmembers Edwards and Seams stated they did not agree with not allowing drive-thru service to be permissible. Edwards stated he favored allowing the developer to choose what features to include in the Planned Unit Development.

Mayor White opened a public hearing at 7:57 p.m. Hearing no comments and having received no written comments from the public, she closed the public hearing at 7:58 p.m. Councilmember Edwards questioned whether the public hearing should have been listed on the City Council agenda as it was on the January City Council meeting. City Manager Hill stated she would try to call City Attorney White to ask him to join the Zoom teleconference meeting. After White joined the meeting he stated the public hearing must be advertised in a local newspaper at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Recorder Beatty stated that it was already past 15 days when she had been informed to change the reading from second to first reading in time to post the agenda.

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to table Ordinance 290 until the March, 2021 City Council meeting. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Black History Month

Mayor White read a proclamation honoring February as Black History Month in Lewisburg.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor White announced the City had received a certificate of appreciation from the 2020 US Census for the City's participation as a valuable member of the partnership program.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

City Hall Rental Space Lease

City Manager Hill stated that the rental space lease had been changed to require the tenant pay the electric utilities and that the monthly rent was set at \$900.

Monthly Report

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

1. Hill has been participating in the West Virginia Municipal League, the Covid Task Force and the Governor's teleconference meetings weekly.
2. Worked on and participated in meetings regarding the annual insurance renewal.
3. Processed and distributed W2 forms for the City employees
4. Held meetings regarding the Route 219 North and Lafayette Street sidewalk projects.
5. Working with the Police Department to begin the process to hire a new officer.
6. Attended Planning Commission, Historic Landmark Commission and Parks Commission meetings.

VISITORS REPORT:

No communications were given.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

No communications were given.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham reported on the following events of the February 4, 2021 Planning Commission meeting:

- The Planning Commission held a discussion regarding signage with Christy DeMuth from the WVU Law Center. The Commission has been working with DeMuth for several years to update the zoning portions of the Codified Ordinances. Cunningham remarked that a lengthy discussion was held regarding the size of political signs.
- A Minor Subdivision at 124 Dorsey Street for Cathy Jones was approved as presented.
- The Commission discussed items 19, 20 and 21 of Ordinance 290 regarding Planned Unit Developments.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2021.

Parks Commission Report

Parks Commission Chairperson Sarah Elkins reported on the following events of the February 2, 2021 Parks Commission meeting:

- The Parks Commission reviewed needs at Hollowell Park and with the help of the Director of Public Works Pence came up with a list of upgrades for the park.
- City Manager Hill suggested the Parks Commission work with the City engineers to develop a comprehensive plan for Hollowell Park and the Parks system.
- Updates to the Pickle Ball courts were discussed.
- Upgrades to the Little League field were discussed as requested by the Central Greenbier Little League. They would like to upgrade the field to install synthetic AstroTurf instead of grass. They had applied for an Arts and Humanities grant with the City. However, it was determined that because the Park belongs to the City that was not a viable option.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Teubert reported the Police Department answered 198 calls for service in January.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Thomas reported the Fire Department responded to 63 emergency calls in January.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair Mark Etten reported on the following events of the February 9, 2020 Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Commission had recommended renewal of the current employee health insurance plan with Certus Sirius of America for the 2021-2022 plan year with a target maximum cost of \$976,306.20.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to renew the current employee health insurance plan with Certus Sirius of America for the 2021-2022 plan year with a target maximum cost of \$976,306.20. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Revision #1.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve the General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Revision #1. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of grant funds and design plans for the repair of the sidewalk on Lafayette Street from Washington Street to the small alley.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to approve grant funds and design plans for the repair of the sidewalk on Lafayette Street from Washington Street to the small alley. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of upgrades for the Streets and Parks Facilities building on Feamster Road in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

Councilmember Etten made a motion to upgrades for the Streets and Parks Facilities building on Feamster Road in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Director of Public Works Roger Pence reported on the following items of interest:

- Several small snow events have been experienced over the past month.
- The Parks & Street division has been working on the new office building on Feamster Road.

- The Water Distribution division has been doing meter testing, meter box upgrades, meter reads, leak repairs and line upgrade work.
- Two water employees will be taking a water distribution class to test for their license.
- The Water Plant is preparing a proposal for water tank inspections and an upcoming sanitary survey.
- The Public Works Department has been releasing information to the public concerning the recent unregulated contaminants report that came out about the water system.
- After a security breach regarding a small water system in Florida, Lewisburg water employees met with the City engineers to discuss security measures for the City's online water system access. Pence stated the City engineers have assured us the City's water system security is strong. A few Water employees are now taking a continuing education class on water system security concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss the Barnette Property. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to reconvene into regular session at 10:01 p.m. Councilmember Blake seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.

Councilmember Edwards stated that no decisions were made in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried.