

## **LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE February 9, 2021**

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

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM** by Mayor Elmer Littlefield Jr.

**CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES:** Cindy Goddard. The city clerk went over a webinar that she viewed regarding the expenses for the new requirements that may occur for the police department. Some of the expenses will be for the body cams, maybe some training and another expense for sure is the work comp insurance will go up because of the new laws. They did not go into a lot of details because it has not been signed yet by the governor. There is no money in the grant fund at this time. Second thing I just ran a budget report and we are down an estimated amount of \$132,402.00 in tax revenue, permits and reimbursements compared to last year at this time. Still have February, March and April to go thru per Mayor.

Alderperson Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2020, second by Alderperson Clark roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Debbie Brown. Nothing at this time.

### **PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

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

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Nathan Collins. Nothing new at this time but I do have one comment regarding the Body Cams I received a memo from Illinois Municipal League that said based on our population that maybe in 2025 will be the latest to purchase them. This gives the city a little more time to come up with the money and there may be grant money to get.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** George Merkle from Maurer Stutz attended meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS:** None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance – Alderperson Clark:** Nothing to report.

**Sewer – Alderperson Spotloe:** Absent

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

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**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 at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discuss/Approve 2021 MFT Estimate of Maintenance Costs – George Merkle explained there are 9 maintenance items. Items that Evinn Palmer (Public Works Director) gave totals for this year. Total \$139,074.93 for total operation cost. Engineering is \$8,583.23. MFT funds to be used is \$95,286.50 and rebuild IL funds is \$52,371.66, motion by Alderperson Clark to approve the 2021 MFT Estimate of Maintenance Costs, second by Alderperson Lafary roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
2. Discuss/Approve 2021 Resolution for MFT Maintenance – Last year IDOT required two resolutions because of the Rebuild Illinois Funds, this year they are combined so only one resolution is needed. Motion by Alderperson Miller to approve the 2021 Resolution for MFT Maintenances, second by Alderperson Clark, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve 2021 Engineering Agreement for MFT –Estimate total \$8,583.23 for engineering agreement \$5,548.74 for Engineering and \$3,034.49 for Inspection for seal coat work. Motion by Alderperson Lafary to approve the 2021 Engineering Agreement for MFT, second by Kelley, roll call vote, Clark aye, Kelley aye, Lafary aye, Miller nay, Pascal aye, motion carried.
4. Discuss/Approve 2021 MFT Seal Coat Proposal to send out for bid – Map included for council to see, Alderperson Miller questioned if fiber optic has been done yet in that end of town, they make a mess, maybe wait not to ruin the seal coat. Mayor said they bore under the street usually. Mayor stated we are covering the West side of town for seal coat. Alderperson Clark has had some complaints, there is someone not happy with their yard, can they call Mid Century, yes Evinn Palmer has number we can call or the customer. George Merkle said he talked to the contractor out of Jacksonville, they said up \$10.00 a

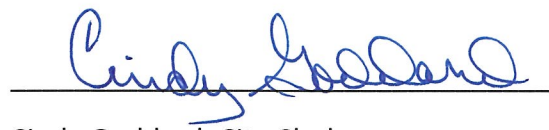
ton will be an increase in prices for them. Mayor wanted to do more streets but the city does not have enough man power to get the streets prepared. George said we can add more streets later if bid comes in lower. Motion by Alderperson Miller approve the 2021 MFT Seal Coat Proposal to send out for bid, second Alderperson Clark, roll call vote motion carried all ayes.

5. Discuss/Approve more lighting on Broadway along with the cost – Alderperson Clark talked to several people about Broadway, some can afford camera and lights, some cannot, including senior citizens that cannot because of a fixed income. Evinn Palmer provided a map to Clark showing where lights are positioned. We need to possibly add more lights with the city paying the bill, this is a safety issue. Something has to be done and need to start somewhere according to Alderperson Clark. Alderperson Miller asked if she is wanting to change the lighting? Mayor Littlefield said that Ameren has a program that is pertaining to putting in new lights (LED) when they burn out. The city street light bill with Ameren this year so far is \$32,692.64. Clark also said that the LED will help the bill go down in the future. Alderperson Miller said he had a discussion regarding it being dark on the other end of town also. Where do we stop? We know where the problem is, Broadway Arms. Mayor Littlefield added two new lights that he is paying for, but it did not prevent him from getting robbed. Miller said maybe Ameren will work with the city to change to LED's before they burn out. Mayor reminded them that it is the whole town not just that area. He feels we are discriminating. Mayor Littlefield said there is a statute that reads if we have 2/3 of the alderman agree they can add a max amount of ½% of the assessed real estate taxes, no referendum required, but that is raising taxes. This will create a problem; other parts of town will also want more lighting. This did not happen overnight per Clark; we are here for the citizens. Evinn Palmer talked to Ameren, to switch to LED with a working light it is \$250.00 when not burned out. There are around 9 lights total in that area, \$2,200.00 to change all of these when not burned out. There are some burned out, the Mayor said when he called, they came in about a week to change the light in front of his property. Police Department should be watching and reporting which lights are out. There is an area on the map that Evinn made where lights can be added. The Mayor said that Broadway Arms itself is pretty lit up. Alderperson Clark suggested maybe a light behind Broadway Arms on the City property. Alderperson Lafary asked if they are calling the police when they see someone suspicious, after police are called, they do not find anyone commented Alderperson Clark. The motion lights cost about \$20.00 per Mayor, Clark some people just cannot afford one. Mayor said maybe church can help, they help with water bills, Clark said people have pride don't always want to ask. Mayor said you have an answer for everything, Clark answered, yes, I do. Alderperson Clark suggested maybe pick and choose which LED lights may help. Miller said we just cannot afford to do all of them, maybe change the lights and not add more. Hopefully other residents will understand this area needs brighter lights. Maybe a group can get together and talk to Ameren for help. Maybe some kind of program to help get motion detectors or cameras. Mayor said he has been driving around to see which lights are out. Miller

volunteered to get with Palmer and Mayor to drive around and check the lighting when it gets warmer, hopefully before next meeting. Clark says we just need to show we are trying to help. Need to come up with some kind of solution and have to show all the town, not just that area, we are trying to help. Table till next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Aldersperson Clark made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.; Second by Aldersperson Miller motion carried all ayes.



Cindy Goddard, City Clerk