

PRESENT Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Gibson, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer Marino, Superintendent Wills, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Fire Inspector Beebe, Historian Piper

EXCUSED Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella, Recreation Director McDermott, Deputy Clerk Vazquez, Police Chief Previte

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Welch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm

PRESENTATION

Kevin Krueger, Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Volunteer came to speak on low volunteer rates at the fire company and was looking for ideas and suggestions on how to increase recruitment.

MINUTES A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the December 18, 2023 minutes.

BILLS A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the January 2024 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:

General Fund: \$295,860.06
Capital Fund: \$41,576.05
Trust & Agency: \$1,929.44

Total: \$ 339,365.55

REPORTS Historian Piper spoke on acquired pieces and projects he is working on in the Village Cemetery. A discussion ensued on plots that will be available for purchase.

NEW BUSINESS **Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Rachel Jolbert of the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market to host 2 larger markets that would require a larger use of Academy Park, on June 29, 2024 and October 12, 2024.

Mighty Niagara Half Marathon & 5K Run

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request from Niagara Hospice to host the Mighty Niagara Half Marathon and the Hospice Dash 5K on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Coulter Farms – Farm Stand

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Coulter Farms, LLC., to host a farm stand daily from 8am to dusk, beginning June 1, 2024 through December 1, 2024 at the Lewiston Landing area near the Fish Cleaning Station, contingent upon Law Counsel Leone drafting a contract/agreement

Niagara Falls USA Marathon/Half Marathon/5K Run

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the request made by iRun WNY Inc. to host the 2024 Niagara Falls USA Marathon, Half Marathon on Saturday April 27, 2024 and the Historic Lewiston 5K on Friday April 26, 2024.

Northwest Jazz Festival 2024

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request to host the Northwest Jazz Festival on August 23-24, 2024; the request includes Village facilities use from August 23-25, 2024, use of the International Peace Garden and Hennepin Park, use of Center Street from 4th to 7th Street, as well as waiving of the Open Container Bottle Law for the two days of the festival.

Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Member Resignation

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to accept the resignation of the following Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 members:

Greg MacFarlane
Ian Smith

Lewiston Council on the Arts 2024 Events

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the following Lewiston Council on the Arts Events and facilities use:

Art Fest Saturday, August 10, 2024 & Sunday, August 11, 2024

Academy Park Concerts:

Summer of '69 – Friday, July 12, 2024

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra – Saturday, July 27, 2024

Hennepin Park Concerts (Monday's):

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

August 5, 2024

DISCUSSION**Revisions to Village Code**

Trustee Conde suggested that stronger, clear verbiage be added to the code stipulating that self storage facilities are not permitted in the village. Law Counsel Leone stated the Village Board would have to have a public hearing, and create a local law to amend the Village Code. Clerk Fundis said she would draft a local law to amend the laws and schedule a public hearing at the work session on February 5, 2024. A discussion ensued on non-conforming use buildings. Suggestions were made to amend the Village Code to limit the amount of time that storage pods are permitted on a property.

Eclipse Events – Closing of Center Street

A discussion ensued on the request to close a portion of Center Street to host proposed Eclipse events. Mayor Welch said after speaking with Police Chief Previte and Niagara County, there are safety concerns about closing the street with the amount of people that could be traveling to this area. Welch added that the businesses have all stated they do not want the street closed, they would prefer it open for accessibility to their establishments.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt and seconded by Trustee Conde to rescind the prior motion granting approval for Center Street to be closed on April 8, 2024. Clerk Fundis polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

Gibson – No Coppins – No Conde – Yes Eydt – Yes Welch - Yes

REPORTS

Clerk Fundis informed the Village Board that for 2023, the Clerk's office worked with Niagara Frontier Publications to post a link to the Village Newsletter on their website instead of sending paper copies once at the beginning of the year. Fundis said Josh Meloni informed us that the link to the newsletter had 6.4 million clicks, with 1.4 million different users accessing the link. We are continuing this for 2024 at the same cost as last year.

Superintendent Wills stated that if residents have piles of leaves at the edge of their property when the snow melts, they must be bagged in order to be picked up.

Engineer Marino gave updates on projects that are being worked on for Lewiston Landing and the fish cleaning station.

BOARD REPORTS

Mayor Welch said that Engineer Marino, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Jim Fittante and myself attended the Greenway meeting and got approval for funding to build the pavilion at Academy Park. Welch said hopefully the bike path will be complete by spring to Superintendent Wills. A discussion ensued on the proposed pavilion; Trustee Coppins asked if Fittante's drawing of the pavilion were approved. Marino said Fittante's drawings were sent to the Town of Lewiston for the

approval for Greenway funds. The discussion continued on alternate design options due to cost restrictions. Mayor Welch said at this time, I have \$100,000 in donations from Bill Game, \$20,000 in donations from Anthony Dimino, \$190,000 from Greenway, and I am hoping to use \$40,000 from the remaining money from the sale of 475 Ridge Street towards the pavilion. Welch asked Marino to have two drawings prepared when the project goes to bid, one with the added peaks and one without. Trustee Coppins asked if there was a public hearing held on this. Welch said no. Coppins said I would like to wait to do the pavilion the right way. Welch stated that Game has put a time limit on the donations, that the pavilion has to be completed by July 2024 or he will withdrawal his donation. Trustee Gibson inquired about construction during the Lewiston Artisan Market season.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk