

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE September 22, 2020

The Lewistown City Council met in regular session in the council chambers. Mayor Elmer Littlefield Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Alderperson Sally Clark, Trever Kelley (Zoom), Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, John Spotloe (Zoom) and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. Also, Present: City Clerk Cindy Goddard, Treasurer Debbie Brown (Zoom), Public Works Director Evinn Palmer.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield Jr.

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020, second by Alderperson Miller roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown.

Alderman have a treasurer report to look at.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

Alderperson Pascal made a motion to approve all bills properly endorsed; Second by Alderperson Clark roll call vote, the motion carried all ayes.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Nathan Collins. Nothing at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Keith Plavec. Not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderperson Clark: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe: Nothing to report.

Street & Alley – Alderperson Miller: South Main is being refinished by the State and that is a very good thing.

Police/ESDA – Alderperson Lafary: Nothing to report.

Water – Mayor Littlefield: Nothing at this time.

Utilities/Publications – Alderperson Kelley: Nothing to report.

Buildings & Grounds – Alderperson Kelley: Nothing to report.

Tourism – Alderperson Pascal: Nothing new to report. Scarecrow contest is beginning September 28 stated Cindy Goddard, City Clerk.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT - The city is now putting in the water meters, still a few to go, setting up appointments. Getting quotes for ground storage fairground site, redoing pump station. Laverdiere Construction is putting in the skirting now at clarifier, the city crew removed the plastic old skirting and they are replacing it with stainless steel. Mayor Littlefield said that one of the Public Works employees, Ben Sutter, is going door to door hanging door reminders and doing a good job, Evin explained he found a few illegal taps before the meters that was corrected. Alderperson Clark asked about the fiber optic digging holes and leaving them open, she has had quite a few people ask her about it. Evin said they will come back and fill in the holes. They can call MidCentury if they have a problem or call city hall. Alderperson Miller said they did a good job at fixing his holes in his yard.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve new Resolution for Homecoming Parade changed to March 5, 2021 – Because of Covid pandemic the High School have moved the Homecoming till spring. Motion by Alderperson Miller to approve a new Resolution for the Homecoming Parade on March 5, 2021, second by Alderperson Clark roll call vote, motion carried all eyes.
2. Discuss Illinois Sentry letter regarding billing the Fulton County Fairgrounds water – all Alderman received a copy of the letter, Alderperson Miller and Alderperson Lafary said they do not exist. Alderperson Clark wants to know how they get their information, and why are they messing with Lewistown? Alderperson Lafary made a motion to table till next summer when we know what the cost of the meters are and how they are working out. Mayor Littlefield said there is a law now that says we have to meter the water. Alderperson Lafary said the fairgrounds pays a water bill and it is \$38.50 a month. Mayor states that is not the total of all the water that is used at the fairgrounds. Mayor said we cannot table at this time. Alderperson Lafary said we need to ask ourselves why do they give a damn about Lewistown charging for water, and why does this watchdog group only contact us after something the Mayor says or loses a vote, as a cop the letters look fraudulent, no address, no phone number and Alderperson Miller said he has done a check on them and can’t find anything. Mayor Littlefield said you are all lobbyist for other groups and you are saying to hell with the law. Alderperson Lafary said a few months ago the Mayor said we were not charging only putting in meters, now we are charging. The Mayor said the law is the law. Alderperson Spotloe asked if our attorney has given us his opinion on this law, has he looked into this yet to see if valid, if we start charging then what stops them from charging us for having our equipment down there? Alderperson Miller wants to know why we haven’t sat down and discussed this yet? Attorney Collins

Page 3

explained the portion of ground where ground storage is the city owns, we have an easement to get across the fair ground property, the law is a shall compulsory not a discretionary law, whether we want to charge or not we do not have a right of access to the property. Evinn Palmer said he has not really been kicked off the property when needing to enter. Attorney Collins said the way the Illinois law reads that the Fairgrounds will probably end up getting billed for the water unless some alternative agreement is made. Alderperson Lafary says they do pay a bill; they pay for the meter they have. Mayor explained it is for the meter at the used car lot, and it is minimum. Alderperson Lafary asked doesn't the bill go to the Fulton County Fair and Racing Association? Mayor said but that is not for all the water that is used. Alderperson Clark stated they do pay a bill and it is usually minimum correct, and how many months do they pay each year, 12 right and how many months do they actually use any water? Mayor said they just had a mud drag all that water was not metered and all other activities that take place there. Alderperson Clark ask Attorney Collins if the letter is legit? He has no idea. Alderperson Miller said they don't exist he has checked. The Mayor said it does not matter the law is the law regarding this statute. Alderperson Clark wants to know where the letter come from. The Alderman wants Illinois Sentry to represent themselves. Mayor said they are on ZOOM right now. Alderperson Lafary accused the Mayor of blackmailing the citizens. Alderperson Miller wants to know if the Mayor has said down with the fair board, no they refuse. Mayor stated the tax payers are paying the bill. Alderperson Spotloe asked how many meters and how many bills will the Fair Grounds receive? Mayor Littlefield said it depends on how many meters are installed. Alderperson Lafary said a few months ago you were only going to put in meters, not you are billing. The Mayor said now there is a statute. Alderperson Lafary stated that they are paying the bill they receive each month. The Mayor said they are stealing water. Mayor wants to know if it meters all the water that they use. Mayor states he is here to protect the tax payer and you are not. Alderperson Lafary said the city is suppose to furnish two loads of rock each year but they have not been getting it. Alderperson Miller still thinks everyone should sit down to discuss this. There is an agreement in the easement per Alderperson Lafary the city will provide water to fair grounds and two loads of rock. Alderperson Lafary is saying he is paid for his opinion and his vote and that is it. I have made a motion with no second. Alderperson Miller and Alderperson Lafary suggest go discuss with president of Fair Board, but that has been tried already. Mayor said everyone has to be metered. July was 33%, August was 40%, he feels it is up because of mud drags, months before it was 32%. The whole discussion previously was to meter only. Alderperson Spotloe suggest that the City Attorney verify that the statute is legal. Fair board has no intentions to meet with the Mayor because of wanting to bill for water. Previous motion by Alderperson Lafary dies from lack of second. Alderperson Clark reminded them this is just a discussion and a motion was made, still need Attorney to look into if valid statute, also look into the Illinois Sentry Group. Attorney Collins is to check and see if the statute is legitimate. Attorney

Page 4

Collins wants to know if the bill the fair board is paying for is legitimate. The question from Attorney Collins should be will the fair board pay for the bill they receive, or for what they use? The minimum bill is \$40.00. The meter is at the used car lot. The Fair grounds and car lot is not in the city limits. Attorney Collins is to check into the statute before next meeting and bring information to next meeting. Mayor said he would be happy to meet with Craig McCoy. The meeting has to be an open meeting. Alderperson Miller calls for a water committee meeting inviting Craig McCoy and Fair Board to the meeting. Alderperson Lafary wants to know exactly who the Mayor talked to that said they did not agree with Fair Grounds not paying for the water? Alderperson Clark wants someone to call other towns regarding their fairgrounds and if they pay. Alderperson Miller said should be able to sit down with fair board and discuss this and just not bill them. The law was passed in 2017 per the Mayor and I brought it up previously. General Assembly is tired of sweetheart deals and that is why it was passed. Alderperson Miller directed his comment to Illinois Sentry, they should come to a meeting and be seen, not stay hidden. We need to go over the statute. Alderperson Clark asked the Mayor how he knew Illinois Sentry, he said he does not know them. Mayor again said the tax payers are picking up the bill for the Fair Grounds. Attorney Collins will get Cindy Goddard a briefing on the Friday before of the next meeting. Evinn Palmer, Public Works Director would like the agreement with Grissom also gone thru, if digging already for information we need to check into that one also. The Mayor explained he has a contract. Attorney Collins to check into this one also. Alderperson Clark asked if Grissom was paying for all the water he uses? Alderperson Spotloe said no he does not. Alderperson Clark said well he needs to pay for all the water he uses, it doesn't matter if he has a contract. Years ago, everyone on line tried to get free water. He has the house and hydrant that is included in that contract. The parents had the agreement that they got free water, and no meters to be installed, Evinn Palmer would like it checked into if the son is to receive water also and get it metered. Attorney Collins to get copy of agreement from Cindy Goddard.

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderperson Clark made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.; Second by Alderperson Miller motion carried all ayes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Goddard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cindy Goddard, City Clerk