

Minutes of City Council
July 16, 2024
Regular Session

The Council of the City of Lewisburg met in regular session on Tuesday, July 16, 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, Franklin Johnson, John Little, Arron Seams and Valerie Pritt: City Clerk Shannon Beatty. Fire Chief Joseph Thomas. Police Chief Christopher Teubert, Director of Public Works Tony Legg and Treasurer Susan Honaker

ABSENT: Councilmember Sarah Elkins

VISITORS: Adrienne French, Arthur Forgette with the French Goat restaurant, Inez Reyes with the Shanghai Pageant, Brandon DePriest Lewisburg Zoning Officer, 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 557

City Clerk Shannon Beatty read the title of Resolution 557 in the amount of \$2,674.343.01 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 557 in the amount of \$2,674,343.01 for passage. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With Five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Resolution 558

City Clerk Shannon Beatty read the title of Resolution 558 for passage:

“COAL SEVERANCE FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVISION NUMBER ONE”

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve Resolution 558 for passage. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With Five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Historic Landmark Commission appointment

Mayor White offered the name of Paula Janiga for a three-year term ending on June 30, 2027.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to appoint Paula Janiga to a three-year term ending on June 30, 2027 to the Historic Landmark Commission. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With Five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

America in Bloom

Mayor White stated the America in Bloom advisors would be visiting Lewisburg July 17-19. She encouraged everyone to welcome them to Lewisburg. She noted they would be visiting the new water plant.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

- City Manager Hill stated she had attended project update meetings at the water plant all day on July 16, 2024. She stated the contractors were tidying up and reconstructing the inside of the building. She said the final project was going to be delayed until December while it is finished up. She proudly stated the Beckley Register Herald had a beautiful photo of the new intake on the front page of the newspaper.
- The Harper Road (Hopper) parking lot will be closed on Friday, July 16, 20024.
- A hot tap was completed on Stonehouse Road
- Water crews are strategically planning for extra water usage at the State Fair of WV in Fairlea during the week of the fair.
- City Manager Hill met with Zoning officer DePriest, Building Inspector Still, Fire Chief Thomas, and Mayor White regarding dilapidated buildings in the city limits. She stated she is working with City Attorney White on this issue to clean up the ordinance sections regarding dilapidated buildings. She indicated there are 20 structures in the city. She noted they are trying to determine which dilapidated building is the greatest safety hazard at this time.
- City Manager Hill stated that the America in Bloom annual advisor (judges) visit gives the City a deadline for cleanup. She stated that Public Works crews have been working on the municipal parking lot on Lafayette Street. She said that crews removed overgrown trees on the bank beside the parking lot. She noted this will make the parking lot more visible. She stated the City is working with Riverbend Nursery to build back the bank with a wall on this project. City Manager Hill stated one of the new wayfinding signs will be placed at this location.

- She stated that Shannon Beatty, the coordinator of Lewisburg in Bloom would be taking lead on a piano painting contest to replace the painted piano beside City Hall. She stated that Mayor White would pick the winner.
- Patio lighting is going to be placed across Stratton Alley from the public restrooms to the end of Stratton Alley. She stated the City had positive feedback on the patio lights that were placed beside Yarid's store on Washington Street. She noted this was approved in the beautification budget in the discussion with the merchant's association.
- Roger Kennedy with the Chapmen Engineering has submitted three (3) grants for sidewalks with the WV Dept of Highways. One of which is to make Washington Street ADA compliant.

Equi Tree Grant contract approval

City Manager Hill stated this was a \$10,000 grant that Shannon Beatty had applied for with the WV Division of Forestry. The grant is to update the City Tree Inventory. It has been reviewed by City Attorney White and does not require a match.

Councilmember Seams made a motion approving the \$10,000 grant from the Equi Tree grant for a tree survey from the Division of Forestry. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Monday Mashup

City Manager Hill stated that Monday Mashup food truck special event idea was presented and approved by City Council at the June City Council meeting, allowing food trucks to set up for lunch on Mondays in specific locations in the City. Hill stated she had provided information in the City Council packets from other cities in WV that allow food trucks. Athur Forgette from the French Goat restaurant apologized to the Mayor, City Manager and Finance Chair Arron Seams for his outburst against the food trucks at the July Finance Committee meeting. Forgette again presented his reasons for not being in favor of allowing food trucks in downtown Lewisburg. He also brought up his concerns regarding not knowing ahead of time about some events happening in the City. He feels like the City should do more than the minimum to let citizens and merchants know what is going on. City Manager Hill explained that agendas are posted on the front of City Hall three days prior to a meeting and that the media is notified. She stated that she is going to make meeting agendas available on the City app. Councilmember Little read a letter that business owner Jill McIntyre sent to City Council in opposition of allowing food trucks. Adrienne French, president of the Lewisburg Downtown Business Association thanked the City for their help with the Healing Appalachia Exploring Lewisburg Concert. She stated that approximately 650 wrist bands for alcohol were sold and it was likely that 1,000 people attended the concert. City Manager Hill stated the festival was held near Simms Exxon to give exposure to the other side of the City for an event.

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Monday Mashup as presented for food truck set ups on Mondays during lunch hours. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission Report

Councilmember Little reported on the following events of the Thursday, July 11, 2024, Planning Commission meeting:

A request from Northridge Properties, LLC for a minor subdivision for property located on tax map 6 and parcel 9 was approved by the Planning Commission.

This property is located behind the Bank of Monroe and the Shell Station. The parcels were not large enough or the correct shape to build on. A doctor's office is going to be built on the minor subdivision.

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve a request for a minor subdivision for property located on tax map 6 and parcel 9. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

Parks Commission Report

Councilmember Johnson reported on the following events of Tuesday, July 2, 2024 Parks Commission meeting:

Project updates for the Parks Department nothing the seating area for pickle ball was stained. Councilmember Johnson stated the parks were looking good.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Little stated that he would like the public to know how much the City Council, staff and employees of Lewisburg care about the citizens.

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

Councilmember Seams reported on the following events of the July 9, 2024 Finance Committee meeting:

Arts & Humanities funding request, collaboration with

GVT, Carnegie Hall & Greenbrier Valley Chorale

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the Arts & Humanities funding request for a collaborative presentation of the Hunchback of Notre Dame with GVT, Carnegie Hall & the Greenbrier Valley Chorale in the amount of \$7,500. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With four (4) in favor and one (1) recused (Seams), one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

Shanghai Pageant funding request

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve a funding request from the Shanghai Pageant in the amount of \$1,995 out of the community development budget. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried

Thrasher Engineering Pay Request #14

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve Pay Request #14 from Thrasher Engineering in the amount of \$52,062.50 for the design of the Fire Department. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Mountain Transit Authority – funding request increase

Councilmember Seams made a motion to increase the local commitment funding for Mountain Transit Authority to \$3,300. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Hudnall Wildlife Services contract (skunk)

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Hudnall Wildlife Services contract (skunk) in the amount of \$900 per month as presented or \$60 for each skunk after that. Councilmember Pritt seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Triple H Outdoors Contract (Deer)

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Triple H Outdoors Contract (Deer) in the amount of \$100 per deer. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Water Fund Budget 2025

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the 2025 Water Fund Budget as presented. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session, June 18, 2024

Councilmember Little made a motion to approve the Regular Session June 18, 2024 minutes. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Special Session, June 26, 2024

Councilmember Seams made a motion to approve the Special Session June 26, 2024 minutes. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

Special Session, July 9, 2024

Councilmember Pritt made a motion to approve the Special Session July 9, 2024 minutes. Councilmember Seams seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.

VISITOR'S REPORTS: No reports were given.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Seams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Councilmember Little seconded the motion. With five (5) in favor and one (1) absent (Elkins) the motion carried.