

LEWISBERRY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Groft, Council President, leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Groft, Council President; Wayne Branyan, Mayor; Council Members: Mark Keener, Robert Lewis, Shane Urbine, Maureen Berezna, and Daniel Soltis (via Zoom)

Also Present: Yvonne Allard, Borough Manager; P. Daniel Altland, Solicitor

PUBLIC PRESENT *SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEET*

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

- Chief Holland reports that there 6 calls for service in the Borough in October. Discussion ensued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Maureen **BEREZNAK** made a motion, seconded by Michelle **FLETCHER** to approve the October 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES AND RECEIPTS

- Maureen **BEREZNAK** made a motion, seconded by Robert **LEWIS** to approve the General Fund, Electric Fund, Road Fund, and Building Maintenance account invoices for payment. Motion carried, 7-0.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Solicitor Altland states his information will be covered under new business.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Branyan states he attended the Family First Health event at the Community Building last month and it was a worthwhile time and very informative. They are doing a lot of work and offering many services for the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Road Committee:

- Council Member Keener inquires as to the status of the completion of Walnut Lane. Discussion ensued. The final paving will be done in the spring.

Electric Committee:

- Manager Allard states that capacity charges are going to be increasing due to the PJM auction held in July 2024. The rate went from \$28.92/MW-Day to \$269.92/MW-Day. A proposal was discussed at a meeting with NextEra where they propose lowering the Borough's power costs for 2 years (2025-2026) to help soften the blow from the capacity cost increase. Discussion ensued. A firm proposal from NextEra will be presented at the next meeting.
- Council Member Fletcher states all the poles that needed replacing have been replaced.

LEWISBERRY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2024

Insurance Committee:

- No report

Building and Grounds Committee:

- Council Member Lewis states he replaced lights in the Park Building, and the Community Building today. He will also be opening the park building for the Bloodhound Rescue group on Saturday.
- Council Member Keener states he handed the oil transfer from the park building to the fire hall and noted that the asphalt is sinking where the engines come out. Discussion ensued.
- Council Member Soltis inquires as to the status of the Community Building roof estimates. Discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS

- No report

NEW BUSINESS

- Manager Allard states the following:
 - The 2025 budget has been prepared. The budget committee met and some things of note, raising the property tax millage rate from 1.6 Mils to 1.8 Mils, a small raise for hourly employees from \$18.25 to \$18.75 per hour, and a rate increase in the electric rate from \$0.13/kwh to \$0.15/kwh to cover the capacity increase imposed by PJM. A motion was made by Maureen **BEREZNAK**, seconded by Mark **KEENER** to approve the 2025 budget for advertising. Motion carried, 7-0.
 - The 2025 solvency fee election was released from Pennsylvania Labor & Industry. The amount for 2025, is \$51.18, this will potentially absolve the Borough of having to pay unemployment compensation in certain situations. A motion was made by Maureen **BEREZNAK**, seconded by Robert **LEWIS** to pay the solvency fee election. Motion carried, 7-0.
 - The tax levy needs to be advertised since the millage rate is changing from 1.6 Mils to 1.8 Mils, a motion was made by Robert **LEWIS**, seconded by Shane **URBINE** to approve Ordinance 2024-04 Tax Levy for advertising. Motion carried, 7-0.
 - 2025 Meeting dates will also need to be advertised in December. The dates for monthly council meetings for 2025 will be as follows: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8 (Second Monday), October 6, November 3, and December 8 (Second Monday). A motion was made by Maureen **BEREZNAK**, seconded by Mark **KEENER** to approve the 2025 meeting dates for advertising. Motion carried, 7-0.
- Solicitor Altland brings forth discussion regarding the renewal of the Red Land Girls Softball Association lease. Discussion ensued. Solicitor Altland states perhaps council should form a committee to brainstorm what they would like to see in the lease. Council members Berezna, Keener, Lewis, and Mayor Branyan volunteer to be on the committee.
- A question was asked by resident Emily Carr about why the electric bills are not available online? Discussion ensued.

TABLE

- No items

ADJOURN MEETING

Maureen **BEREZNAK** made a motion, seconded by Robert **LEWIS** to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:21 PM. Motion carried, 7-0.

+++++

November 4, 2024

Please Print

Name

Affiliation

Davis Holland

Fairview PD

Emily Carr

Resident

Matthew Minor

RESIDENT