

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE February 23, 2021

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, Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal at 6:40 p.m. on Zoom, John Spotloe and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. Also Present: City Clerk Cindy Goddard, Treasurer Debbie Brown (Zoom), Public Works Director Evin Palmer. ABSENT: Alderperson Trever Kelley

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield Jr.

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard. Nothing at this time.

Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2020, second by Alderperson Spotloe roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown.

Everyone has a treasurer report. No questions.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

Alderperson Miller 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 new at this time but will be following up on the bill on law enforcement that was signed by governor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Keith Plavec. Did not attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: Bob Shaw regarding garbage pickup. According to Bob Shaw the bill has raised and people don't like this and his personal feeling it is a miserable job. Maybe gets bids for city wide or city get garbage truck. These companies have quite of few trucks. To hard to have just one, when it breaks down causes lots of problems. Bev Martindale got amounts from surrounding areas on their all-town garbage pickup. Area Disposal and PDC, Waste Management for example Table Grove is \$16.00 a month, Cuba second year has Area at \$13.35 a month for seven years, Vermont is \$16.50, Canton has their own garbage trucks and they pay \$18.00 a month, Waste Management with no kids at home and she pays \$54.00 and her neighbor pays around \$30.00 for single person. They have a monopoly on the city. She will get signatures or whatever it takes and will help get information if needed. They are taking advantage of us. Mayor Littlefield explained If someone doesn't like who they have they can change, that is an advantage we have now, if contract for city then they cannot choose. People seem to complain even if the city adds \$.50 to the water bill. Idea was one dumpster for neighborhood. Bob said city wide pickup would be cheaper for everyone because only one bill instead of 1,200 bills. Need

to have someone address council if want to consider all town pickup. Mayor Littlefield if we did go to all town then when they did not pay, we would have to shut water off. Bev Martindale said no discount for an individual one tote is furnished they charge extra for another one. Mayor asked her if she wants to get more figures and bring them back to the council? Yes. Landfill prices have skyrocketed. Area won't give an individual a dumpster unless you are a business. Bev said she needs numbers, Evinn said 1,098. Mayor asked if this includes recyclables, possibly she will find out and get information back to council. Table at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderperson Clark: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe: Nothing to report.

Street & Alley – Alderperson Miller: Nothing to report.

Police/ESDA – Alderperson Lafary: Nothing to report.

Water – Mayor Littlefield: Nothing at this time.

Utilities/Publications – Alderperson Kelley: Absent.

Buildings & Grounds – Alderperson Kelley: Absent.

Tourism – Alderperson Pascal: Nothing new to report. Alderperson Miller said he has been working on the bicentennial celebration for the city, this Saturday February 27 at 2:00 at VFW there is a meeting to get ideas. Close as we can find out it was in April the town was founded. If anyone knows for sure let him know for an exact date. Karen King talked to Mayor Littlefield regarding July 3 celebration for the bicentennial and having 3 bands on that Saturday afternoon city will pay for them.

WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: February plowing snow and cleaning shops. Also working on oil and chip program and budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve more lighting on Broadway - Alderperson Miller has been working on this. A couple of nights he went around the area so see if need to change lights. All but two are already LED and one is out. When one is out, they change it for free, if we request it is \$250.00. To put more lights in it is not feasible already cost \$32,000.00 a year for lighting the city. Maybe a group can get donations to help some people get motion detectors to help the situation, city cannot do this but a group or church can. Motion detectors are not that expensive, maybe battery so they don't have to hard wire them. Alderperson Clark asked if we know how many residents need them? No not sure. This may help people feel safer and will be fairer to the city. Sally suggested Cindy Goddard to call Ameren to see if any programs out there for motion detectors. If a light is out just

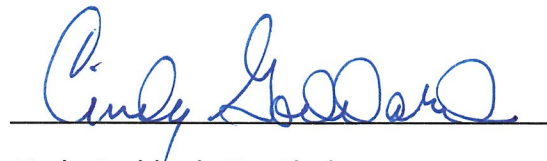
call Ameren and give them the address they will come and replace the light for free. Anyone can call. Elizabeth Forest stated the underlying problem is the people that live at Broadway Arms, she lives down the street on the corner and saw the person shot. Her house was broken into last March and everything was messed up, every drawer went thru and thrown all around. She feels more lighting will help. She wants law and order; this town has changed. The people from Broadway Arms are threatening her, throwing used needles in people's yards, and stealing. Ms. Forest is frightened and bringing the problem to them for help. Alderperson Miller asked her if she reports it every time, yes. She wants to live in this town nowhere else. Others not only her are affected by the people at Broadway Arms. Alderperson Lafary said the justice system is what is failing and it has been getting worse. They get arrested then released. Alderperson Miller said not sure what we can do. Ms. Forest asked, why was this allowed, why did we let a slum lord buy this? About the only thing we can do is prevent the drug problem commented Miller. Alderperson Lafary said if the people didn't live there then they would be homeless and we would have that as a problem. Lafary said we still live in Lewistown that is a good town and is very safe town. You still need to protect yourself. Lafary will get the crime stats for the next meeting. Has anyone contacted the owners asked Alderperson Spotloe? Spotloe said when Covid is lifted there are four residents in Broadway Arms that will be evicted. Mayor Littlefield explained he was also burglarized recently and had a new light installed before that, now going to put up motion detector. Neighborhood Watch is being organized. The group is trying to contact the owners of Broadway Arms. Lafary does not agree with the new law that takes effect July 1 regarding arresting someone. The problem is bigger than us. Going to get worse. Miller said we will do what we can and support you (Elizabeth Forest) as much as we can. Alderperson Clark again said maybe Cindy Goddard will look into any grants for motion detectors.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nothing

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderperson Clark made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.; Second by Alderperson Miller motion carried all ayes.



Cindy Goddard, City Clerk