

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Sulai; Councilmembers Comas, Derman, Grobes, Heayn (via zoom), Powers, Manager Lowthert, Borough Secretary Wendt, Mayor Alvarez and Solicitor Lyons. Also present: Community Development/Grant Manager Beattie, Shannon Berkey, Harold Erdley Jr, Wendelin Ubright, Cole Bravman, Jack Slegel, Keturah Masa, Ellen Ruby, Billy Kelly, Kevin Gardner, Stefan Eisenhower, Olivia Morgan, Derek Scott, Lynne Ragusea, Grace Mahon, Jackie Kelly.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Sulai called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to approve the November 15, 2022, Regular meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to approve HARB item a as submitted and recommended by HARB per their minutes dated December 13, 2022. Motion was unanimously approved.

- a. **“Bucknell University – Harris Hall” / 370 Harris Drive / Roof** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval).

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to reappoint Rodney Hepner to the Lewisburg Area Joint Sewer Authority with a term expiring December 31, 2027. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to reappoint Ann Hilliard to the Lewisburg Historical Architectural Review Board with a term expiring December 31, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Power to reappoint Alan Zeigler to the Lewisburg Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring December 31, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Power to appoint Phil Stamm to the Lewisburg Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to appoint Dianne Powers to the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2027. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to appoint Kendy Alvarez to the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to accept the resignation of Jordi Comas from the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to appoint Bina Bilenky-Trahan as the Council Member Representative to the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority with a term expiring December 31, 2024. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve the Lewisburg Borough Office Window Replacement Project (Borough Council Chambers) final design plans and permission to release the project for bid. (Project budgeted in 2023 from the Building Depreciation Fund). Motion was unanimously approved.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
November 15, 2022

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS
HARB

Reappoint
Rodney Hepner to
LAJSA

Reappoint Ann
Hilliard to HARB

Reappoint Alan
Zeigler to ZHB

Appoint Phil
Stamm to
Planning
Commission

Appoint Dianne
Powers to STC

Appoint Kendy
Alvarez to BVRPC

Accept
resignation of
Jordi Comas from
BVRA

Appoint Bina
Bilenky-Trahan to
BVRA

Approval of final
window
replacement
design plans and
release for bid

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Buffalo Valley Regional Police (BVRPD) Chief Yost submitted a monthly report.

William Cameron Engine Company (WCEC) Chief Blount submitted a monthly report. Councilmember Derman reported that WCEC just purchased a used ambulance to replace one that was decommissioned.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve payment of bills from November 13, 2022 through December 17, 2022, in the amount of \$486,442.03. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to add Kathy D. Wendt, Lewisburg Borough Secretary, as a check signer on all bank accounts for Lewisburg Borough. (Note all other signatories will remain the same). Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve request from David Mensch to pay his 2022 Lewisburg Borough Property Tax bill at discount rate (instead of penalty rate) due to the check being lost in the mail, contingent upon submittal of the requested documentation to Lewisburg Borough. Payment will be due to the Lewisburg Borough Tax Collector no later than December 31, 2022. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to accept the resignation of Steven Beattie, Lewisburg Borough Community Development Grant Manager effective December 30, 2022 with regret. Motion was unanimously approved. Councilmember Derman thanked Mr. Beattie for all he has done in his 18 months at the Borough. Council President Sulai also thanked Mr. Beattie for all his hard work and wished him well.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to reappoint Debra Sulai and Dianne Powers to the Lewisburg Neighborhoods Board with terms expiring December 31, 2023. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance increasing the Lewisburg Borough Council Member and Lewisburg Borough Mayor salaries to \$200 per month / \$2,400.00 per year effective January 1, 2026. Motion was approved 5 – 1 with Councilmember Comas voting no.

Current vacancies on Zoning Hearing Board Alternate with term expiring December 31, 2023, HARB with term expirations December 31, 2023, December 31, 2025, Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission Alternate with a term expiring December 31, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

There was a lot of discussion regarding the status of the Norway Spruce tree in Hufnagle Park. Many residents gave comments in support of why the tree should remain in the park. More discussion was held on the progress of the plans for the Event Venue Project in Hufnagle Park.

BOROUGH MANAGER:

Manager Lowthert said that we will miss Steven Beattie who has been a great addition to the Borough staff the last 18 months. Mr. Beattie helped move forward a substantial number of projects during his time here. Manager Lowthert wished him the best of luck in his new position with the Joint Rail Authority at SEDA-COG.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Derman to enact Ordinance No. 1071 amending in its entirety the Fire Code Ordinance by Adopting the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code as the Borough's Fire

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
BVRPD

WCEC

Approval of Bills

Approve Kathy D. Wendt as Borough Check Signer

Approve David Mensch to pay tax at discounted rate

Accept Steven Beattie resignation as Borough Community Development Grant Manager

Appoint Councilmembers Sulai and Powers to LN Board

Direct Solicitor to prepare and advertise Ordinance increasing Council Member Salaries

Vacancies

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Norway Spruce Tree
Event Venue Project

Borough Manager

Ordinance 1071 Adopting International Fire Code

December 20, 2022

BOROUGH SOLICITOR (continued):

Code and providing for inspections and the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to enact Ordinance No. 1072 amending the Fire Company Ordinance by authorizing the Fire Company to conduct inspections and charge fees therefor. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve the Fire Company’s 2023 Inspection Fee Schedule in accordance with the amended Fire Company Ordinance. Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:

Mayor Alvarez encouraged everyone to visit the exhibit at the Samek Downtown Gallery called “Meet my Melanin”. The exhibit will run from December 6, 2022 through March 5, 2023, Monday – Saturday, Noon – 5:00 pm.

Council President Sulai encouraged everyone to get their vaccines and wear mask inside with crowds. Also thanked Borough employees for all their hard work and wished everyone happy holidays.

Grant Manager Beattie reported that the video detection system still has not been installed. The Emergency Notification System (sirens and text notification system) has been ordered and are looking to go live April 1, 2023. Over the next several months, they will be working to get the public signed up for the text notification aspect of the system. Mr. Beattie reported that there will be a Public Meeting for the Flood Mitigation Study on January 25, 2023 at 6:30 pm. If you are a resident of the Borough and would like to participate in the flood study, it can be accessed on the Borough website.

Councilmember Comas reported that Lewisburg Neighborhood has a bike-ability survey and Union County has a Community County Planning survey.

Councilmember Derman asked if the Borough had fireworks regulations. After discussion, it was decided to discuss further at the Administrative and Public Safety Committee meeting.

WRITTEN REPORTS:

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Parking Report, November Zoning Officer Report and Code Enforcement Officer Report, CK COG Building Permits Report, and BVRA November Financial Report. Motion unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: There will be a Work Session held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Council President Sulai called for an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:51PM. Council returned at 8:42PM.

Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers, to appoint Shannon Berkey to serve as Community Development/Grant Manager and authorize the Council President to sign the employment agreement with Ms. Berkey. Motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Councilmember Derman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D. Wendt
Borough Secretary

Ordinance 1071

Ordinance 1072
Authorizing Fire
Company to
conduct
inspections

Approve Fire
Company’s 2023
Inspection Fee
Schedule

REPORTS /
COMMUNITY
UPDATES /
PUBLIC NOTICES
Mayor Alvarez

Council President
Sulai

Grant Manager
Beattie

Councilmember
Comas

Councilmember
Derman

WRITTEN
REPORTS

WORK SESSION

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

ADJOURNMENT