

A REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF THE LEWISTOWN CITY COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 20, 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: Doney, Hewitt, Hrubes, Scotten, and Terry. Commissioners Day and Spika were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were none.

COURTESIES

There were none.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Doney reported that the Library Board met November 8th and Chiara VanderBeek was hired as the new Youth Services Librarian. The Community Development Block Grant was submitted for the Library master plan to move forward with the maintenance of the building. The board continues to work on the disaster and emergency plan and hope to have it completed in February 2024. Commissioner Doney stated that as of November 8th they have had 34,000 patron visits to the Library and of that a little over 30% were county residents. The staff continue to have the book and movie clubs and those are very well received. The color of the month is back, and story time craft kits are available. The Friends of the Library will be having a December book sale and the Santa seconds sale.

Commissioner Scotten stated that he has not received any update on when the next Snowy Mountain Development Corporation meeting is.

Commissioner Terry reported that the Central Montana Foundation will meet on November 28th at 2 pm.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Holly Phelps reported on the following issues:

All City offices will be closed November 23rd, in observance of Thanksgiving.

This year's Christmas stroll will be November 24th from 4 to 8 pm. There will be a parade and other activities, as well as, Bright Country Nights for the weekend and the first North Pole Adventure train.

The Ice-Skating Association is working to get the rink ready for this year's season. They are planning to start making ice on the 25th of November. This group continues to grow their program and make some additional improvements to the facility.

The Civic Center is getting ready to begin renting snow shoes, cross country skis and ice skates. For more details on equipment rentals call the Civic Center.

The Civic Center is currently planning their 1st Kid Club. This is open to kids ages 5 to 11. For a fee a kid can come to the Civic Center and have pizza, a movie, play games and do crafts from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. This is a partnership with the youth mentoring program. The theme will be centered around snow.

PUBLIC COMMENT – non agenda items

Commissioner Terry addressed the audience regarding the City's involvement with the process of putting in a warming shelter. Commissioner Terry commented that this is not the stance of the Commission, however it is the process for the City of Lewistown. Commissioner Terry explained that the first step is an application to be submitted to the planning office requesting a conditional use permit. At this point that City has received an application from a 501©3 group requesting a conditional use permit. Commissioner Terry explained that a conditional use permit is necessary in an area that is zoned but not for that particular business. An example would be to put a food truck in an area or run a business in a residential area. A conditional use permit is reviewed by the zoning commission and follows the conditional use permit process, which includes notifying surrounding owners and a public hearing. Once that is done a recommendation is made to the City Commission and a public hearing is held and a decision will be made. Commissioner Terry stated that the City has received an application for a warming shelter to be located at 1st Ave and Brassey. The planner is currently reviewing the application for a possible meeting on January 18th. Commissioner Terry explained that at the meeting held on Friday, at the Yogo Inn, there was some talk about the ability to vote on this issue. Commissioner Terry further explained that the referendum for chickens was done because of it is currently a law in the City of Lewistown and the vote was asking the citizens if they wanted the law changed to allow chickens in the city limits. Mr. Matt Burg, owner of Advanced Electric located on 1st Ave addressed the Commission stating that whether this permit gets issued or not he wants to bring to the attention of the Commission the grain silos located at 613 1st Ave S. Mr. Burg suggested the City Commission and County Commission get together and come up with a plan to address the grain silos, the silos are coming apart, are condemned, glass is falling out and there is animal feces a foot deep. Mr. Burg commented that this is private property and does not want the taxpayers in this community to get another levy to clean up personal property. Mr. Burg stated that the property needs to have an engineer study and clean up done by the owners and not the public. Ms. Andrea Payne addressed the Commission stating that she is the owner of the building and it has been structurally looked at in the last couple of years and has been approved. Mr. Larry Gill asked who submitted the application. Commissioner Terry answered it was submitted by Shelter Solutions out of Lewistown. Ms. Jean Collins, chair of Shelter Solutions gave the following address PO Box 375, Lewistown, MT 59457. Ms. Angela Toller addressed one of her main concerns is that she moved here because of the safety of Lewistown and apparently there has been murders and the homeless population is contributing to this. Commissioner Terry stated that she is not sure that you can contribute every crime that happens to the homeless. Ms. Toller reported that crime is already here and doesn't really see that there is a huge wave of homelessness. Ms. Toller is wondering if this can be addressed individually instead of bringing in a shelter and does not feel Lewistown is a place for a warming shelter. Mr. Doug Miller lives outside the City limits he would like the City Commissioners and the City planning board is a guarantee from you people that you will do as elected officials will do what the majority of the

community wants. Mr. Harley Rouns would like the building looked at and is totally against the use of the building. Mr. John Koch, 114 Turquoise, asked a general question where are the agendas and the minutes on the website and wondering why the minutes are behind. Mr. Koch commented that the agenda for this meeting is not posted on the website and according to MCA a meeting must be noticed 48 hours prior to the meeting. City Manager Phelps explained that the official notice for meetings is the board in City Hall. The agenda is submitted to both the radio and newspaper. Ms. Bobbi Rouns asked about the hours of the warming shelter and what will be done during the day with below zero temperatures. Commissioner Terry stated that the Commission does not have an answer to that. Ms. Jean Collins stated that if it is that cold, they will allow them to stay, however they will continue to do as they do. Ms. Rouns asked if they will be bringing people in and has heard people have been brought in. Ms. Lacey Bray, co-director of the Salvation Army, commented that she hears from the citizens that the City does not have homelessness and there is no need for this shelter. Ms. Bray explained that she has been involved with the Salvation Army for the last seven years, and there are homeless people that live in Lewistown and call us for help. Ms. Bray commented that these are local citizens that live, operate and survive in our community without a place to live. In the last couple of years there has been an increase due to houses being sold to be transformed into bed and breakfasts. These people are here and are not transients. The definition of homeless is very broad. Ms. Jean Collins explained that she helps with salvation army also and all the money for salvation army comes from the red kettles. Mr. Josh Stroud, Lewistown resident and spent 6 years in law enforcement and 4 years running the local towing company. Mr. Stroud has been out on the streets all hours of the night and are not seeing any of these people. Mr. Stroud commenting that if you are counting the ones without electricity that is their choice. Mr. Stroud stated that he is not in favor of this and it will bring in more transients and crime. Mr. Kurt Cauley stated he would like to visit more with the group working to bring in the warming shelter because the recovery in Lewistown is weak. Ms. Sandra Ayers asked the Commission what would help them to understand what the constituents want. Commissioner Terry stated it is very nice to have everyone here tonight and giving the Commission the information and the Commissioners' emails are on the City's website. Ms. Rouns commented that there other problem in the community is daycare. There is a daycare near the possible location for the warming shelter and if the shelter does go there, the daycare will need to be moved. Ms. Rounds further stated that should be taken into account when discussing the warming shelter. Mr. Tyler LaFountain reviewed some statistics with regard to Kalispell and Lewistown. Ms. Kerry Murphy, vice president of shelter solutions board, she explained that this process has been a journey for her. Ms. Murphy stated that the group has worked hard to educate themselves, to listen to people and groups in the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda was the acknowledgment of the claims that have been paid from November 1, 2023 to November 15, 2023 for a total of \$225,186.17.

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

1. Discussion and action on reappointing Jason Grover and Meghan Brandon to the Historic Resources Commission for an additional two-year term

City Manager Phelps explained that both Jason Grover and Meghan Brandon have served two terms. They both hold officer positions, are engaged and very active members. City Manager Phelps stated that both have agreed to serve another term and would recommend they be reappointed to the Historic Resources Commission. Commissioner Doney made the motion to reappoint Jason Grover and Meghan Brandon to the Historic Resources Commission for an additional two-year term and Commissioner

Scotten seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and action on approving 2024 gravel bids

City Manager Phelps explained that the Public Works Director advertised for gravel bids and only received one bid. This is an annual contract for the basic materials that the City utilizes. The City estimates quantity but only pays based on actual quantity received. City Manager Phelps explained these prices are close to what has been paid in the past. Commissioner Hewitt made the motion to approve the gravel bid from Casino Creek Concrete 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 motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action on approving the 2024 snow hauling bids

City Manager Phelps explained that the Public Works Director advertised for the snow hauling and received only one bid. This is also an annual contract; the City only pays when the trucks are utilized and is a per hour contract. City Manager Phelps stated that the price is a little higher this year, but still in line with previous years contracts. Commissioner Doney made the motion to approve the snow hauling bid from Casino Creek Concrete and Commissioner Hewitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry asked for comments from the audience and Commission. There being none, the question was called for and motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTE

City Manager Phelps reported that there were some comments made by participants participating via zoom. City Manager Phelps will get the comments to the Commission.

Commissioner Scotten stated he thought the public comments was good and stayed in control.

Commissioner Doney stated she learned some things tonight and it was a very good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Terry adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2023.

KellyAnne Terry, Commission Chairman

ATTEST:

Nikki Brummond, City Clerk