

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE April 12, 2022

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

Invocation: Penny Frame

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Alderperson Sally Clark, Jim Long, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, John Spotloe and Mayor Doug Lafary. Also present: City Clerk Cindy Goddard, City Treasurer Debby Brown, Public Works Director Evinn Palmer, and City Attorney Nathan Collins.
ABSENT: Alderperson Brad Ward

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Doug Lafary

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2022, second by Alderperson Long the motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown. Nothing

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Nathan Collins.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Keith Plavec. No Engineer present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: No public comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Insurance/Zoning – Alderperson Clark: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe: Nothing to report.

Streets & Allies – Alderperson Miller: Nothing to report.

Police/ESDA – Alderperson Ward: Absent

Water – Alderperson Miller: Nothing to report.

Utilities/Publications – Alderperson Long: Nothing new to report.

Public Buildings & Grounds – Alderperson Long: Same on-going projects.

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Concerned about all the dog poo in the park. Pastor Penny said she picked up 10 pounds. Wants to know if anything the church can do? People have called her names when she catches them letting the dogs go to the bathroom and not picking it up. Mayor

Lafary reminded them that the city had placed a plastic bag station in park for people to use doesn't think a bigger sign would help. It is sad they do not care. Alderperson Miller said if anyone sees someone allowing their dog to go poo in the park, they need to say something to them.

Tax Increment Financing – Alderperson Spotloe: Under Unfinished business.

Citizens Committee – Amanda Smith handed out a list of funding opportunities that have been submitted or going to be submitted.

Christmas Committee - Kenny Haacke Absent. Alderperson Clark reminder everyone about the spaghetti meal on the 30th at the VFW, along with the silent auction that starts at 5:00 p.m.

WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Evinn Palmer Director said he has been working on the budget, the men are patching roads, flow test on fire hydrants, one water line break that they fixed. Mayor Lafary said Catholic Cemetery Road will be getting all gravel, waiting on bids for grinding it up and rolling it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve raising the recycling fees or cancel – City Clerk said that the contract has expired and they are sending a new one, going to raise the charges for the city, so may want to table till that time. Maybe combined garbage and recycling, Cindy will see if she can find out a price like the city of Washington has. Table till next meeting.
2. Discuss/Approve Lewistown Mart TIF Ordinance – Motion by Alderperson Miller to approve the TIF Ordinance between the Lewistown Mart and the City of Lewistown which had been discussed and approved at the last meeting, (\$30,000.00 grant and \$35,000.00 5-year forgivable loan), second by Alderperson Long roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss water and EPA wit Jessica Whitsitt – Jessica Whitsitt handed out folders with information in it. She has a background in Biology, a chemist. Manganese is needed in your body, but too much is toxic, .15 in Illinois, .3 is Lewistown. Evinn Palmer helped them flush their lines to clear the manganese. She knows the notice was in the paper January 10, 2022. She did not feel we made it very public or the citizens were not notified enough. Wants to know the plan? Alderperson Long said that we have 3 wells shut down now trying to figure out the problem. If more are shut down there may be a shortage of water. Number 16 is the newest well, all the same aquafer. We have the manganese lower already. Evinn doesn't think we can get it any lower. In 1888 the water system was put in. Mayor said we would love to replace everything but we don't have the money. Whole house filters can be put in the house said Alderperson Miller. He has replaced his water heater 4 times already because of the iron. Manganese is in foods and in multivitamins. Wants to know how many complaints we have had. November violation paper sent, and it was not signed. Jessica wants to know who is going to pay the fine, the tax payers? Wants to know if we applied for grants, yes we have! The Mayor said he does want to hear her opinion and try to calm her down. Have you priced all different filters, yes? Miller wants to know what her expectations are? She feels we did not let people know, should have been on all Facebook pages. Alderperson Miller explains the city cannot afford to put in a reverse osmoses system, water bills would be raised. There are quite a few people that don't even pay their water bills, can't afford to

pay higher bills. No way should financially burden the citizens. All this is public knowledge. Mayor Lafary said water is the most important thing we have, we have good water. Alderperson Miller said sometimes too much knowledge is dangerous and can scare people. We are all in agreement we all drink our water. Flushing fire hydrants stirs up the lines also. Especially now when they all haven't been flushed for years. Alderperson Spotloe said he is sure there are other towns that are not compliant. Miller we are lucky we have our own water not buying from a company and them charging more. Evinn is put in the situation what to do when everyone is pulling water. Evinn wants to know why nobody has ask him any questions he has a license. He said he has changed some things March 22, the number was 150, so quality is good but quantity is low. Our newest well is like 340 so it was over right when it was dug. EPA wants it 149. By the time it gets to the customer it is alright when they have tested it at the homes. Wendy Whitsitt, wants to know why the community has not been asked if they would pay for it. She feels the community would pay for it if asked. Also the younger people think different than we do. She feels there is a solution. Mayor Lafary asked her if she wanted to have a committee to find help a solution to the problem. Amanda Smith said we should all be responsible for our own homes.

2. Discuss/Approve CliftonLarsonAllen annual Agreement – Cindy Goddard said that Beka has been very helpful especially with things that are only done once a year. Using her less all the time to keep down the bill. Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen annual Agreement, second by Alderperson Long roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve Seal Coat Bid from IRC, Inc. – 17.11% over Engineer's estimate. All agree the price is probably not going down only up. Bid as Read \$88,516.90 engineer estimate was \$75,585.00. Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the Seal Coat bid from IRC, Inc., second by Alderperson Long, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
4. Discuss Budget draft to be approved at April 26 Hearing and Meeting – for FY 23 There is a surplus of \$1,573,275.73. Beka with CLA went thru numbers on the budget. Salary was discussed, Mayor Lafary wants to freeze, no raises. Alderperson Spotloe thinks it is a slap in face to the employees when no raises are given. Spotloe thinks cost of living 5% raise would be needed. Beka said that totals around \$30,000 to \$35,000. Spotloe suggested 3% raise for full time only. Discussed and all agree to 3% raise for full time employees.


PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

CLOSED SESSION: No closed session

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderperson Miller made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.; motion carried all ayes.


Cindy Goddard, City Clerk