

**A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION ON JULY 6, 2021 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Turk called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were none.

**COURTESIES**

There were none.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

There were none.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Doney reported the Library Board has hired a Library Director.

Commissioner Loomis reported that the Park and Recreation Board will meet tomorrow.

Commissioner Day reported that the next Central Montana Health District Board is August 12<sup>th</sup> and she will need to take something back to the board of the City Commission's stance on the issue. City Manager Phelps explained that the County Commissioners at a recent meeting they passed a resolution outlining a time line as to when they would stop being the host of the health district. City Manager Phelps stated that they will host the health district through 2021. Commissioner Loomis expressed his concern of the City's relationship with the health district. City Manager Phelps commented that the City of Lewistown has an agreement with Fergus County to provide services. City Manager Phelps explained that the City of Lewistown has had a seat at the table for many years. Statutorily required that each County have a health officer not necessarily the municipality. The City has bought into the health district for many years and we are part of Fergus County and they have some obligation to provide services to the City. City Manager Phelps asked if this is something the Commission would like to discuss further, Commissioner Day would like some direction prior to the meeting in August. It was decided that it should be on the agenda next meeting for discussion.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The City Manager reported that she followed up with both the Police and Fire Departments regarding fireworks. The departments received several calls regarding fireworks. Of those calls that they responded to many of them were located in the county or they were unable to locate the individuals that were responsible for lighting the fireworks. The Fire Department did work with the local fireworks vendors and provide them with a copy of the City's fireworks ordinance. This year there were four small fires in town or on City property. In total these fires burned approximately 1 acre. There were also several citations issues.

Construction continues around town. Century anticipates to have Main Street parking blocked for the remainder of the week. This will allow crews to complete the chip seal and striping. Paving on the City's Street improvement project is continuing, as is work on the One Health parking lot.

The swimming pool has been very busy on the hot days. The Library continues to be busy and East Fork has also seen many campers, even during the week.

The City has received notice that all of the grants that the City applied for during the last legislative session were awarded. This includes the cleanup of the Central Pos and Pole site, TSEP and RRGL grants for the water system and a grant for improvements to the Lewistown Ditch.

The candidates for the 2021 Municipal election.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** – non agenda items

There were none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Dunnington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgment of the claims that have been paid from June 18, 2021 to June 30, 2021 for a total of \$122,656.62

### **\*REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinance & Other Action Items:**

1. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4055, a resolution approving an application from Lewistown Public Schools – Lincoln Building for TIF funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing District Board

City Manager Phelps explained that included in the Commissioners packet is the information that the school presented to the Lewistown TIF/TEDD board. The school district is wanting to do some improvements to their sidewalks around the Lincoln school building. The TIF/TEDD board did recommend funding the project up to \$40,000 of the project. Commissioner Loomis asked what exactly the City is voting on because the paperwork shows two different options to complete the project. City Manager Phelps explained that the whole project is \$147,700 and at this time TIF/TEDD board has agreed to fund up to \$40,000. City Manager Phelps further explained that the school can do the whole project with some of their own funding but at this time the Commission is only voting on the funding recommendation from the TIF/TEDD board which is up to \$40,000. Commissioner Doney made the

motion to approve Resolution No. 4055, a resolution approving an application from Lewistown Public Schools – Lincoln Building for TIF funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing District Board and Commissioner Loomis seconded the motion. Commissioner Turk asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4056, a resolution approving an application from Montana Concrete Carvers for TIF funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing District Board

City Manager Phelps explained this project is to make some upgrades to the water and sewer lines going into the old Montana Paint and Glass building that was recently purchased by Pete and Abby Franks. City Manager Phelps commented that this is an eligible expense as part of the TIF grants and it would allow future development within the building. The TIF/TEDD board recommended funding up to \$10,000 for this project. Commissioner Loomis made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4056, a resolution approving an application from Montana Concrete Carvers for TIF funds made to the Lewistown Tax Increment Financing District Board and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Turk asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

Mr. Richard Battrick asked what the difference is between online and email. Commissioner Turk asked if he could further explain his question. Mr. Battrick stated that he has applied to run for City Commission and if it works out, and he gets elected and what that means for online and email. Commissioner Doney explained that the Commission gets the documents and information for the meetings via email and can pick up the documents in person. Commissioner Doney explained that you can attend the meetings in person or attend online through zoom. Commissioner Doney asked if that answered his question. Mr. Battrick answered no, the question is if he is elected to be a Commissioner, and he doesn't now have email or computer what is he to do and in order to receive email, he would have to go to the Library to use their computers. Mr. Battrick stated that he can't read the computer screen at all. Commissioner Doney answered that it would be his responsibility as a Commissioner to figure out how to get email. Mr. Battrick asked how he would read the screen. Mr. Battrick asked why four years ago you could go to the Clerk and Records Office and fill out the paperwork there and now it is done online. City Clerk Brummond explained that the Secretary of State has gone to completely online system and that change was done at the State level.

### **COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE**

Commissioner Day asked if the City is able to host or sponsor a marathon because she has been thinking of ways to raise money. Commissioner Loomis stated that he thought it was a good idea and for a specific project. Commissioner Doney explained that the Police Department did a K9 fundraiser and the Library does an author dinner for the Summer Reading Program.

Commissioner Day stated it was her one-year anniversary as a City Commissioner. The rest of the Commissioner expressed their gratitude.

Commissioner Loomis asked whose responsibility is it to put the benches back on Main Street. City Manager Phelps answered that the City staff will do that once they receive an all clear from the State. Commissioner Loomis stated that Rotary Club helped pay for some of the benches and would like know how to replace the Rotary Club emblems that were removed. City Manager Phelps stated that if they

would get the emblems to the City then the City would make sure they were installed back on the benches.

Commissioner Loomis asked about the trees on Main Street. City Manager Phelps explained that the trees are getting a lot of water. The Parks and Recreation Department are watering the trees a couple of times a week.

Commissioner Turk thanked the City Manager for the grand opening of Creekside. That area is beautiful and looks great.

Commissioner Doney commented that she thinks Lewistown is doing great. She has family in town and there is a lot for them to do and don't know if they will get it all done while in town.

Commissioner Dunnington commented that she talked with a citizen that has been dealing with barking dogs since 2019. City Manager Phelps suggested that they reach out to the Police Chief or herself.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that she had a lot of complaints regarding fireworks being let off prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There were several individuals concerned about the City allowing the fireworks even though the area was dry. City Manager Phelps stated that inside the City limits the access to water is far different than the County. City Manager Phelps commented that we will possibly be going into Stage I fire restrictions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Turk adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patty Turk, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki Brummond, City Clerk