

Minutes of City Council
June 18, 2024
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington St. West, Lewisburg, WV. available VIA a Zoom Teleconference call.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White. City Manager Misty Hill. Councilmembers, Sarah Elkins, Franklin Johnson and John Little: City Clerk Shannon Beatty. Fire Chief Joseph Thomas. Police Chief Christopher Teubert. Director of Public Works Tony Legg and Treasurer Susan Honaker

ABSENT: Councilmember Arron Seams and Valerie Pritt

VISITORS: Adrienne French, Cheryl Gilman Dobbs, Dr. Bridgett Morrison and reporters Sarah Richardson with the Mountain Messenger (ZOOM) and Annie Slonaker with the WV Daily News (ZOOM).

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 554

City Clerk Shannon Beatty read the title of Resolution 554 in the amount of \$388,747.48 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 554 in the amount of \$388,747.48 for passage. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Resolution 556

City Clerk Shannon Beatty read the title of Resolution 556 in the amount of \$2,850.00 for passage:

“RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING INVOICES RELATING TO ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF LEWISBURG STORMWATER ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STUDY AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.”

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Resolution 556 in the amount of \$2,850.00 as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Ordinance 319

City Clerk Shannon Beatty read the title of Ordinance 319 for second reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA, REPEALING THE CURRENT PART THIRTEEN, CHAPTER 3- ZONING, ARTICLES 1331-1383, AND OTHER CONFLICTING SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE AND ENACTING A NEW ZONING ORDINANCE TO BE DESIGNATED AS PART THIRTEEN, CHAPTER 3: ZONING, LEWISBURG CITY CODE”

Mayor White opened the floor for a public hearing regarding Ordinance 319 at 7:02 pm. Hearing no comments from the public, she closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve Ordinance 319 as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Appointment to Mountain Transit Authority, Shannon Beatty, Three Years

Mayor White offered the name of Shannon Beatty for reappointment to the Mountain Transit Authority Board for a three-year term. Councilmember Little made a motion to reappoint Shannon Beatty to the Mountain Transit Authority Board for a three-year term. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Appointment to Historic Landmark Commission and Library Board

Mayor White offered the name of Skip Deegans for reappointment to the Lewisburg Historic Landmark Commission for a three-year term.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to reappoint Skip Deegans to a three-year term on the Lewisburg Historic Landmark Commission. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Appointment to the Greenbrier County Library Board of Directors (City Library)

Mayor White offered the name of Jim Rowe for reappointment to the Greenbrier County Library Board of Directors for a 5-year term.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to reappoint Jim Rowe to the Greenbrier County Library Board of Directors for a 5-year term. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Harm Reduction

Mayor White introduced Dr. Bridgett Morrison who explained what Harm Reduction is to City Council. Dr. Morrison explained that a major component of the programs is a syringe exchange, in which patients suffering from substance use disorders turn in used needles in return for sterile syringes.

Greenbrier's harm reduction program began in March 2018 and currently serves, on average, between 50 and 80 individuals per week, although the patient count occasionally rises to as many as 110 participants. Numbers fell during the pandemic. She said that needle exchanges are made on a one-to-one basis, meaning program participants must bring in used needles to obtain fresh, sterile needles. When we get a report that a used needle has been found in a public place, we send somebody out to pick it up, but that's rare here. Harm reduction really helps to limit that. Participants must exchange needles to get needles, and we really watch the quantities that are being given out. She stated that through syringe exchanges, harm reduction programs limit the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis," Morrison said. Those diseases are often spread by people who use injectable drugs and share needles rather than using a new, sterile needle for each injection. She stated that Hep C and HIV in the state have decreased since harm reduction started. She stated that Greenbrier County is 100% compliant with state laws regarding harm reduction.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Cyber Insurance proposal – Assured Partners

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the Cyber Insurance proposal as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Arts & Humanities Green Space renovation (\$7,000)

City Manager Misty Hill stated this would be a renovation of the back brick wall and flower bed and a temporary shade structure and temporary stage in the greenspace in the amount of \$7,000 adding to the funds already set aside for the greenspace renovation fund.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the Arts & Humanities Green Space renovation fund request in the amount of \$7,000 for the renovation of the back brick wall and flower bed and a temporary shade structure and temporary stage in the greenspace. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Contract approval for the Lewisburg Historic Survey Update grant project

Councilmember Little made a motion to table this contract approval until June 26, 2024. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion.

Councilmembers had concerns about the difference in price between the highest and lowest bidder and would like time to review their bid proposals.

With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Donation of recycling truck to Greenworks Recycling

City Manager Hill stated that City Attorney White learned the City cannot make a donation to a nonprofit organization. The City is considering leasing the vehicle to them.

Police Department buy out of agreement for compensation for new hire

Chief Teubert stated it was common practice and a standard of the state code to allow police departments to buy out or pay back what it cost another department to train an officer. He noted that Jacob Thomas owes the Town of Alderson \$8,843.

Councilmember Little made a motion to pay \$8,843 to the Town of Alderson to buy out the remaining cost of Jacob Thomas's training pending his hire with the City of Lewisburg. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Council Chamber bathroom tile renovation

City Manager Misty Hill stated that before the outdoor bathrooms were renovated to be used all the time the Council Chamber bathroom saw a lot of use. This bathroom needs new tile using commercial grout. The bathroom is over 20 years old.

Councilmember Little made a motion to accept the proposal by Creative Kitchens in the amount of \$10,117.59 for a Council Chamber Bathroom tile renovation as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Greenspace parking electric car charger

The electric car charging station had to be removed from the greenspace parking lot when the electric poles were renovated in Stratton Alley. City Manager Hill stated she would like to put a new electric car charger station that is "a pay to charge" version in the greenspace parking lot at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to purchase a "pay to charge" electric car charger in the greenspace parking lot at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Monday Mashup

City Manager Misty Hill stated she would like to set up a day for food trucks to set up in six parking spaces downtown (in front of Carnegie Hall and the New River Technical and Community College on Mondays. It would be called Monday Mashup where a select number of food trucks could set up from the hours of 10 am until 3 pm. She stated that an application would be approved by the City Manager and would cost \$20 to set up. The 3 pm closing time would ensure that city crews would have time to clean up after the trucks. She stated she hoped the inaugural Monday Mashup would begin in July.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to authorize City Manager Hill to move forward with the Monday Mashup. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Councilmember Little reported on the following events of the Thursday, June 6, 2024, Planning Commission meeting:

Conditional Use Permit, Patrick Shea, Shea Living Trust, 1546 Washington St. East, 3 plus bedroom Air BnB, Public Hearing

Mayor White opened a public hearing at 7:41 p.m. for a conditional use permit for Patrick Shea, Shea Living Trust, 1546 Washington St East for a 3 plus bedroom Air BnB. Hearing no comments from the public she closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the conditional use permit as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and one (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Parks Commission Report

Councilmember Elkins reported on the following events of the Tuesday, June 4, 2024 Parks Commission meeting:

Elkins reported that the main item of discussion was regarding special event field reservations. She stated that members would like to see the reservation fee to use the ball fields increase from \$10 to \$250 with the Parks Commission having the right to waive the fee.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

No communications were given.

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 Councilmember had any questions for Chief Thomas.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee Report

City Manager Hill reported on the following events of the June 11, 2024 Finance Committee meeting:

Greenworks Recycling contract renewal for recycling

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to renew the recycling contract with Greenworks Recycling at a cost not to exceed \$77,064 as presented. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Arts & Humanities Funding Request – Lewisburg Literary Festival

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve an Arts and Humanities Funding request from the Lewisburg Literary Festival in the amount of \$6,000. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – WV Water Development

Authority Grant Extension

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the water system improvement project with the WV Development Authority EEG Grant for an extension until November 30, 2024. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – Change Order #2 Contract #8, Hayslett Construction Company, Inc.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – Change Order #2 Contract #8, Hayslett Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$315,298.01. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Dogwood Heights Stormwater Project Pay Request #3 and final – Bear Contracting, Inc.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the Dogwood Heights Stormwater Project Pay Request #3 and final for Bear Contracting as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Mills Group – Contract Renewal

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the renewal of the contract with the Mills Group as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Human Resources Contract – AK Bridget the Gap Human Resource Consulting

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the human resources contract with AK Bridget the Gap Human Resource Consulting as presented. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Contract with Wanda Daniels – Water Plant Operator

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve a contract with Wanda Daniels, water plant operator for services to fill in as a Class III Water Plant operator for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending January 1, 2026 at the rate of \$30 per hour for actual hour worked. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine – Police Contract

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve a contract with the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Lewisburg Police Department to provide security services as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Police Department new hires

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve hiring Jacob Thomas (certified officer) and Ryan Johnson (uncertified officer) pending completion of their mandatory training with a hire date of June 30, 2024. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Guidelines and fee structure for use of ballfields at City Parks

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the guidelines and fee structure for the use of ballfields at City Parks as presented with the fee going from \$10 to \$250 (for profit) for use of the ballfields. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Lost Trail Studio Agreement – Water Plant Training

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve an agreement with Lost Trail Studio in the amount of \$24,816.00 for water plant training as presented. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

City Hall Interior restoration bid approval

Councilmember Little made a motion to accept the bid from Greenbrier Interiors for the City Hall Interior restoration at a cost not to exceed \$20,332.52. Councilmember Johnson seconded the bid. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) the motion carried.

Employee Picnic

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve purchasing the food from Jim's Drive at a cost of \$900.00 and soft navy lunch bags at \$65.00 each for the employee picnic. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and two (2) absent (Seams and Pritt) 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.

Director of Public Works Legg stated the City still needed participants in the Lead and Copper Testing Program in order to meet the July deadline. Legg stated the City lacked 13 homes to meet the goal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session, April 16, 2024

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Regular Session April 16, 2024 minutes with one correction. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Little) the motion carried.

VISITOR'S REPORTS: No reports were given.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Little) the motion carried.