

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE APRIL 16TH, 2026

LEWISTOWN CITY HALL

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS- WATER

Roll call: Sally Clark, Jim Long, Brad Ward, Kendall Miller, David Levingston, Mayor Cindy Goddard

Absent: John Spotloe

Mayor Goddard stated that there were four options that the council needed to go over and decide which is the best treatment plan for Lewistown. Keith Plavic with Mauer Stutz stated this is about the manganese. Keith stated it all started with the last administration with levels that exceeded the amounts. Keith stated there are four options, one is staying with current water supply that is south of town. Option two was keeping the fairgrounds site and putting a plant there. Option three was a reverse osmosis. Option four was purchasing water from Canton. Keith put a slide together showing what annual cost would be over a twenty-year plan. Keith stated that the cheapest option would be the manganese treatment plant at the fair grounds which would be a \$34 upcharge for each customer that with a 2.75% interest rate over a twenty-year period. Keith stated reverse osmosis would be the city's last option to go with. Keith's option is the property on N. Main Street. Keith stated that the council needed to continue to investigate alternatives. Keith stated that the advantage with the north property that if in thirty to forty years the city needs to dig bigger wells there would be more room. Alderperson Levingston asked Keith if the water would still go through ground storage at the fairgrounds. Keith stated hypothetically we are at the north property that the water would go clear to the north property, through the treatment plant, go into a ground storage tank and be pumped out to the system. Keith stated no matter what the city would need to get an easement. Alderperson Clark asked how good of shape the tower is in. Keith stated that they had discussed including a rehab on it in the planning study. Jessica Whitsitt when the water quality evaluation was in the majority of the system and not dissolved. Keith stated that they had and were still looking if the city needed to do an addition on the chemicals. Keith stated that Hawkins stated that the top filters will work. Keith stated reverse osmosis would only be if we had to go with the deep wells. Keith stated that with reverse osmosis that the city would be adding in more chemicals than they need to. Keith stated that he was trying to plan for the future that if we build this bay then we need to make sure it can be added to in the future if it needs to be. Keith stated with the north property that we would have plenty of room. Jessica stated that a town or county had gone through the same thing a few years ago and the city could reach out and see what kind of experience they have had with it. Elmer stated that when he was mayor that him and Keith talked and the seven wells were drawing out of one glass. Elmer stated that there was test done years ago and there is better water down there about sixty feet from the wells. Elmer asked Keith if there had been any soil testing done at the north site. Keith stated that there had not been any done yet. Elmer stated if you go back to July 31st 2019 there was a farmer put on the front page of the democrat that was willing to work with the city but the city was not willing to see the future. Elmer stated that the farmer had not

included what he wanted for the property though. Elmer stated that he tried to go ahead with the domain when he was mayor but the council did not want to at that time. Keith stated that Elmer is saying that the city needs to look at opportunities. Elmer stated that the manganese was not an issue when he was mayor. Mayor Goddard stated it has always been a problem but the epa is enforcing it now. Jessica stated that it has always been a problem but there has been more research done on it. Nathan Collins asked Keith where we have to test the water from that goes to the epa. Keith stated they test at the well field. Nathan Collins stated the tp01 is the only place we are allowed to send from samples. Nathan asked where tp02 is located. Keith stated there is not a tp02. Nathan asked where the first water customer was compared to tp01. Keith stated the first customer is located on toot place roughly 1500-2000 ft away. Jessica stated they have tested from her house and it was high until they flushed than it was below. Public works director Evin stated that Jessica is on a two-way line and they have looked into getting rid of the two-way lines. Keith stated that would have made the tp01 at the fairground site. Keith stated the wells that the city is running on right now they are not aware of any holes. Elmer asked what the \$600,000 was going to that was a grant for the fairgrounds. Keith stated that money was utilized to put in a new pump station at the fairgrounds site. Alderperson Miller stated there were two reason it was moved into town years ago, one reason being all the flooding then and the second reason if the city needed to drill anywhere else in town it would be to one central location. Keith stated that we have to send letters out to the five Indian tribes. Keith stated they are looking for an approval on a project plan by the fall. Keith stated that the next opportunity to look at funding would be March of 2027. Keith stated there are more funding options like doc project grant but it is for shovel ready projects. Keith stated once we have the planning study done then we could apply for that grant. Keith stated that the epa will back pay for construction and offer principal forgiveness which he is estimating at 2.75%. Keith stated that the city would find out by July 1 2027 if we were selected by the epa. Keith stated that we would then advertise and open bids and close by October or September. Keith stated that the project would be done 2029. Keith stated that the city needed to try and find a flat fee or a usage to help cover the makeup. Alderperson Long stated that the city had not raised water rates in years. Nathan stated that it was raised in 2017. Alderperson Miller stated the recommendation would be to put go with option two at the north property. Alderperson Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Alderperson Miller.



Natalie Nelson, City Clerk