

City of Lewistown Study Commission

January 23, 2015

Civic Center

Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, John Sturtz, Frank Gremaux, Melody Scott, Dick Ellestad, Charlie Denison, Gayle Doney, Darryl McKenzie, Bobbie Atchison.

Melody Scott performed the duties of recording secretary.

Call to Order: Krillenberger called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

Interview of Lewistown Fire Chief Kucera:

Krillenberger asked if Kucera had any comments on the current form of city government. Kucera said he worked a little under the former form of government and is not in favor of a mayor form of government. Mayors can be elected in a popularity type contest and often come with their own agenda. Kucera feels that a mayor form of government does not benefit those working for the city as city council members try to run the city departments, which is not productive. The current form of city government allows department heads to have one boss, which works well for Kucera and his department. The mayoral form always took a while to get going and rolling smoothly. Kucera said he hears various arguments again the mayoral form but other cities have the same issues as Lewistown with other forms of government. The managerial form is a better system of checks and balances. Doney asked if Kucera felt there should be any changes in the charter or current form of government. Kucera said that he does not think that other forms of government would work well because of our population size. The managerial form is the best fit for us.

Interview of Park and Recreation Director Daniels:

Krillenberger asked if Daniels had any comments on the current form of city government. Daniels said he has worked under both the mayor and manager form of government and is in favor of the current form of government. McKenzie asked if Daniels would recommend any changes for the charter or the current form of government. Daniels says that the managerial form works well and that the last 8-10 years have been really good. He feels the department head meetings are an excellent way to communicate and there is good camaraderie between the departments. Lewistown has wonderful parks and trails and the pool is getting rehabbed. Doney asked Daniels if he felt the system is an effective visioning tool for the future. Daniels agreed that it is. There did not use to be the camaraderie between the departments with the mayoral system. Daniels just wishes we could get more tourism and more employees but that is a ^{comment} ~~comment~~ problem with small towns. The Parks and Recreation department has tremendous volunteers and they have accomplished much with the parks and ice skating rink.

Open Public Participation:

Bobbie Atchison worked for the city for thirteen years as assistant city clerk and was involved with both forms of government. Atchison said she agrees with both of the department heads one hundred percent. There are many regulations these days, so the person in leadership needs to be qualified and have expertise in many areas. The current form of city government has worked very well. The mayoral system had too much micro- managing of the departments.

Committee Member Comments:

Ellestad said that he did not feel that strong council member leadership did not work. Sturtz said that all three inputs were very good and interesting.

Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes:

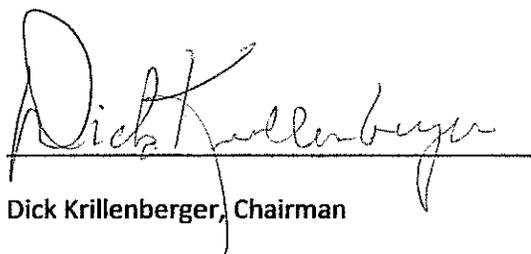
Sturtz approved the January 21, 2015 minutes as presented.

Announcements: The next meeting will be January 26, 2015 at the Council on Aging.

Adjournment: Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 11:35am.



Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary



Dick Krillenberger, Chairman