

LEWISTOWN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE June 9, 2020

The Lewistown City Council met in regular session in the Lewistown Visitors Center, along with virtual Zoom Webinar. Mayor Elmer Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Aldermen Sally Clark, Trever Kelley, Doug Lafary, Kendall Miller, Kim Pascal, and Mayor Elmer Littlefield. Also present: Wendy Martin from the Fulton Democrat, City Clerk Cindy Goddard, City Treasurer Debby Brown, Chief of Police John Werland, Public Works Director Evinn Palmer, City Attorney Nathan Collins, Mark Bixler from WBYS. **ABSENT:** Alderman John Spotloe

DECLARATION OF QUORUM by Mayor Elmer Littlefield

CLERKS REPORT/MINUTES: Cindy Goddard.

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

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Nathan Collins spoke regarding ordinances 93.22 and 93.21. The Ordinance #93.21 talks about weeds over 12 inches in height, and 93.22 talks about grass and weeds being eight inches in height maintained as a nuisance. The Ordinances are not consistent with each other. Attorney Collins will put this on the agenda for the next meeting for revised ordinance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Alderman Clark: Nothing to report.

Sewer – Alderman Spotloe: Absent

Street & Alley – Alderman Miller: Oil and chip process will begin, curbs are being painted on Broadway they look nice. Alderman Clark was told to call IDOT to get permission to put up two signs for the American Legion showing how to get there. Alderman Miller comments regarding Western Hills curve by the hill on the road. Tom

Berry lives at bottom of hill, he mows from his house to Milton. Talked to Public Works Director regarding the drainage along this road, he has some good ideas for it.

Police/ESDA – Alderman Lafary: Nothing to report. Chief Werland stated the city has a new officer Anthony Taylor, will have him stop in and say hello. Some background information did his internship at Fulton County, hired at Macomb, wanted to move out of Macomb and wife works at VIT School. One advantage he has had his PTI already. Ethan McClaughry is at field training for a week.

Alderman Pascal arrived at 6:41 p.m.

Water – Mayor Littlefield: Nothing to report.

Utilities/Publications – Alderman Kelley: Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Alderman Kelley: Nothing to report.

Tourism – Alderman Pascal: Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/Approve closing square for Cruise In (Jason Westerfield) proceeds to go to the Lewistown Football Team. Includes Music and Food on July 25 – Jason Westerfield said he is waiting on approval to get all details. The football team lost all their funding, there will be cars, bands and food, and people are dying to do something since they haven't been able to because of the Covid 19. This would be a great fund raiser for the school. Have to take in consideration if to still be social distancing. Would like cars on both sides of square from Block off down past J Dubbs to Rocket. All day cruise in food, music and cars. Chief Werland said when all decided have to let Fulton County Sheriff's office know also. It is a one day event. Alderman Clark feels it is a good idea and they need money, this is a good cause. Blocking Adams Street, Washington and all around the Courthouse, cut off at Milton. Discussion regarding the parking for the renters in the apartments. Can't block off Main Street stated the Mayor. Chief Werland stated it is a state route. Mayor Littlefield asked Jason to bring a map of the streets he is wanting to block. Table till next meeting.
2. Discuss/Approve blocking West Euclid from Main to East of City Hall or Adams for outdoor seating/dining for The Rocket and The Good Spot – Alderman Kelley reached out to the Good Spot and The Rocket for seating outside till next phase, they need all the help they can get, close to City Hall or some area there. Billie and Jack Simmons from the Rocket said they will wait. The Mayor has talked to Billie Simmons she is waiting till end of month for next phase, The Good Spot has a large area behind the tavern, Euclid is a main road will not be good to block

it. Sheila said they have to haul everything in and out. Spent \$400.00 on ice alone for 4 days. Maybe the sidewalk in front, so the bar tenders can stay in the building. Maybe the patrons can walk thru from front to back. The sidewalk is city property and that is reasonable stated the Mayor. Alley, yes previously blocked off, this has been a long process (Covid 19) so sidewalk is good idea said Alderman Miller. Mayor Littlefield said hopefully by end of month phase 4 and they can be inside. The alley is vacated and split between The Rocket and The Good Spot. They can walk down alley. Waive \$20.00 fee and private security personnel. Insurance card to Cindy Goddard that includes the City of Lewistown on it and fencing along sidewalk. Motion by Alderman Miller second by Alderman Clark to close the sidewalk with fencing from edge of Rocket to edge of the Lewistown Township building, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

3. Discuss/Approve Attorney Collins Contract – All Alderman have a copy of the contract. It reads the same as last year, it is from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. Motion to retain Collins & Collins at an annual rate of \$21,000.00 by Alderman Kelley, second by Alderman Clark, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes. Mayor Littlefield told Attorney Nathan Collins he does great job.
4. Discuss/Approve the house mowing of Dale Ramsey property at 815 East Washington, Lewistown (previous mowing bill of \$1,115.07 not paid, 2017-2019) – On this property previously Ron Lawver was going to purchase, and requested to get the \$5,000.00 off, then Ramsey backed out stated Alderman Pascal. The back taxes are \$15,000.00 at this time, plus mowing. Not much can be done right now. The Alderman have a list of all the yards mowed by the city that have not been paid. The city has mowed the yard twice so far this summer. Attorney Collins wants to know exactly why this is on the agenda. Alderman Pascal wants it offered to the fire department to be burned down, it is disgusting. Can't burn down someone's property, plus EPA won't allow the fire department to do that anymore. Attorney Collins said the city can file an unsafe action to owner, this was previously done on the trailer and house, and it was a two action complaint. Judge constituted the house was still safe at that time. Would need to take pictures again and go before judge, draft a complaint, go in and demolish, plus extra legal fees and get lien against property and it will cost the city around \$20,000.00. If we want to foreclose the lien to obtain property title. Will cost considerably amount \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Mayor Littlefield said we have quite a few in town that this needs to be done to. Alderman Miller asked can we go after the money they owe us. No can only go after property per attorney. The situation will cost the city a lot of money. This is same for all municipalities. The reality is it will cost the city a lot of money they we will never get back. No one is paying the taxes. Can someone buy the back taxes asked Alderman Clark? Yes, then they have 2 ½ years, then take before the judge making it close to 3 years to buy them back. Alderman Miller wants to spray the weeds, it was stated that chemicals are high, Mayor said cheaper to mow. It cost the city around \$8,000.00 to get down the Henderson barn. Ramsey lives in Havana now with sister in law. Mayor Littlefield stated that the city does not have the money to demolish properties. Maybe in future make an account/savings for demolishing property suggested Chief Werland. Attorney Collins said with all expenses of tearing it

down, dumpster and all the EPA rules, the charges just keep adding up. Hopefully something will change per Mayor in the future.

5. Discuss/Approve two 9' Cage Rotors for Aeration Process at Wastewater - Evinn Palmer stated this is part of process at Wastewater, two electric motors, one to use now and a spare. They run 24 hours a day. Combined total for two Cage Rotors from Lakeside is \$2,894.00. Motion by Alderman Clark to purchase two Cage Rotors for Aeration Process at Wastewater Plant fro \$2,894.00, second by Alderman Miller, roll call vote, motion carried all ayes.

CLOSED SESSION: No closed session

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Miller made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.; Seconded by Alderman Clark motion carried all ayes.


Cindy Goddard, City Clerk