

**LEWISTOWN POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**DATE Tuesday October 11, 2022**

The Lewistown Police committee met in the Council Chambers at 6:15 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Brad Ward, Alderman John Spotloe, Jim Long, Mayor Doug Lafary, Chief Franklin Merrill. Also, Treasurer Deb Brown, City Clerk Cindy Goddard, and Alderperson Kim Pascal.

**BUSINESS:** Discuss pay for part-time police officers.

Letter from Police Chief Merrill was presented to the committee. Last few months seems like we need a few more police officers with the issues in town. Asking for 18% increase across the board. With this increase he has a few county deputies that are interested in helping the city out because they are happy with the progress he has made. With the requirements they work 16 hours per month to stay on the roster. Chief Merrill is asking for extra help to cover the town more on different shifts. This also eliminates the city from paying IMRF, insurance or any training fees for PTI for new full time police officer. Alderman Ward does agree with a lot of this. Also, Jim Long has heard from many citizens asking why we do not have more police officers on duty. Alderman Miller was concerned about the rest of the employees getting upset about no raise at this time. Maybe some sort of merit system for raises when it is time for the next budget. City Clerk Cindy Goddard explained that there is still 85% of the budgeted money left in the payroll for the police department to cover the payroll. It had been originally budgeted for 3 full time police officers allowing enough for the pay increase.

Closed meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**DATE Tuesday October 11, 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 by Mayor Lafary

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT:** Alderperson Sally Clark, Jim Long, Brad Ward, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, and Mayor Doug Lafary. Also present: City Clerk Cindy Goddard, City Treasurer Debby Brown, Public Works Director Evinn Palmer, Chief of Police Merrill and City Attorney Nathan Collins. **ABSENT:** Alderman John Spotloe had to leave for emergency call.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM** by Mayor Doug Lafary

**CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES:** Cindy Goddard. Nothing at this time. Alderperson Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022, second by Alderperson Pascal roll call vote, the motion carried all ayes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Debbie Brown. Nothing.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Nathan Collins. Nothing.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS:**

Billie had questions about the TIF, she had talked to Cole McDaniel in Canton he said to make sure we checked with the TIF group again regarding the outside eating area. City Clerk explained she had not had time to call them again and explain that this is not new construction and it is attached to the original building.

**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: Nothing to report now later on agenda.

Water – Alderperson Miller: Nothing at this time.

Utilities/Publications – Alderperson Long: Nothing to report.

Public Buildings & Grounds – Alderperson Long: Waiting on estimates for front door of Visitors Center. Getting estimate from Brad Burrows.

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Working on wiener roast/costume contest at Ratcliff Park, hoping to get side x sides to hand out candy and Evinn Palmer is working on getting a spook trail at the top of Ratcliff Park on the walking trail.

Tax Increment Financing – Alderperson Spotloe - Absent

Citizens Committee – Amanda Smith - Absent

Christmas Committee - Kenny Haacke - Absent

**WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Evinn Palmer Director: Had an old abandoned service line leaking on Main Street by the intersection that we repaired last week. Jetter is getting worked on will be 3 weeks before it can be done so have contacted another community to borrow there jetter if emergency arises. They said yes that would be fine.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Discuss/Approve how the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are to be used, total received \$292,037.65 – Alderman Ward feels should use the money for our infrastructure and maybe add some to it. Alderman Miller said that he would like some to go to the small business or buildings that are empty. A discussion on water infrastructure and

using the money at the booster station. The city needs to have an extra pump in case the present one goes down. Evinn Palmer had a previous estimate for a new booster station, the present one was built in the 70's. the city clerk presented it to the alderman. It is located at the Fulton County Fairgrounds at Ground Storage. The estimate is around \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. That is a metal building with a metal roof, with 2 pumps. All agreed that money should be spent on infrastructure and Evinn is to get final cost and present to council to vote on.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve Police pay for part-time police officers – There was a meeting at 6:15 p.m., the new Police Chief Frank Merrill needs help to get part-time police officers. Alderman Ward likes the idea of making sure the part-time police officers do work 16 hours a month. Chief wants to work days because of people needing to talk to him and also because of the schools. So, he needs part-timers to work nights. He has been working around 120 hours each payroll. Chief is working on making the community better and hopes to bring in new businesses. Chief Merrill is asking for a 18% raise across the board. This gives the part-timers \$21.24 an hour and the Chief \$30.07 an hour. Motion by Alderman Brad Ward, second by Alderman Sally Clark to approve the 18% across the board for part-time and full-time police officers, roll call vote motion carried all ayes.
2. Discuss/Approve closing ½ block of Milton Avenue by Ross Mansion Park for Lowderman Auction Company for Ketcham Auction on October 22, 2022 – Lowderman Auction Company only needs to block to the alley for the auction the day of. Motion by Alderman Sally Clark, second by Alderman Jim Long, all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve Sewer Tap for 934 S. Illinois Street IDOT building for Warner Mechanical LLC – Evinn Palmer went down and looked, they want to tap into the sewer on west side for a restroom in new building they do not need to cross the road. Not even positive they are putting in a restroom but tapping on just in case. Motion by Alderman Kendall Miller, second by Alderman Sally Clark to approve sewer tap for 934 S. Illinois Street, for Warner Mechanical, roll call vote motion carried all ayes.


#### PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

Alderman Ward made a motion to approve all bills properly endorsed; Seconded by Alderman Long roll call vote, the motion carried with all ayes.

**CLOSED SESSION:** No closed session

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Long made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.; carried all ayes.

  
Cindy Goddard, City Clerk

Lewistown Police Dept.  
Update Proposal 2022-2023  
Chief: Franklin Merrill  
10/11/2022

Current Pay Scale as of 10/11/2022  
Chief \$25.48  
New Officer/part time/fulltime/lateral transfer \$18.00

Requesting approval to increase 18% across the board

This new pay rate has been determined by Chief Merrill to bring LPD up to date with neighboring departments of equal size. Rates above are not higher or lower but competitive.

As Chief, I have been able to speak and gain rapport with Fulton County Officers. Some of which started out with the Lewistown Police Dept. These now County Deputies have expressed interest in coming back and working part time for the City of Lewistown, however they have expressed concern about the stability of the department as well as pay rates.

I explained to all who inquired:

*"I am looking to get more competitive pay rates and currently looking for 2-3 part time lateral transfers who can work at least 16 hours a month collectively."*

*"This is a new start for the Lewistown PD, as Chief I will make sure processes are up to date, as well department equipment and training."*

*"I will constantly work to rebuild this department to better meet the needs of its residents, business owners current and future."*

*"I will be flexible with hours and communication, on and off shift."*

**Part time officer requirements, effective immediately:** All current and future officers must work a total of 16 hours per month collectively, to stay employed with Lewistown PD. This change comes due to very low and sporadic hours worked "if any."

As Chief I will have an open-door policy, as well as above average available hours for not only employees but residents as well.

To conclude, I am pleased to be Chief of Lewistown PD and look forward to helping in anyway I can. I am constantly looking for better ways and more efficient ways of working and will always be open to new ideas.

Thanks for your time and consideration.  
Chief Merrill Lewistown PD

**Costs continue to rise in officer training.**

List below shows current costs for new officer hire vs lateral officer costs

As of 01/01/2023 full time academy goes from 14 weeks – 16 weeks... officer pay: \$11,525 while at academy, not including academy costs.

Average equipment costs: \$1,000

IMRF costs

Insurance costs

FTO training another 8-12 weeks of in car training with FTO training officer before on the road alone. This is to asses the new officer strengths and weaknesses, along with training on policies and procedures.

---

**Lateral part time transfer cost:**

No academy costs (\$11,525 pay + currently academy cost)

Gear/Equipment costs: less then \$250.00

Agreement to at least 16 hours a month, per part time employee. Approximately \$339.84 at 16 hours.

Fulton County Lateral officers with more then 2 years on the job may consist of up to 2 weeks FTO training, depending on FTO's recommendations.

No IMRF cost

No insurance costs