

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION ON AUGUST 31, 2020 WHICH WAS HELD AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER LOCATED AT 307 W WATSON

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doney called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Doney asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Day, Doney, Dunnington, Hewitt, Loomis, Oldenburg and Turk.

REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:

1. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4030, a resolution redefining the boundaries of Street Maintenance District No. 1 in the City of Lewistown, Montana

City Manager Phelps explained that annually the City Commission must pass a resolution redefining the boundaries of Street Maintenance District No. 1. The City only has one Street Maintenance District and would ask for approval of this resolution. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4030, a resolution redefining the boundaries of Street Maintenance District No. 1 in the City of Lewistown, Montana and Commissioner Oldenburg seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Public hearing on the cost of maintenance of Boulevard District No. 12, cost of maintenance reserve and administration for Lighting Districts and cost of maintenance in Street Maintenance District No. 1

Chairman Doney opened the public hearing to hear comments on the cost of maintenance of Boulevard District No. 12, cost of maintenance reserve and administration for Lighting Districts and cost of maintenance in Street Maintenance District No. 1. There was some discussion on the history of the boulevard district. City Manager Phelps explained that the assessment is to help offset the cost of maintaining the boulevards. Mr. Jeff Sheldon stated his lives on the one hundred block of boulevard and long ago was able to water the boulevard in front of his house. Mr. Sheldon stated that the boulevards look bad because of the lack of watering. Mr. Sheldon stated that he has heard there is a potential project to rehab the boulevards and he would like to be kept informed of the project. Commissioner Doney explained that as the City moves forward with the potential of project the community and adjacent property owners of the boulevards will be notified. City Manager Phelps stated that it is expected that there will be several public hearings and be taking a lot of public comments. Chairman Doney asked for comments on the cost of maintenance of Boulevard District No. 12, cost of maintenance reserve and administration for Lighting Districts and cost of maintenance in Street Maintenance District No. 1 from the audience and Commission. There being none, the public hearing was closed

3. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4031, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Lewistown levying and assessing a special tax to cover the cost of maintenance of Boulevard District No. 12, in the City of Lewistown, Montana for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021

City Manager Phelps explained that this resolution levying a special assessment to help offset the cost of maintaining the boulevards. The sum of this assessment is \$2,220.58 which is assessed on the property owners adjacent to the boulevards. Commissioner Loomis explained that he doesn't understand why we are increasing the assessment a small amount instead of a larger amount because the overall cost of the improvements is rather large. City Manager Phelps stated that she feels small incremental increases are essential and the adjacent property owners should not be responsible for the entire cost of the improvements when the whole community benefits. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4031, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Lewistown levying and assessing a special tax to cover the cost of maintenance of Boulevard District No. 12, in the City of Lewistown, Montana for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and Commissioner Day seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4032, a resolution levying and assessing the cost of maintenance reserve and administration, and supplying of electrical current for the street lights within the City of Lewistown, to properties within particular lighting districts

City Manager Phelps explained the Resolution No. 4032 addresses the assessment for the various lighting districts in the City. The assessment covers the cost of the electricity and the maintenance of the lights. Commissioner Turk asked if the assessment rates were increased and City Manager Phelps answered no, the rates are the same as last year. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4032, a resolution levying and assessing the cost of maintenance reserve and administration, and supplying of electrical current for the street lights within the City of Lewistown, to properties within particular lighting districts and Commissioner Loomis seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4033, a resolution estimating the cost of maintenance in Street Maintenance District No. 1, specifying the assessment option and levying an assessment on properties for Street Maintenance

City Manager Phelps explained that at a prior Commission meeting it was decided to keep the same assessment rate as the previous year. The rate is .033 or 3.3 cents per square foot. Commissioner Oldenburg made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4033, a resolution estimating the cost of maintenance in Street Maintenance District No. 1, specifying the assessment option and levying an assessment on properties for Street Maintenance and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Public hearing on the 2020-2021 budget for the City of Lewistown

Chairman Doney opened the public hearing on the 2020-2021 budget for the City of Lewistown. Chairman Doney asked for comment from the audience and Commission. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

7. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4034, a resolution relating to final budgets, budget authorities and annual appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021

City Manager Phelps explained that in accordance with the City Charter and State Law the City has the right to levy and appropriate funds. The budget has been reviewed several times over the last few weeks. The budget being presented is a fairly lean budget. City Manager Phelps explained that the City's

certified values decrease, however the calculation of the mills did allow for a small increase in the amount of approximately \$30,000. There is a 3% increase in the State entitlement share, but overall, no expecting any large changes in the revenues for the upcoming year. The one change is the City Court Agreement where the City will pay \$45,000 annually and receive all fines and surcharges which is approximated at \$65,000. Mr. Robert Snyder commented that the City's auction went really well. Mr. Robert Snyder stated that it looks like there is a modest increase in the tax assessment and he would-be all-in favor and encourage departments to see where they can save on a budget and incentivize to save on expenses. Commissioner Doney stated that the only main increase in this budget is the increase in wages that are due to the bargaining agreements. Commissioner Loomis asked that since all the department heads were in attendance that they explain how they handle their budgets. Finance Officer Nikki Brummond started by explaining that the City Manager comes to her and explains what she expects to see in the budget this fiscal year. Then the department heads meet as a whole with the City Manager and this year were advised there would be no increases. Finance officer Brummond explained that is very difficult with the fact the employee expenses have increased, which include health insurance, negotiated wages and retirement. Once a budget is put together the City Manager has a meeting with each department head to discuss their budget. The department heads have already had that input with the City Manager prior to the City Manager presenting the budget to the Commission. The following department heads gave a brief statement regarding their department and the budget. Public Works Director JR Killham, Fire Chief Joe Ward, Police Chief Justin Jenness, City Attorney Monte Boettger and Library Director Dani Buehler. Finance Officer Brummond explained that the Police Department budget is skewed due to the purchase of the software and if that is taken from the budget totals that department does have a 2% increase which is in line with the other departments. Commissioner Oldenburg thanked all of the department heads for being fiscally responsible and feel the City is running very well. Commissioner Doney also, thanked the staff for all the work they have done this past year. Commissioner Oldenburg made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4034, a resolution relating to final budgets, budget authorities and annual appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and Commissioner Loomis seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Public hearing on Resolution No. 4035, a resolution authorizing an increase in the City of Lewistown's mill levy in order to fund increases in premium contributions for medical group benefits for City employees and exempting the same from the mill levy calculation limitation provided for by law

Chairman Doney opened the public hearing to hear comments on Resolution No. 4035, a resolution authorizing an increase in the City of Lewistown's mill levy in order to fund increases in premium contributions for medical group benefits for City employees and exempting the same from the mill levy calculation limitation provided for by law. City Manager Phelps explained that the City is able to mill a levy to defray the increase in health insurance. The amount is calculated by the what the insurance rates have increased from since 2000 and a portion of the number of employees that were covered in 2000. The City is assessing \$182,527 which is 26.87 mills. City Manager Phelps explained that the mill value is determined by the Department of Revenue. Chairman Doney asked for any more comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

9. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4035, a resolution authorizing an increase in the City of Lewistown's mill levy in order to fund increases in premium contributions for medical group benefits for City employees and exempting the same from the mill levy calculation limitation provided for by law

City Manager Phelps explained that this is an increase on a set number of employees of what the health insurance premium has increase since 2000. This is an amount of \$182,527 which equates to 26.87 mills. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4035, a resolution authorizing an increase in the City of Lewistown's mill levy in order to fund increases in premium contributions for

medical group benefits for City employees and exempting the same from the mill levy calculation limitation provided for by law and Commissioner Dunnington seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and action on Resolution No. 4036, a resolution providing for the annual tax levy mills for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021

City Manager Phelps explained that the City has prepared a balanced budget and it is determined that \$1,497,192 tax levy, which is 220.43 mills is necessary to balance the general fund budget. The certified taxable value of the City of Lewistown is \$6,729,717 which equates to \$6,730 mill value. The City has determined that \$187,527 permissive medical tax levy requiring 26.87 mill levy is required to fund the increase in premium contributions for group insurance benefits. The total amount of mills that will be levied for fiscal year 2020-2021 is 247.30 mills. Commissioner Turk made the motion to approve the Resolution No. 4036, a resolution providing for the annual tax levy mills for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and Commissioner Day seconded the motion. Commissioner Doney asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Oldenburg asked that Mr. Snyder honor the request of the elected officials doing their job they were voted to do and honor the request of the Council on Aging of everyone entering the building to wear a mask. Commissioner Oldenburg asked that he wear a mask when in attendance as Commission meeting.

Commissioner Loomis thanked the City for educating him on the budget process and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Turk asked if the City had an agreement with the State of Montana with the maintenance of the storm drains on Main Street. City Manager Phelps answered no.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Doney adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2020.

Gayle Doney, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk