

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Date June 23, 2020

The Lewistown City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. for Budget Meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Littlefield, Debbie Brown, Evinn Palmer, Cindy Goddard, John Spotloe, Sally Clark, Beka Shultz.

All aldermen have a budget to look at. Per Beka Schultz there are 17 accounts reconciled at this time finishing the month of May at this time.

6:10 p.m. Alderman Doug Lafary and Alderman Kendall Miller arrived.

Audit starts Monday June 29 for FY 2020, this is FY 2021 now. The Mayor stated that included in the budget was everyone but Gary Shawgo gets a \$1.00 raise, that includes full time police and part time police. We pay more to our part time police than other towns so they should want to work here. The Mayor asked Beka Schultz if anything to add.

Beka Schultz explained that the IML stated that the revenue may be down because of the Covid 19 and looked at that for the revenues that the city will receive. The budget was discussed with Chief Werland and Public Works Director Evinn Palmer to get information from them for any projects or expenses that they knew would occur, also talked to Mauer Stutz regarding any projects this fiscal year, then asked if any questions. Alderwoman Clark asked about raises that a dollar is like 4 1/2 %, which the county only gives 2%. Mayor Littlefield explained that because of the minimum water perk being removed and the minimum wage rising, that it needed to be \$1.00 to keep the lower pay employees a certain amount above minimum. Alderwoman Clark asked why Gary Shawgo was not getting a \$1.00 raise, she stated he did not step down, he was demoted and everyone else got a raise. She understands everyone has a different position. The Mayor explained that he did not lose any pay, still at the same pay but should not receive the same amount as Evinn Palmer because Evinn is Public Works Director now and does not have the same responsibilities. Alderwoman Clark feels like everyone should be paid the same. The Mayor felt that this was a fair amount and the way to do it. Alderman Spotloe stated he agreed that both (Evinn and Gary) should not get the same pay. Alderwoman Clark wants to know if there is a contract with Gary Shawgo. Felt like he deserves a raise because he was demoted. The Mayor also feels that he was a good employee, just not fulfilling his position. Alderwoman Clark wants the contract labor explained for the fire hydrants.

6:17 p.m. Alderwoman Kim Pascal arrived

Page 2
June 23, 2020

Nathan Collins has equipment to sand down to bare metal, prime, paint and lubricate, has done one for the Mayor to look at and Mayor said it looked great. Hopefully will be on the agenda next meeting. The city has around 160 fire hydrants. City Clerk Cindy Goddard explained that contract labor is for other things beside the fire hydrants that is why so high. The police department wants new lap tops and a new desk computer stated the city clerk. That amount is coming from 2 accounts.

At 6:25 p.m. budget meeting adjourned.

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE June 23, 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 and Alderwomen Sally Clark, Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, John Spotloe and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. Also present: City Clerk Cindy Goddard, City Treasurer Debby Brown, Public Works Director Evinn Palmer, City Attorney Nathan Collins, City Engineer Keith Plavec, and Beka Schultz City Accountant. **ABSENT:** Alderman Trevor Kelley

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

Alderman Spotloe made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020, second by Alderwoman Clark roll call vote, the motion carried all ayes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Brown.

Nothing to report at this time.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Nathan Collins. Nothing

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Keith Plavec. Well #16 waiting on IEPA to get back with the results to start using it. Everything was submitted in late December, early January, because of the Covid 19 they were not in the office. All tests are fine. The well is 16 inch in diameter unexpected money was spent to get the well up and going. Huge demands

from sprayers according to Mr. Plavec. We have a total of 7 wells running at this time. The older ones need cleaned, but can't till new well up and running. IEPA said we needed to run more tests but decided the tests were fine. Approval should be soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS:

Someone asked if court house open, not yet, is city hall open? Mayor Littlefield said when court house opens up then city hall will open up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderman Clark: Wants to know what her roll is? Mayor said she could sit down with Cindy Goddard any time she wants to and go over budget or bills. Alderman Miller said years ago they had budget meetings. It was explained that the accountant Beka Schultz and Cindy Goddard got the budget done over the phone because of the Covid 19.

Sewer – Alderman Spotloe: Nothing to report.

Street & Alley – Alderman Miller: Nothing to report.

Police/ESDA – Alderman Lafary: Nothing to report.

Water – Mayor Littlefield: Nothing at this time.

Utilities/Publications – Alderman Kelley: Absent

Buildings and Grounds – Alderman Kelley: Absent

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Went to the Scenic Drive meeting and they wanted the city to put an ad in the Scenic Drive Book for \$160.00. Was already told we cannot do that. Alderwoman Pascal wanted the city to pay the rent for the port-a-potties and dumpsters. That cannot be done either. Then she wants to know what she is suppose to do being on Tourism. Music in the Park is not sponsored by the City till Phase 5. Phase 4 is only 50 people social distancing. Alderman Miller said he talked to insurance company, if only 50 on city property and the rest will be on the Church property. Mayor Littlefield said he will call the insurance company to see if they will go along with that.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – 2nd meeting of the month – Evinn Palmer said they have been cutting brush, working on a sink hole, only one more rotor at Waste Water to rehab now, and fixing water breaks that Ameren hit putting in the gas lines.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve Cruise-In for Jason Westerfield – He moved the location to the fair grounds.
2. Discuss/Approve Ordinance regarding Weeds and Grass height – Ordinance 93.21 said weeds over 12 inches in height and 93.22 said weeds, or grass over 8 inches in height are declared nuisance. New Ordinance amends 93.21 stating that weeds over 8 inches in height that are a menace to public health be declared a nuisance. Alderman Clark want to know when enforced, shall be in full force and effect 10 days after publication. Alderman Spotloe made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending Section 93.21, second by Alderwoman Clark, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve Budget FY 2021 – Alderwoman Pascal wanted to know if any money from the Tourism account can be used for the Scenic Drive. No has to be a city function. The city does not have anything to do with the Scenic Drive. Alderman Lafary stated this is all a deficit budget. Beka (accountant) said that there is money in reserve. Not a big increase in water and waste water just things that need to be finished so that we can furnish the people water. Alderman Lafary wants to know the percentage the \$1.00 raise is for the employees. Minimum wage is going up by law. After this year the minimum wage does not go up as much. Alderman Miller said yes public works director should get \$1.00 raise, but not rest because the budget can not afford it. Maybe need to set salaries for positions. Alderman Lafary said no raise. Mayor Littlefield stated the water bills only averaged out 8 cents for the minimum water bills the full-time employees were receiving. The full-time employees get 15 paid holidays; the city pays 14% for pension, and pays 70% for the insurance. No raises except for Evinn Palmer \$1.00. Alderman Lafary asked did we spend too much on water meters. Mayor Littlefield said that three contractors said \$950,000.00, but we are doing it for \$650,000.00, saving the city \$300,000.00. More discussion on Evinn's pay it needs to be \$1.00 more than other public works employees. Evinn explained that water and waste water is 7 days a week. Beka explained that in the budget everyone is paid hourly with potential overtime. Alderman Lafary asked 7 days a week at 8 hours a day, no, according to Evinn, on Saturday and Sunday the water and waste water have to be checked usually 2 to 3 hours each day to backwash and add chemicals. Mayor Littlefield explained that EPA requires this be done. Alderwoman Pascal said why can't they take a couple hours a week off during the week to not get overtime. No big increase in the health insurance. Mayor stated this is a very realist budget, not just plugging in numbers. Mayor asked if everyone alright with giving a \$1.00 raise. The discussion was no. Alderman Spotloe asked about cost of living raise 2.5% for full time employees. Wendy Martin asked Alderman Lafary what his suggestion is, to get it all balanced. He

said it just needs to balance. Lafary suggest only give police pay increase and maybe cut the contract labor. Mayor wanted to know if everyone agreed for Evinn \$1.00, part timers stay same and rest 2 ½ % except for Gary Shawgo. Alderman Lafary suggested salary for everyone. Alderman Miller suggests a budget meeting again. Table for now. Everyone needs to look it over, write down suggestions. The revenue is less than the expenses, but there is a reserve in the checking accounts. The unaccounted for water is very high and hopefully with the new meters this will decrease and water income will increase. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the budget FY 2021, changes are Evinn Palmer \$1.00 raise and the rest of the full time employees a 2.5% cost of living raise, second by Alderman Spotloe, roll call vote, Alderwoman Clark yes, Alderman Lafary no, Alderman Miller yes, Alderwoman Pascal yes, Alderman Spotloe yes, motion carried.

2. Discuss/Approve placing American Legion Direction signs on Main Street close to Eisenhower – paper work from the state received, to place in middle of block at Eisenhower, this will help people find the American Legion Home, Rick Johnson is taking care of this, the paperwork has to be returned to the state. Motion by Alderman Spotloe, second by Alderwoman Clark, to place signs on Main Street for American Legion Direction signs, roll call vote, and motion carried all ayes.
3. Discuss/Approve bid for 3 Point Valve Body and Spool for 1999 570XLT Loader, bid from Stambaugh & Sons and Birkey's in Galesburg – According to Evinn Palmer these are not made any more, Stambaugh & Sons said they will sell \$100.00 less than other bids, their bid is \$2400.00 used. Mayor said this is against the law. Birkey's presented a bid of \$1,644.44 plus shipping, but does not know how long it will take to get one. Motion by Alderman Spotloe, second by Alderwoman Clark to approve the Stambaugh & Sons quote for the 3 Point Valve Body and Spool of \$2,400.00, roll call vote, all ayes.

CLOSED SESSION: No closed session

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Clark made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.; Seconded by Alderman Pascal motion carried all ayes.



Cindy Goddard, City Clerk