

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DATE September 13, 2022

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Howard Love

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Alderperson Sally Clark, Jim Long, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, 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:** Alderman Brad Ward and Alderman John Spotloe

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Doug Lafary

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard. Reported that the dumpsters were ordered for all town clean up.

Alderperson Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of August 23, 2022, second by Alderperson Clark roll call vote, the motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown. Explained that the accounts that were closed and combined into one was renamed, and also moved \$5,000.00 from MIP to the main Tourism account.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe: Absent.

Streets & Allies – Alderperson Miller: Nothing to report.

Police/ESDA – Alderperson Ward: Absent.

Water – Alderperson Miller: Nothing at this time.

Utilities/Publications – Alderperson Long: Nothing to report.

Public Buildings & Grounds – Alderperson Long: Getting ready for winter, need some heaters.

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Movie night was a success, another one in October, there were 25 to 30 present. Working on Wiener Roast for Halloween.

Tax Increment Financing – Alderperson Spotloe: Absent.

Citizens Committee – Amanda Smith continuing to get applications for the Housing Development Grant taking them till September 20. September 15 hopefully getting fund for murals. Should hear by September 30 for a grant for Arnett Park.

Christmas Committee - Kenny Haacke - Farm King came thru for us, they said we could get as many Christmas Trees as we need. The price is year is \$29.99, last year they were \$24.99 and we added on extra \$5.00 to help with expenses, so total price will be \$35.00 this year.

WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Evinn Palmer Director, explained that recently they finished the Catholic Cemetery Road, wanted to thank Tristin Bainter, Ed Helle with The Lewistown Township and Craig McCoy

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss/Approve Resolution for an Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan as IMRF earnings (Aflac) – City Clerk Cindy Goddard explained this Resolution needed passed so the AFLAC payments can be withheld pretax. Motion by Alderperson Clark to approve the Resolution for an Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan, second by Alderperson Long, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
2. Discuss/Approve New Radar Gun for Police Department – Chief Merrill explained he needed a newer model; the price is \$2,087.50 and only getting one at this time. Motion by Alderperson Miller to approve the purchase of a new Radar Gun for the Police Department in the amount of \$2,087.50, second by Alderperson Long, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve setting date for Halloween Trick or Treat Night (October 31 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) – Motion by Alderperson Pascal to set Halloween Trick or Treat Night on October 31, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., second by Alderperson Clark roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
4. Discuss/Approve Tax Abatement ordinance for General Obligation Bond in the Amount of \$15,900.00 – City Clerk Cindy Goddard explained that this is passed every year to Abate the Tax on the \$135,000.00 General Obligation Bond. This year the amount is \$15,900.00. Alderperson Long made a motion to approve the Tax Abatement Ordinance for the General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$15,900.00, second by Alderperson Clark, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
5. Discussion by Mayor Lafary regarding accusations by Multiple Media resources about his Membership in the “Oath Keepers” Organization – Mayor spoke regarding last Wednesday and getting calls regarding his involvement with Oath Keepers. He has taken an oath to support Village of Smithfield, City of Lewistown (as a public official), police department and in the military. He read the oath (see attached). He stated he will continue to support the oath, and he does not support the division of the community.


PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Howard Love

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderperson Clark made a motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m.; Seconded by Alderperson Long motion carried all ayes.


Cindy Goddard, City Clerk

As some of you may know, last Wednesday I began being contacted by phone and Email from media organizations from as far away as Chicago about my involvement with the Oathkeepers.

I did not respond to any of the medias inquiries because I do not work for the them.

So I am here today to explain my involvement to you.

I was introduced to the Oathkeepers at a political event and signed up to receive information to learn more about them.

On its face it seemed to fit my values.

I have taken an oath to defend the constitution, this country, and its citizens more times than I can count. I have devoted more than half my life to the service of this republic, this county, and this city. I swore this solemn oath before God when I joined the military, became a Deputy Sheriff, was elected the Mayor of Smithfield, and when I was elected the Mayor of Lewistown just to name a few. And as God is my witness, I am prepared to re-affirm that oath here and now.

"I DOUG LAFARY do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

This is the Oath that all Military, Law enforcement, and Elected Officials recite.

As I stand here today in front of God, I do more than simply recite it as some form of ceremony, I profess this oath freely and without reservation and I intend to honor it until the day that I am rejoined with my father in heaven.

The media and political actors have decided to attack people who take this oath seriously and claim that the very people who swear before God to protect this nation, its most sacred documents, and its citizens somehow pose the biggest threat to those very things they have sworn to protect. These actors have one intention and that is to divide America and push her citizens to distrust, and be fearful of each other.

I am here to say enough is enough!

I will not participate in the division based scare tactics used by the media, it is not good for America and not good for Lewistown. We all know each other and many of you have known each other for decades if not your entire lives. We share in each other's joy and pain. We celebrate each other's good times, and we are there to help with the rough spots. My God teaches me to love my neighbor as if he was myself, and I will be damned, if I stand by and allow any group to come into our midst with the intention of dividing us and turning us on to each other based on artificial political lines without speaking out.

In my time in the military, law enforcement and as an elected official I have never asked anyone their political affiliation or what group they belonged to before I attempted to help them in their situation, because I didn't care.

We are all Americans and I take the lessons taught in The Gospel of Matthew to love my neighbor as he was myself seriously.

So, if you ask me do I take my oath of office seriously?

The answer is un-apologetically yes, and I feel that all elected officials, Military and Law Enforcement should take that solemn oath as seriously as I do.

Thank You. I have nothing further on this matter.

Doug Lafary

Mayor

Lewistown, Illinois

13 September 2022