

A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION ON AUGUST 21, 2023 WHICH WAS HELD AT THE CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNITY CENTER AND STARTED AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Terry called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners: Day, Doney, Hewitt, Hrubes, Scotten, Spika and Terry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Terry stated that without objection and based on the corrections the July 17, 2023 and August 7, 2023 minutes are approved.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Doney reported that the Library board met on August 17th. The directors report noted that Library Director Alissa met with First Lady Susan Gianforte on the success of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The building committee toured the Library with Mosaic Architecture, looking at the long-term repair on the building. The youth services librarian has resigned and the director will be posting the job and getting ready for interviews in the upcoming months. The County Commissioners did fund the library at the requested amount.

Commissioner Day reported that the Park and Recreation Board will meet on September 6th.

Commissioner Hrubes reported that the County Health Board will not meet until the end of October.

Commissioner Hewitt reported that the Airport Board will meet on September 6th.

Commissioner Scotten reported that Snowy Mountain Development Corporation will meet on October 19th.

Commissioner Scotten reported that Shelter Solutions will be meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Terry reported that the Central Montana Foundation did not meet in July and the next meeting will be August 29th.

Commissioner Terry commented that First Lady Susan Gianforte took the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as a project after the Lewistown Library got started. Commissioner Terry stated that the Lewistown Library was

one of the very first libraries to take on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. First Lady Susan Gianforte privately funded the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with private donations and now today every zip code in Montana has the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and our library was the library that kickstarted it in Montana.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

The swimming pool is still open for lap swim. It is hoped that we can have the pool open this weekend with the warmer weather, if we get enough staff. Encourage everyone to check out the Park and Recreation Departments Facebook page. The splash deck is closed for the remainder of the year. A pump failed and we will not be able to get the pump replaced prior to the end of the season.

There is currently a public comment period open for the Central Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan. Included is Fergus County including all the cities and towns incorporated. This is a planning document that needs to be in place in order to access disaster emergency services funding in the future.

The water project is still happening and Griffith Construction will be back working on 6th Ave S later this week. It is planned to pave the northern portion of 6th Ave. Prospect Construction continues to work at the Spring and will be working on scada systems at the various pump stations.

The Police and Fire Departments have been very busy. There have been some incidents of vandalism recently.

The Public Works Department is out painting cross walks and also working on blading and trimming of trees. The water salesman located behind Saves was recently updated and the bill acceptor has been fixed.

Commissioner Terry asked about the different issues that have happened as part of the water project. City Manager Phelps answered that most of it has been engineering because of the elevations of pipe. What has been needed is larger pipe and it is not common to have 12 or 14 inch elbow on hand. City Manager Phelps did state that is has been a little bit of a challenge but has gone very well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Hrubes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgment of the claims that have been paid from August 1, 2023 to August 17, 2023 for a total of \$1,268,258.62

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

1. Discussion and action on approving the 2023-2024 annual plan for the Targeted Economic Development District

City Manager Phelps explained that based on the certified values for the Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD) the projected revenue increased substantially this year to \$369,341. The percentages and cash carry forward for the annual plan didn't change from the previous year. The TEDD board's budget continues to prioritize private and public investment to generate taxable value. The TEDD can be used for infrastructure and people need to apply. Snowy Mountain Development Corporation (SMDEC) administers the TEDD funding. Any funding that is approved by the TEDD board it is then recommended for final approval by the City Commission. Anyone wishing to apply would go to SMDC. Commissioner Terry commented that there have not been any funding requests for the TEDD and that is why the available funds are so high. Commissioner Hewitt asked if the Airport would be eligible for funding from the TEDD. City Manager Phelps answered yes, anyone within the district is eligible and only certain things are allowed. Any

infrastructure deficiencies would qualify. City Manager Phelps explained that the TIF is used for blight and revitalization and TEDD is for infrastructure. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 annual plan for the Targeted Economic Development District and Commissioner Day seconded the motion. Commissioner Hrubes asked why they are asking for another \$176,106.41. City Manager Phelps answered they are not asking for it, it is allocated to them as a tax district. City Manager Phelps explained that a base year was established and as the increment grows the TEDD get that portion of tax revenues instead of the County, City or School. Those entities have chosen to forgo those taxes for 15 years and reinvest in this district and hope that it is improved. Commissioner Doney it was to build infrastructure and economic development in that district. Commissioner Hrubes stated he knows what it is for but why put another \$176,000 into it. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and the Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the Clerk took a roll call vote Commissioners voting in favor: Day, Doney, Hewitt, Scotten Spika and Terry. Commissioner Hrubes voted against.

2. Discussion and action on approving the 2023-2024 annual plan for the Tax Increment Finance District

Commissioner Terry stated that this is the Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD), the budget and annual plan is being presented and it is administrated by SMCD. City Manager Phelps explained that the TIFD focus is to prioritize private and public investment to generate a taxable value. City Manager Phelps commented that as part of the budget and workplan there are \$250,000 budgeted for a revolving loan fund. The TIFD board will be coming to the commission and explaining their desire to create a revolving loan fund that could be used for larger projects. City Manager Phelps explained that there is a fairly substantial taxable value, which is a \$668,268 project tax revenue for the year. There is a worksheet that shows all of the projects that have been funded. Commissioner Hrubes stated that looking at the estimated tax revenue, that it is written in law it must go to TIF instead of public safety, streets and lights. Commissioner Hrubes commented that looking at the spreadsheet it appears that TIF is only giving out about \$31,000 a year. Commissioner Hrubes stated that he is making a point that nothing can be done, but wish that \$668,000 could go to help pay fire and police radios instead of being banked. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 annual plan for the Tax Increment Finance District and Commissioner Day seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and the Commission. There being none, the question was called for and the Clerk took a roll call vote Commissioners voting in favor: Day, Doney, Hewitt, Scotten Spika and Terry. Commissioner Hrubes voted against.

3. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4133, a resolution relating to adopting a preliminary budget and providing a date for public hearing and adoption thereof for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024

City Manager Phelps explained that before the Commission is the revenue and expenditure budget for 2023-2024 and a one sheet that shows the cash carryforward, revenue, expenses and cash balance for all funds. City Manager Phelps commented that as a reminder in accordance with Montana Code we are required to budget at least have the cash for each fund regardless if it will be spent or not. City Manager Phelps reviewed the general fund stating that there were increases in health insurance, salaries and the new intercap loan is included in the budget. Commissioner Terry asked if the union negotiations have been settled. City Manager Phelps answered no, but an estimate has been included in the budget. Commissioner Spika made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4133, a resolution relating to adopting a preliminary budget and providing a date for public hearing and adoption thereof for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and a roll call vote was taken with all being in favor of the motion.

4. Discussion and action on approving Resolution No. 4134, a resolution stating the intention of the City Commission to amend the 2022-2023 budget of the City of Lewistown

City Manager Phelps explained that there were a couple of items that were over the expected budget. The details will be brought before the Commission at the next meeting. This resolution is directing the City Clerk to advertise for a public hearing in order to approve a budget amendment. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve Resolution No. 4134, a resolution stating the intention of the City Commission to amend the 2022-2023 budget of the City of Lewistown and Commissioner Doney seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and a roll call vote was taken with all being in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER’S MINUTE

Commissioner Hewitt commented that there was a letter to the editor regarding the Creekside and it should be free. City Manager Phelps answered that there are different levels of use for Creekside.

Commissioner Hrubes suggested that the Commission read the letter to the editor regarding the frog ponds.

Commissioner Day asked if at a future committee of the whole that the TIF and TED could come and make a presentation. City Manager Phelps answered that they are scheduled to come to the Commission in September.

Commissioner Spika thanked Commissioner Hrubes for explaining why he voted no on the items.

Commissioner Doney stated that she will be appearing by telephone or zoom for the next three meetings unless there is some opposition.

Commissioner Terry wanted to make comment on the recent letter received by the Neudicks. Commissioner Terry reported that the Neudicks need to meet with the City Manager prior to the meeting and have some ideas or proposal in writing.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Terry adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2023.

KellyAnne Terry, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk