

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE December 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, Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. **Also Present:** City Clerk Cindy Goddard, Treasurer Debbie Brown (ZOOM), Public Works Director Evin Palmer. **ABSENT:** Alderman John Spotloe.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield Jr.

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

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

The City Clerk stated that the city had received the rest of the cure money from the state to max out the amount we were allotted the total amount was \$98,347.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown. Nothing to report.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: Amanda Smith, here to represent the Lewistown Safe Neighborhoods Group. They are here to talk about what is happening in their neighborhood. Feel they have been victims in criminal behavior, trespassing, illegal drugs, destruction of property breaking and entering all in the last year and half reported by neighbors. Substantial portion is coming from the Broadway Arms residents and visitors. A four-page proposal from them was included in the packet. We would like to thank the Lewistown Police and County Police; they have done a great job. This needs to be a community divan effort. Around 35-40 residents put this proposal together. Number one goal is to have a safe neighborhood. Looking for resources for substance abuse, mental health and poverty they are significant in a community in need. Hoping, that as community members we are wanting to come together, we are asking support from council members to update the ordinances and for guidance, signage at all city parks for awareness and explore options for an addition to the nuisance property ordinance in Chapter 93. More than 100 communities in Illinois that have similar ordinances for crime-free or nuisance property ordinances. Also, would like more lighting around Broadway Arms and street lighting

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to help with facial recognition. Brighter street lights would be beneficial. Asking everyone on that end of town to leave lights on and keep everything locked. Recently 160 people sign a petition to support this. Broadway Arms is Zoned as commercial but this is residential, they looked at ordinance and they have questions how this works. Alderperson Miller asked if they have talked to the park district? The city only has one park. Yes, they have. The signs have already been ordered by the park district. Alderperson Miller reminded them that every incident needs to be reported. Every little thing. Alderperson Kelley asked if they have had any contact with owners of Broadway Arms, Amanda's response was, they tried. Chief Werland said that the owners have approved cameras to get installed, but keep on them. If enough complaints they will have to do something eventually. Majority of calls are regarding visitors per Chief Werland. The COVID-19 has caused issues because they could only write tickets and not take the person to jail. Also, there are four residents that will get evicted once the COVID-19 order is lifted. Also contact the Governor suggested Alderperson Miller. It is also a government assisted living facility. Chief Werland said they have done quite of few stops regarding these people. Years ago, Neighborhood watch worked well. Neighborhood watch can pull people together again, like other neighborhoods. Amanda thanked the Council for their time. Mayor Littlefield added we are all concerned. The group would like a response on some of our request.

Jayson Herrick then spoke, one of his renters got his water shut off because he was not present when we arrived to put in meter, cannot shut water off because of the COVID-19 situation, why did he not get a phone call, the water is in his name? He knows one of the Alderman got a phone call. This needs to be addressed. You need to send someone tonight to get the water turned on tonight. Argument with Mayor Littlefield about shutting water off on one of his renters, Jayson said because of the governors orders we cannot shut the water off. Mayor Littlefield explained that the city is NOT regulated by the Commerce Commission. Jayson Herrick kept saying we could not shut the water off. Governor says only if regulated by the Commerce Commission. Alderperson Clark said this is a health hazard. Mayor Littlefield stated he (Jayson Herrick) did not know what he was talking about regarding shutting water off. Alderperson Miller made a motion Sally second to turn the water back on tonight. Alderperson Lafary said he did not know why he got a call regarding this. Mayor Littlefield said he does not know what the reason is for shutting it off. Mayor Littlefield stated that there is always more to the story when he checks into things. Evinn Palmer was told to go turn water on that night. Alderperson Miller said he withdraws his motion. Jayson said he has another issue he wants to bring up, this is regarding a person moving out of a rental house. Utilities were shut off, owner only wanted electricity back on, not the water, the water was turned back on, then they got a water bill with late charge, Ameren does not turn utilities on without owners' request, why does the city? Alderperson Lafary said these people need to come or call city hall to discuss this, it is their complaint. Jayson Herrick said this

may be a policy issue, does not want it to happen again to someone or to him since he is a landlord.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderperson Clark: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe: Absent.

Street & Alley – Alderperson Miller: Nothing at this time.

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.

Public works – For month of December they have been focusing on fairgrounds ground storage, there is multiply maps regarding the layout of water lines, trying to figure out the water to successfully shut off ground storage or bypass it, they say there is a bypass but he can't figure it out. They need to get upgrade on clay valve and rehab. In the 90's they changed things that are not mapped out. They are digging and documenting at this time and looking at the blueprints. He questioned the previous engineer and Jewel Bucy (previous PWD) to figure out the plumbing. May need to isolate some lines. Regarding new meters installs, less than 25 per Mayor Littlefield. City Clerk stated around five left but need to have people be at home.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve 2 new AED's for the Police Department – There is a yearly check of the AED's, one bad, and two years out of service, need two. They can get refurbished ones for \$495.00 each which is about 30% less than new ones. Chief Werland admitted they don't use them a lot but need them a lot but usually first on scene. Alderperson Clark motion to purchase the refurbished AED's for \$495.00 each, second by Alderperson Kelley, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderperson Miller made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.; Second by Alderperson Clark motion carried all ayes.



Cindy Goddard, City Clerk