

A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION ON MARCH 18, 2024 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Day called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Day asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Buehler, Day, Hewitt, Hrubes, and Scotten. Commissioners Spika participated virtually and Commissioner Terry was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were none.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Buehler reported that she attended a Library trustee training on March 7th. Dan Clark from the Local Government Center was there and it was very informative, very good training and lots of great discussion. The next Library board meeting will be March 21st.

Commissioner Hrubes reported that the City County health board will meet the end of April.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that she attended the Airport Board meeting on March 6th, however, there were only two members so there was just discussion on different topics. Commissioner Hewitt commented that Fish Wildlife & Parks used their one-year optional lease extension with the airport and it will expire July 2025.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that she did attend the Economic Outlook Seminar. Commissioner Hewitt reported that the main employer is construction. The seminar was put on by the Bureau of Economics at the University of Montana. Commissioner Buehler asked about construction being the number one employer, does that mean the number of employees or income brought in? City Manager Phelps answered that it was the number of employees, specific to Fergus County.

Commissioner Scotten reported the next Snowy Mountain Development Corporation (SMDC) meeting will be April 18th. Commissioner Scotten stated that SMDC is hosting a summit small town Fergus County this Thursday, March 21st at 9 am at the Eagles ball room. Commissioner Scotten explained that

SMDC is moving forward with a strategic plan. Commissioner Scotten further explained that at the last meeting five different groups were created and will be meeting individually. Commissioner Scotten stated he is on the intergovernmental communications groups.

Commissioner Scotten reported that Shelter Solutions is meeting tomorrow and are continuing to work on their strategic plan. The meeting will be at the Saint James Episcopal Church on March 19th at 10 am.

Commissioner Day reported that the Park and Recreation Board met on March 6th and she was not able to attend, but did review minutes. There were two large trees removed at Symmes Park that were affecting the new pickle ball courts, however, two new trees will be planted this spring. The pool fees were increased for the upcoming season. The Park and Recreation Director reported that the job fair at the high school was a success. The capital improvement list was reviewed and priorities were discussed. The Civic Center is seeing a large increase in activity.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Phelps reported on the following issues:

The recent warm weather has allowed the Public Works Department to get a job start on spring and summer work. This includes sweeping streets and as things dry out, they will be able to start grading and patching potholes.

There was a great turn out for the Growth Policy Open House last week. We are in the process of reviewing the comments that were received at the event and will be updating our website with the information that was both presented and comments received at the event. The City is working with Houseal Lavigne Associates on a couple of areas that they will be modeling.

The small-town summit will be held on March 21st from 9 am to 4 pm at the Eagles Grand Ballroom. The goal of the summit is to have all the communities in Fergus County plan for future development. Several City employees will be there participating in the summit. There will be several scenarios that will be discussed and participants will have time to ask specific questions.

The City Manager has been in contact with DEQ regarding Berg Lumber and the next steps in getting Berg Lumber developed. The City Manager has received the geo technical report from the previous interested parties and has been reviewing that report. The City has received several different inquiries regarding the future use of the property.

PUBLIC COMMENT - non agenda items

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commission Hrubes second the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgment of the claims that have been paid from March 1, 2024 to March 14, 2024 for a total of \$276,863.00

***REGULAR AGENDA – Resolutions, Ordinances & Other Action Items:**

1. Public hearing to obtain comments regarding the City of Lewistown's overall community development needs for economic development, housing and neighborhood revitalization and public facilities, including

the needs of low- and moderate-income persons and the possibility of applying for a Montana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Vice Chairman Day opened the public hearing to obtain comments regarding the City of Lewistown's overall community development needs for economic development, housing and neighborhood revitalization and public facilities, including the needs of low- and moderate-income persons and the possibility of applying for a Montana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). City Manager Phelps reported on Lewistown's prioritized list of maintenance and repair needs with regard to existing infrastructure. These items were prioritized by the City's department heads and City Manager on December 13, 2023. City Manager Phelps reviewed the priorities as follows: #1 replace deteriorating concrete pad of Fire Station bays and walkways of City Hall; #2 replace emergency generator of City Hall and #3 renovate Library facilities to address safety and accessibility concerns, replace boiler and heating system of Civic Center and retro fit lower level of Civic Center for ADA compliance. City Manager Phelps stated that the City will continue to explore housing needs across our community including low to moderate income housing needs as well as grant funds for infrastructure improvements that would include water, wastewater, storm sewer and streets. Commissioner Hrubes asked about the concrete of the fire department bays, is from the doors to the street. City Manager Phelps answered that what is being proposed is curb, gutter and sidewalk the entire length of the building and addressing ADA access to the front of the building. This does include the bays in front of the fire department. Library Director Alissa Wolenetz reported that the Library has just applied for a CDBG for planning activities. Library Director Wolenetz reported that the library would like to work with a professional architect to identify concerns with the building and then move forward with improvements. Library Director Wolenetz commented that they want to make improvements in the correct order and spend tax payer money efficiently. Commissioner Buehler asked if there are estimated costs for these priorities. City Manager Phelps answered that this is an allocation for the City of Lewistown. Commissioner Day verified that the 25% cash match is for each project and City Manager Phelps answered yes. Ms. Michelle Waltenbaugh addressed the Commission, explaining that she lives in Castle Ridge Estates and the neighborhood is concerned that there are not accessible fire hydrants in the area. Ms. Waltenbaugh commented that area was recently annexed into the City and she did speak with the Fire Chief and he did agree that he would like to see additional fire hydrants up there. City Manager Phelps commented that this request is considered an infrastructure improvement. Commissioner Buehler asked if there was City water in the area. City Manager Phelps answered yes, and there are two fire hydrants, but are not in ideal locations. City Manager Phelps stated that to accomplish it would be done by working with the Fire Department. Vice Chairman Day asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

2. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4152, a resolution recommending a funding priority list for State Local Infrastructure Partnership Act to the Montana Department of Commerce for the City of Lewistown

City Manager Phelps explained that this is for the State Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) grant that the City will be submitting two applications for and this was part of HB 355 that was approved in the last legislature. City Manager Phelps further explained that this is unique funding for Cities to help maintain and repair existing infrastructure. City Manager Phelps reviewed the process that was done. City Manager Phelps stated that this year there are two priorities, one is to replace the concrete in front of the fire, police and City hall and the second priority is replacing the emergency back up of City hall. City Manager Phelps pointed out that this does require a 25% cash match and the City does have some capital improvement funds set aside for these projects. Commissioner Buehler asked if the City is limited on how many applications can be submitted or is it due to the amount of allocation. City Manager Phelps answered it is what amount is available in the allocations. Commissioner Scotten made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4152, a resolution recommending a funding priority list for State Local

Infrastructure Partnership Act to the Montana Department of Commerce for the City of Lewistown and Commissioner Buehler seconded the motion. Commissioner Day asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the clerk took a roll call vote with all being in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

Commissioner Hrubes commented that some of the alleys are in need of repair. City Manager Phelps answered that the street department's priority is streets and roads. City Manager Phelps commented that she would encourage citizens to call public works and get on the list.

Commissioner Scotten asked if the reader boards at the open house are available somewhere. City Manager Phelps answered they are working to get the information out on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Day adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024.

Loraine Day, Commission Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk