

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE February 25, 2020

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Aldermen Sally Clark, Trever Kelley, Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, John Spotloe and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. Also present: Wendy Martin from the Fulton Democrat, City Clerk Cindy Goddard, Public Works Director Gary Shawgo, City Attorney Nathan Collins, Billie Simmons, Cindy Arnett, Roger Clark, Mark Bixler, (WBYS). John Foxall, Marsha Jones, Jerry Ford family.
ABSENT: Debbie Brown and Chief of Police Werland

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

Handed out a census paper regarding the importance of the census, where the funding goes and that there is a census meeting on Thursdays here at City Hall at 4:30.

Alderman Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020, second by Alderman Clark roll call vote, the motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown. Absent no report.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

Alderman Pascal made a motion to approve all bills properly endorsed; seconded by Alderman Lafary roll call vote, the motion carried with all ayes.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS:

Mayor congratulated the Lady Indians at going to state this coming weekend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderman Clark: Nothing to report.

Utilities/Publications – Alderman Kelley: Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Alderman Kelley: Nothing to report.

Police/ESDA – Alderman Lafary: Nothing to report.

Street & Alley – Alderman Miller: Nothing to report.

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderman Spotloe: Nothing to report.

Water – Mayor Littlefield: Nothing new to report.

WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Shawgo said that over 700 meters installed around 500 left. Regarding the fire hydrants Evinn has a count of 128, the city is planning on hiring a couple of kids to scrape and paint the fire hydrants this summer. A moment of silence was requested by the Mayor for Jill Coleman that passed away, the visitation is Thursday. She was the employee that watered the flowers all summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve new IT Group for City of Lewistown; - Chaney Technology Services out of Pekin, IL – Thad Chaney is the IT person for the Fulton County Courthouse and the Fulton County Jail. Cindy Goddard called and talked to a couple of different offices and they said they were very pleased with him. Jim Nelson the previous County Clerk said he is the best you can get. He does not charge a monthly fee. He also knows the Locis program. He said he usually only has to come out quarterly and only charges for the time he is here, and we don't have to sign a contract. He is usually at the Courthouse once a week if we need him. Alderman Pascal still doesn't understand why I chose this IT person when she had Joe Wilcox lined up to do it for free. Cindy Goddard stated that she didn't really want someone out of state and was not comfortable installing programs for him to log in. Was afraid would delete something important. Cindy Goddard was just more comfortable with someone closer and was going to be in town once a week if we needed him to stop by and is less than an hour away if needed. Alderman Pascal said she was asked to contact Joe Wilcox and she feels it is fishy that I am not choosing him now. Alderman Lafary stated that Cindy is the one that has to work with him so it makes sense to get the Chaney Tech. Motion by Alderman Spotloe to approve changing to Chaney Technology Services out of Pekin, Illinois, second by Alderman Lafary, roll call vote, Alderman Miller yes, Alderman Pascal no, Alderman Spotloe yes, Alderman Clark yes, and Alderman Kelley no, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve closure around Court House during Scenic Drive (Cindy Arnett) – Cindy Arnett stated she is with Scenic Drive and wants to start out by explaining what the vendors pay for, when vendors pay the fee, they are paying for marketing. Can't promote if they don't pay. Cindy takes pictures to be published in the advertising for the Scenic Drive, people want the fairgrounds

back, she wants to see it look like the old Maxwell Street Days, would like the Court House area to be blocked, starting from the Prairie State Bank around the square, open by the jail maybe for traffic. Alderman Miller said should close all to prevent any confusion. The Masons already want to put up a tent. The only issue said Alderman Kelley is the parking for the apartments. There is a city parking lot available the Mayor reminded them and Alderman Clark said there is a county parking lot also. Alderman Clark we use to be the biggest town on the Scenic Drive, should work out good. Marsha Jones is the area representative. Presbyterian Church has area to set up, the wineries have vendors and the apple orchard has vendors. Lincoln, Washington and Adams in the 100 block will be blocked, no poles with 110 for electricity. Motion by Alderman Miller, for the first two weekends of October starting 5:00 p.m. on Friday and opened back up on Sunday evening, second by Alderman Clark roll call vote motion carried all ayes.

2. Discuss/Approve 2020 Resolution for MFT Maintenance – The seal coat plans include the road by the school and from RR tracks to the school road at that point the East side of town will be done then. Motion by Alderman Spotloe to approve the 2020 MFT Maintenance Resolution, second by Alderman Clark, roll call vote motion carried all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve 2020 MFT Estimate of Maintenance Cost – Motion by Alderman Miller to approve the 2020 MFT Estimate of Maintenance Cost, second by Alderman Clark, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
4. Discuss/Approve 2020 Engineering Agreement for MFT – Motion by Alderman Spotloe, to approve the 2020 Engineering Agreement for Motor Fuel Tax, second by Alderman Lafary roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
5. Discuss/Approve 2020 MFT Seal Coat Proposal to send out for bid – Motion by Alderman Kelley to approve the 2020 MFT Seal Coat Proposal to send out for bid, second by Alderman Spotloe, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
6. Discuss Minimum water bills for full time employees and elected officials – At this time the full time employees and elected officials pay a minimum water bill. Mayor Littlefield said he should have looked into this when he first was elected. Mayor Littlefield passed out a commentary to discuss. It is an ethics violation to receive minimum water bill. This was discussed with Attorney Collins. As mayor he is discontinuing the practice. This has to come to an end. Alderman Lafary asked attorney Collins about this. Attorney Collins said it was brought to his attention when Jason Herrick announced it. Attorney Collins said he discussed this with Beka Schultz our accountant, she said the IRS could come back on us. Alderman Miller thinks that the full time employees should be given something to replace it. The auditor said that it has to be accounted for. Times change and laws change. The General Assembly recently passed a State Statute regarding this matter. Not all full time employees were getting this perk because they did not receive city water. Alderman Spotloe said they should move to city limits to get compensated for the water. Mayor said that in the new budget the full time employees will be compensated. That is the fair way for the employees to be compensated.

7. Discuss Water meters at Fulton County Fairground and Lewistown Fire House (Alderman Sally Clark) – First what are the intentions regarding the water meters and charging them. The last meeting it was stated that the meters were going to be installed. The charges were not even going to be thought about for 8 to 10 months. Mayor Littlefield stated that the EPA told them that had to put meters everywhere. The General Assembly has passed a new statute that says we have to charge everyone. Unfortunately everyone has to pay. Alderman Clark said everyone always scratched each others back. Wants to know why he wants to charge the fire department. Alderman Spotloe asked how many fire departments are charged. Mayor said it is in the budget for fire departments. Alderman Clark wants to know what is going to happen when we can't get in to fair grounds to check the storage tanks. (Jason Herrick arrived 7:22 p.m.). The Mayor said we have in writing an agreement. Alderman Clark wants to know why we can't continue with the hand shake agreement. It is up to the EPA to make the decision; they said we have to put in meters. Alderman Miller asked if any of these have grandfather clauses on them. Attorney Collins said maybe. Looking at this law the way it is written there may be an escape hatch he can find to get out of this. Law went into effect August 18, 2017. Alderman Lafary said that the fairgrounds pays the minimum each month. The Mayor said that water bill is for Simmon's Car Lot. Attorney Collins wants to talk to the Illinois Municipal League to find out. Mayor Littlefield is for anything the Attorney can find to avoid charging the Firehouse and Fairgrounds.
8. Discuss/Approve new Christmas display for Cemetery Wall – Motion by Alderman Clark to approve the "Seasons Greeting" Christmas wall display for the Cemetery Wall, second by Alderman Lafary, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

CLOSED SESSION: No closed session

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Clark made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.; Seconded by Alderman Miller motion carried all ayes.


Cindy Goddard, City Clerk