

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022** in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Sulai; Council Vice President Comas, Councilmembers Derman, Heayn, Bilenky Trahan, Powers, and Lira (via telecommunication); Manager Lowthert, Secretary Anders, Mayor Alvarez, and Solicitor Lyons. Also present: Ellen Ruby, Mitzi Long, Taylor Lightman, Brice Wilder, Angie Kemberling, Sue Cox, Ed Cox, Michael Fulling, and Jim Probert.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Sulai called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilmember Heayn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to approve the December 21, 2021, Regular meeting minutes. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Heayn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to approve the January 3, 2022, reorganization minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/PUBLIC WORKS/ COMMITTEE:**

Buffalo Valley Regional Police Chief Yost submitted a monthly report. Mayor Alvarez stated there were conversations at the Police Commission meeting regarding updates to the COVID time off policy as it relates to the use of sick leave.

Councilmember Derman shared WCEC will be looking at the new budgetary process moving forward at their next meeting.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bilenky Trahan to approve the Brown Alley Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management project final design plans and gave permission to release the project for bid. Project costs to be paid from the Borough's ARPA funds. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to approve a Budget Revision to the Borough's FFY 2018 CDBG Program reallocating \$20,469.16 from the South Sixth Street Reconstruction project to the Lewisburg Emergency Siren Notification project and requesting Union County make the associated requests of DCED. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve the FFY 2018, FFY 2019, and FFY 2020 CDBG Subrecipient Agreement with Union County. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to approve Application for Payment #1 from Don E. Bower, Inc. in the amount of \$212,966.21 associated with the Hufnagle Park Restroom and Handwashing Station project. Project costs to be paid from the Borough's CDBG-CV entitlement and CDBG-CV Competitive Grant funds. There was some discussion and explanation. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bilenky Trahan to adopt Resolution 22-01 for the disposition of the listed Borough records. There was some explanation of the Resolution. Motion was unanimously approved.

Lewisburg Downtown Partnership has received a \$25,000.00 planning grant from DCED to plan safety improvements in the Market Street corridor. Lewisburg Borough Council approved \$10,000.00 from the General Fund in 2022 as match for this grant.

**ATTENDANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
December 21, 2021

January 3, 2022

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/PUBLIC WORKS/COMMITTEE**  
BVRPD

WCEC

**Brown Alley Stormwater Management Project approval and release for bid**

**2018 CDBG Budget Revision**

**2018, 2019, 2020 CDBG Subrecipient Agreement**

**Don E. Bower Payment #1 – Hufnagle Park Restroom and Handwashing Station**

**Resolution 22-01 records disposition**

**LDP planning grant – Market St corridor**

January 18, 2022

The cost of the Ventrac Tractor: Kubota WG972-GL approved by Borough in October 2021 has increased by \$1,478.70 due to a steel surcharge added by the manufacturer. Although the Committee was not happy about this development, they agreed we need the Tractor and the Borough will complete the purchase.

Ventrac Tractor price increase – manufacturer surcharge.

Lewisburg Borough will keep the holiday lights in the Market Street trees and on the Tri-Globe Street Lights turned on until after the Ice Festival. This will delay the cleaning of globes in the downtown until early February. It will also delay the re-installation of three recently painted Tri-Globe Street Lights along Market Street.

Market Street lights

Lewisburg Borough was notified that it was approved to receive a Lindig Lewisburg Foundation Fund from the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$2,600.00 for the installation a split-rail fence along the railroad tracks and for the installation of trees at the new playground in the Kidsburg section of Hufnagle Park in Downtown Lewisburg.

Lindig Lewisburg Foundation Fund Grant for fence along railroad tracks

Lewisburg Borough was notified that DCED approved an EIP/STMP Phase II Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 to support our planned Floodplain Management/Flood Resiliency Study beginning in 2022.

EIP/STMP Phase II Grant

Current vacancies on HARB with term expirations December 31, 2022, December 31, 2023, December 31, 2023 and Planning Commission with term expiring December 31, 2025.

Vacancies

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve payment of bills from December 18, 2021, through January 14, 2022, in the amount of \$296,877.81. Motion was unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE/PUBLIC SAFETY**  
Approval of Bills

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve the purchase of a new phone system for the Borough Office (including an upgrade to the Borough Council Chambers conferencing abilities) at an estimated cost of \$8,816.83 (including new phones, installation, and user set-up). Motion was unanimously approved.

Phone system upgrade

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve the purchase of a Freightliner 30,000 lb. dump truck for the price of \$184,642.57 via COSTAR contracts from Sherwood FTL, STL, and WST Inc. (in the amount of \$94,078.00) and Bradco Supply Company (in the amount of \$90,564.57) with expected delivery in 2023 to be paid from the Highway Equipment Depreciation Fund. Motion was unanimously approved.

Freightliner dump truck purchase

Council Members are reminded to complete their required NIMS training and submit the certifications to the Borough Secretary.

NIMS training

Notice from CK-COG that hourly rates for service will increase to \$70.00 per hour in 2022.

CK COG rate

U.S. Department of the Treasury has issued their Final Rule for the ARPA Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. Staff is reviewing the Final Rule and will advise the Committee in future meetings.

ARPA Final Rule

Committee continues discussion of a Fire Inspection Ordinance for Lewisburg Borough.

Fire Inspection Ordinance

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Bucknell senior Wilder Brice spoke about the recent change in the social gathering rules. They are a campus that is double vaccinated and boosted students that want to protect the students as well as the community. He believes that banning social gatherings will push the students into the community and overwhelm restaurants and force the students to interact with people they would not normally interact with which may lead to a spread of the virus at a faster rate. The Emergency Management

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**  
Wilder Brice – Social Gatherings

January 18, 2022

Coordinator directed Buffalo Valley Police Department to stop issuing social gathering permits. The Emergency Management Coordinator will reevaluate the COVID information.

Ed Cox lives next to the greenhouses and has sat on Council. He stated that during his term on Council and the Police Commission he tried to make reasonable decisions. He came to the meeting regarding the townhouses construction going on next to his house. Susan Cox spoke of stormwater runoff and floodplain concerns from the proposed townhouses at the greenhouse location. Borough Council has not received any land development plans for the additional townhouses. The developer has gone to the Zoning Hearing Board to ask for some variances.

**BOROUGH MANAGER:** Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to authorize Lewisburg Neighborhoods to host a 50/50 raffle at Lewisburg Landing during the Polar Plunge on February 5, 2022. Motion was unanimously approved.

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR:** Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to enact Ordinance 1065 requiring owners of residential dwelling units used as short-term rentals to apply for and secure a license authorizing such use. Borough Manager Lowthert commented this Ordinance came to Council through long diligent work of the Planning Commission. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

**REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:** Mayor Alvarez shared information on four free COVID tests available on usps.com website and covidtests.gov.

Council President Sulai reminded everyone the Ice Festival will be February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> having great events hosted by Lewisburg Downtown Partnership and Lewisburg Neighborhoods. Council President Sulai also encourages everyone to get vaccinated and wear masks.

Borough Manager Lowthert shared the Borough of Lewisburg will no longer be submitting the Special Event Permits to PennDOT on behalf of organizations wanting to close Market Street. The Borough will need to supply a letter to organizations showing support of the event. Borough Secretary will assist the organizations with the process if it is needed.

Councilmember Comas has taken the feedback from the Human Relations Ordinance and put everything together. He would like to fast track this item.

Councilmember Comas stated yesterday was Martin Luther King Day and shared a quote." –Martin Luther King Jr., Where Do We Go from Here? 1967. White Americans must recognize that justice for Black people can not be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society."

Councilmember Lira added to Mayor Avarez's information regarding the free COVID test kits. Due to a glitch for anyone living in an apartment building or housing having multiple units, it is suggested to enter their unit number in the second address line or add the last four digits of the zip code.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:** Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bilenky Trahan to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Zoning Officer Report and Code Enforcement Officer Report. Motion was unanimously approved.

Lewisburg Downtown Partnership Executive Director Ellen Ruby asked everyone to come out for the Ice Festival and pray for cold weather. Ellen also shared they will be receiving a mini grant from Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for the Piers art project.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**  
Wilder Brice – Social Gatherings

Ed Cox/Susan Cox – Flooding Concern Townhouses

Lewisburg Neighborhoods 50/50 raffle approval

Short Term Rental Ordinance 1065

**REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
Mayor Alvarez

Council President Sulai

Borough Manager Lowthert

Councilmember Comas

Councilmember Lira

**WRITTEN REPORTS**

LDP update – Ice Festival & PCA grant

January 18, 2022

Lewisburg Neighborhoods Executive Director Taylor Lightman stated three bike parking racks that attach to parking meters have been purchased and will be installed in the near future.

**WORK SESSION:** There will be a Work Session to be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA:** Matt Farrand from the Standard Journal inquired where Councilmember Lira was calling from. Councilmember Lira is calling into the meeting from Granada, Spain.

Matt Farrand also inquired about the fees for Ordinance 1065. The fees are not part of the Ordinance. There was some discussion.

Matt Farrand also asked if the Social Gathering Ordinance was suspended or rescinded and when? Borough Manager Lowthert replied the Emergency Management Coordinator directed the Buffalo Valley Police Department to not issue Social Gathering permits in January. The Emergency Management Coordinator will direct Buffalo Valley Police Department when they can issue permits again.

There being no further business, Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline A. Anders  
Borough Secretary

LN update – bike racks

**WORK SESSION**

**MEDIA QUESTIONS**  
Farrand – Lira calling location

Ordinance 1065 fees

Social Gathering

**ADJOURNMENT**