Minutes of City Council Tuesday June 17, 2025 Regular Session

The City of Lewisburg, City Council met in regular session on Tuesday June 17, 2025, 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.

<u>COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Mayor Beverly White; Councilmembers, Sarah Elkins, Franklin Johnson, John Little, Valerie Pritt and Arron Seams, City Manager Misty Hill, Clerk Crystal Ratliff, Police Chief Christopher Teubert, Treasurer Susan Honaker, Planning and Zooming officer Nick Sloan.

<u>VISITORS:</u> Caylann Cox Miss Teen Shanghai, Josh Lambert (Zoom), Sarah Richardson (Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 583 Water Treatment plant Improvement Project Pay request # 40

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Little to approve Resolution 583 in the amount of \$92,770.65. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor White read a Proclamation for National Garden Week.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor White acknowledged and welcomed visitor Miss Teen Shanghai Caylann Cox. Miss Cox told of some of the activities she has been involved in while representing the City and what the future holds for her. Mayor White thanked her for coming and wished her well on her future.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager Hill stated she was happy to announce the delivery of the WayFinding Kiosk is scheduled for tomorrow June 18, 2025. It will be placed at the entrance to the bank parking lot. This has been a three-year project collaborating with the CVB, LDBA and The Mills Group

City Manager Hill stated that even though we are not fully online with the upgrade the Water Plant is working great with all the recent rain. The intake is able to shut down and reboot when

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the water gets too muddy and murky, and the extra filters have helped. We are very appreciative of all the hard work from the Public Works and Water Plant employees.

City Manager Hill and Public Works Director Legg are working on the chain link fence for the Dog Park and will be presenting it to Finance in July.

City Manager Hill stated the Comprehensive Plan is currently active. It is available online and paper copies are available at City Hall to be filled out.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Little stated he was disappointed in the low number of citizens that turned out to vote and the lack of participation at the City Council meetings. People will voice their complaints but are not willing to participate to make changes. He stated that he had been approached requesting the City not allowing any peaceful protesting in the Green Space regardless of the cause. Councilmember Little reiterated that was not something the City could do because it would impede on 1st Amendment right of the protester.

Councilmember Little also stated he was contacted by a citizen about the traffic "issues" in Lewisburg, he stated he had informed the concerned citizen that the traffic "issues" in and around Lewisburg were not something that City Council has any control over that it was a WV Department of Highways issue, but he would voice the citizens concern to Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated that a copy of Chief Teubert's report has been presented 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 is in Council's packets.

Councilmember Seams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Elkins to approve the Mutual Aid agreements between Lewisburg VFD and Frankford VFD and Lewisburg VFD and White Sulphur Springs VFD as presented. Further discussion, these have been reviewed and approved by City Attorney White. With all in favor motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Public Safety Committee

Police Department Fines: Parking

The Public Safety Committee met to recommend updating the Police Department parking fines to the Finance Committee.

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, to approve the updated parking fines as presented:

Overtime (1st offense in 24 hours) from \$5.00 to \$15.00

Overtime (2nd offense in 24 hours) from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Overtime (3rd offense in 24 hours) from \$25.00 to \$75.00

Fire Hydrant from \$10.00 to \$100.00

Block Traffic from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Block Drive from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Loading Zone from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Bus Zone from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Safety Zone from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Parked in Wrong Direction from \$10.00 to \$25.00

No Parking Zone from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Near Corner from \$10.00 to \$25.00

On Sidewalk from \$10.00 to \$25.00

In Alley from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Double Parking from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Handicap Parking from \$50.00 to \$200.00 1st Offense, \$300.00 2nd Offense, \$500.00 3rd Offense

Fire Lane from \$10.00 to \$100.00

No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Police Department animals in The Center Green

Councilmember Seams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Little, to have City Attorney White to move forward with developing an ordinance to keep animals with the exception of service animals out of The Center Green and to implement a fine of up to \$500.00 for those that do not comply and an ordinance to set a fine for failure to clean up after an animal in public places. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Finance Committee Report

Corporation of Falling Springs/Town of Renick Water System

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, for City Manager Hill and City Attorney White to continue with the

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negotiation with the Corporation of Falling Springs/Town of Renick for complete control and responsibility of the water system. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried

Police Department Purchase of bullet proof vest

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Pritt, to purchase 11 bullet proof vests for the Lewisburg City Police Department in the amount of \$16,126.00. Further discussion Chief Teubert stated these have been cover by a grant in the past, but the grant is currently not available at this time, Chief Teubert stated the Police Department has enough funds in their budget to cover this cost. With all in favor motion carried.

Pay increase for Aaron Sofil – Laborer I

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Pritt, to approve a pay increase for Arron Sofil-Laborer I of \$0.75 an hour from \$14.25 to \$15.00 with an additional \$0.50 an hour after 90 days (September 16, 2025) pending a favorable evaluation. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Pay increase for John McMillion – Pool Certification

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve a pay increase for John McMillion of \$0.50 an hour from \$18.00 to \$18.50 for obtaining his Certified Pool Operator certification. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Pay increase for Samuel McMillion – Water Plant Operator Interim Chief Operator

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve a pay increase for Samuel McMillion of \$10.50 an hour from \$24.50 to \$35.00 as the temporary Interim Chief Water Plant Operator Class III Operator. He will not be eligible to receive the \$2.00 an hour night differential pay while he is interim Chief Water Plant Operator. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

<u>Pay Increase for Jared Terry – Class II Water Plant Operator Certification/Assistant Interim</u> Chief Operator

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve a pay increase for Jared Terry Class II Operator of \$6.40 an hour from \$21.20 to \$27.60 as presented. He will be the temporary Interim Assistant Chief Operator, if he chooses not to keep the Assistant Chief Operator position, he will move back to the Class II Operator position with an hourly pay of \$23.90. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Pay Increase for Justin Yates - Class I Water Plant Operator Certification

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve a pay increase for Justin Yates of \$1.00 an hour from \$20.40 to \$21.40 for his Class I Water Plant Operator Certification. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

The Mills Group Contract Renewal

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve the contract with The Mills Group as presented. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Employee Appreciation Day

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to approve an Employee Appreciation Day at regular time for the 2025 Employee appreciation picnic. Certificates will be present to the employee at the annual picnic being held on July 24, 2025, and the certificate must be redeemed by the employee no later than October 24, 2025. With all in favor motion carried.

Dog Park Bid Approval

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, to approve the bid presented by Sparks @ Play for the Dog Park equipment not to exceed \$27,000.00. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

Center Green Upgrade Review

Councilmember Seams made a motion by recommendation from Finance, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, to accept the design update for the Center Green as presented and to move forward with bids. No further discussion. With all in favor motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mayor White stated that a copy of Public Works Director Legg's report has been included in Council's packet.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session

Councilmember Seams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, to approve the minutes from the City Council meeting on May 20, 2025, as presented. No further discussion. With all in favor the motion carried.

ZONING AND PLANNING

Zoning and Planning Officer Sloan stated they have been very busy with grass letters but due to the rain it has been a little bit hard to enforce. He also stated they have been busy with a lot of permits for repairs and new builds, residential and commercial.

VISITOR'S REPORT

No reports made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Pritt to adjourn at 8:51p.m. With all in favor the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted		
City Clerk Crystal Ratliff		