

**Minutes of City Council
October 15, 2024
Regular Session**

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley, Council Chambers at 942 Washington St. West, Lewisburg, WV.

PRESENT: Mayor Beverly White, Councilmembers, Frankling Johnson, Sarah Elkins, John Little, and Valerie Pritt; City Manager Misty Hill, Treasurer Susan Honaker, Chief of Police Christopher Teubert, Fire Chief Joseph Thomas.

ABSENT: Councilmember Arron Seams, and Public Works Director Tony Legg.

VISITORS: Adrienne French, Paul Stancato, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Dr. Dawn Roberts, Associate Dean Multicultural, WVSOM and Barry Ndeh, WVSOM President of the Class of 2027.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance.988?Vehicular.Travel.in.Turn.Lanes.Article.99666?first.reading

Mayor White read the following ordinance by title for first reading:

“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND MODIFY ARTICLE 337.09 OF THE TRAFFIC OFFENSES CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, REGARDING VEHICULAR TRAVEL IN TURNING LANES.”

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 322 as presented on first reading. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution.123?Water.System.Improvement.Project.Pay.Request.86

Mayor White read the title of Resolution 567 for passage:

“RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING INVOICES RELATING TO SERVICES FOR THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF.”

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve Resolution 567 in the amount of \$1,009,734.15. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

Resolution 569, Public Works Building Construction Pay Request 16

Mayor White read the title of Resolution 569 for passage:

“RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWISBURG APPROVING INVOICES RELATING TO SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT THEREOF;”

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve Resolution 569 in the amount of \$8,561.40 as presented. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor White read a Proclamation recognizing September 24, 2024, as the 25th anniversary of the Shepard's Center of Greenbrier Valley.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR:

Mayor White presented Mark VanBuren to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve the appointment of Mark VanBuren to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

Mayor White introduced Paul Stancato, Greenbrier Valley Theatre. Mr. Stancato was present to thank Council for the support given to the theatre and especially for the local collaboration of the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Mayor White introduced Dr. Dawn Roberts, Associate Dean Multicultural at WVSOM. Dr. Roberts thanked Mayor White for attending a recent Diversity meeting on campus and stated she looked forward to partnering with the city in the future. Dr. Roberts then introduced Barry Ndeh, President of the class of 2027. Mr. Ndeh stated he was from New Jersey and was a coach at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School. Mr. Ndeh stated the school is hosting events that are open to the public and would like to invite the council and members of the community. It is planned to have a student representative to attend the monthly council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER:

City manager Hill reported on the following items:

- City crews are working on organizing the Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024.
- The movie Hocus Pocus will be shown on Friday, October 18, 2024, the Street from the intersection of Washington Street and Jefferson Street to Court Street will be closed.
- Downtown Trick or Treat will take place Friday, October 18, 2024, from 4pm to 6pm.
- The Taste of our Town held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, experienced record attendance.
- City crews are working to complete water testing on the Renick Water System.

COMMUNICATION FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Park Commission meeting October 1, 2024

Councilmember Elkins reported on October 1, 2024, Parks Commission meeting stating the commission approved a special event to be held at Dorie Miller Park and voted to change the time of the Parks Commission meetings from 7 pm to 5 pm.

Communications from Council members:

Council member Pritt stated the Zimmerman Agency, the new agency for West Virginia Tourism, had visited the city and loved Lewisburg.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated the Police Department report was in councilmembers binders.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor White stated the Fire Department report was in councilmembers binders.

Chief Thomas spoke regarding recent legislation related to municipalities initiating a fire service fee in their first due area outside of their city limits. The state legislators adopted a legislation putting a moratorium on the ability of municipalities to adopt fire service fees in effect June 1, 2024, until June 2025.

Communications from Council Committees:

Finance Committee

City Manager Hill reported on the following events of the October 8, 2024, Finance Committee meeting:

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of an employee incentive pay in the amount of \$500 to each full-time employee.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve an incentive pay for each full-time employee in the amount of \$500 to be given to employees during the year end luncheon. Councilmember Pritt second the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

- The Finance Committee recommended approval of the quote received from Amy's Market option 1 at a cost of \$25/person to cater the year-end employee luncheon.

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve the quote from Amy's Market option 1 at a cost of \$25/person to cater the year-end employee luncheon. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

- The Finance Committee recommended the payment of the Public Employees Retirement for Elden Still in the amount of \$45,229.56.

Councilmember Elkins made a motion to approve the payment of the Public Employees Retirement for Elden Still in the amount of \$45,229.56. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

- The Finance Committee recommended entering into a contract with Thomas White to service as the city's attorney.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve a contract with Thomas White to serve as the city's attorney at an annual cost of \$72,000 to be paid monthly installments effective immediately. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

- Finance Committee recommend paying for the expenses to landscape the city parking lot on the Lafayette Street from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to advert stormwater.

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to pay the cost of the landscaping at the city parking lot on Lafayette Street to advert the stormwater at a cost of \$8,709.64 from the America Rescue Plan Act Funds. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

Public Works Department Report:

Mayor White stated the Public Works Department Report was in councilmembers binders.

Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to go into executive session at 8:06 pm to discuss a personnel issue. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to come out of executive session and go back into regular session at 8:32 pm. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

Mayor White stated no decisions had been made while in executive session.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to promote Jeffrey Todd Williams II to Sergeant with a six-month probationary period and to increase his salary as allowed by the pay scale. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

The Public Safety Committee awarded Officer Rigoberto Rodriguez five merit points and had awarded Officer Jeffrey Todd Williams II one merit point as allowed by the guidelines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session, September 17, 2024

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to table consideration of the minutes from the September 17, 2024, council meeting. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.

VISITORS REPORT:

There were no visitors report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Councilmember Elkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with five in favor and one absent.