

Lewistown Finance/Budget meeting
February 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Lewistown City Hall Council Room

ROLL CALL: Alderperson Sally Clark Finance Chairman, Jim Long, Brad Ward, Treasurer Deb Brown, Mayor Doug Lafary, Beka Schultz accountant, Evinn Palmer Public Works Director, and Police Chief Frank Merrill.

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Beka Schultz started out with the Police Department budget, there is a 1.5% increase for next Fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024.

Regarding Public Works it need to decide on how using ARPA funds and how much any projects the city portion needs to be budgeted for. For the tank rehab we can use the \$600,000.00 Bustos grant, but still short \$48,000.00 Joe Carruthers, Keith Plavec and Evinn Palmer, getting together to get it figured out. Need a new Bobcat skid steer, cannot use the breaker on it, price for a Case is \$68,162.50. Possibly can get a grant but put in budget anyway.

Pay increase has not been added yet for full-time employees.

Water is not supporting itself at this time Beka said and it is supposed to, Keith Plavec suggested increase of 20 cents per gallon if using over 1,500 gallons. Video gaming is making up the difference now, it is divided half between water and half goes to Tourism. Alderman Brad Ward does not want a 5-year Ordinance to increase water like before, would like yearly if one is done. The Mayor does not want to increase.

Cannabis Use Tax can only be used for certain drug use, needs own account set up.

Alderperson Sally Clark would like to get Sara Bainter, in public works, a different truck. The dump truck is in the shop at this time and Johnny's truck is 2007, a lot of down time with them getting repaired.

Buildings/garages getting bad, need insulated, roofs, Elm Street not too bad, Visitors Center needs some work. Added in the budget money for demolition.

Have one full time public works employee possibly retiring this fall, try a probation period with some part-timers maybe and see how that works.

Tourism is ok made a little money last year.

Regarding the TIF Fund it was asked if could go ahead redo map to add someone, it would not be worth the money it cost since it ends in 2026. It would consume a lot of the money we have left. Discussed 3% raise for all full-time employees except police. That would figure all less than a dollar a person raise.

Back to discussion regarding grants, or low interest loan for truck, skid steer or use ARPA money, but can't combine two.

Would like short bed. 1 ton, Ford, also price crew cab. Cheaper to go thru a state purchase representative.

In the Motor Fuel Tax account need to increase tree removal budget, and for the oil and chip program going to hold off for another year to have more money for next year since estimated cost to oil and chip was a lot more.

Budget numbers at this time.

General Fund \$78,395.00 deficit.

Water Fund \$2,200 deficit

Waste Water Fund \$9,450.00 deficit

Police Fine Fund \$3,750.00 deficit


Social Security Fund \$1,000.00 surplus
IMRF Fund \$10,700.00 surplus
Motor Fuel Tax Fund \$10,175.00 surplus
TIF Fund \$19,500.00 deficit
Tourism Fund \$2,600.00 deficit
Bond Fund \$382.00 surplus

An estimate of 2.2 million revenue and 2.3 million expenses.

Time line, has to be county office by the 30th of April. The City Council meetings are 11th and 25th of April. First presentation of budget will be April 11, 2023 and final presentation will be April 25 with a Public Hearing for the City of Lewistown Appropriation Budget at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th before the regular Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSE MEETING:

Aldersperson Ward made a motion to adjourn at 12:01 p.m.; Seconded by Aldersperson Long motion carried all ayes.


Cindy Goddard, City Clerk