

City of Lewistown Study Commission  
July 27, 2015  
Lewistown City Complex

Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, Darryl McKenzie, Alexandra Dunnington, Dick Ellestad, Butch Sturtz. Melody Scott performed the duties of recording secretary.

**Call to Order:** Krillenberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Roll Call of Members Present**

**Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Dunnington approved the June 10, 2015 minutes. McKenzie seconded.

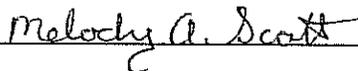
**Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance:** Scott reported that to date, \$3784.00 have been spent and there is \$2029.00 remaining in the budget.

**Interview of City Commissioner Dave Byerly:** Byerly said he came to Lewistown 35 years ago and has lived under both the manager and the mayor form of government. He supports the change to the city manager form of government. The most important reason why he supports the current form is in the area of management. The city has 10 million in revenues and 50+ employees. A bad decision will haunt the city for a long time. He would not recommend hiring a retired teacher or someone similar to run the city, especially if the position was part time. Byerly pointed out that it seems that the discussion has become about Myhre and the city commissioners. He encouraged that residents of Lewistown need to look past the people in office and look at the positions themselves. The public was very involved when the vote to change the city government form was made. Byerly said he supports the study commission and their recommendations. He encouraged that whatever the study commission recommends for changes must be followed by the study commission advocating and making a case for the change. Byerly encouraged that if the study commission decides that a change in government is not needed, not to put the city through an election vote. Krillenberger asked about the mayor form versus manager form. Byerly said that there needs to be someone full time to run the day to day city business and employees. Krillenberger mentioned that the mayor needs be for the people. Byerly replied that whoever is running the city needs to have business experience. He explained that as a city commissioner, he is responsible to listen to the public's thoughts and vote in a way that he feels is best for the city. Krillenberger pointed out that both city and study commission members have day jobs. What they do for the commissions is an additional responsibility to what they do daily for work. A discussion followed on what powers a mayor-manager form would have. Dunnington shared the example of the Whitefish government form. Issues related to the annexation issue were discussed.

**Open Public Participation:** Tom Jolin spoke of the past managers and the qualifications required for the position. Byerly pointed out that often the mayor form creates a vacuum of leadership so councilmen often fill the void with varied results. Byerly also mentioned that you would be electing someone to the best job of their lifetime. Krillenberger pointed out that the mayoral form did not have the charter to go by. The charter was established when the city manager form came into place. Byerly mentioned that the charter sets the duties in broad and general terms. Jeannie Ricker commented that you need to be sure you have capable department heads. There should be a chain of command established. Comments were made about the lack of water drainage and about taxes. Krillenberger encouraged people to talk to their ward commissioner as they are the representatives for the public.

**Committee Member Comments:** Dunnington mentioned that only the issue of the form of government would appear on the ballot. The charter would not be on the ballot, but rather that the study commission may make recommendations to the city commissioners on changes they would recommend. Dunnington suggested the idea of having Dan Clark (president of the government center at MSU Bozeman) come and speak at a meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 8:00pm. Ellestad seconded.

  
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Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary

  
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Dick Krillenberger, Chairman