

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The meeting was in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall in Weber City, Virginia. Eileen Deckard led the council in prayer. The pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

PRESENT: Mayor: Patrick Deskins
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
Council Members: Eileen Deckard, Casey Kinkead, Greg Smith, Steve Smith, Teresa Tilson

ABSENT: Justin Addington

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept the July 18, 2020 Regular Monthly meeting minutes was made by Teresa Tilson, was seconded by Casey Kinkead, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

Motion to accept the July 2020 Financial Report was made by Eileen Deckard, seconded by Greg Smith, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

Public Presentations:

Lola Dean addressed the board she stated she handles books for the Weber City Fire Department as well as for Hampton Place. She wanted to advise on behalf of the Hampton Place the residents are getting frustrated with the noise of the fire trucks as well as complaints regarding a chicken coop placed near the home. She wanted to request we all work together to solve the issues.

Bruce Cross addressed the board stating the fire department recently had a shut down for three days due Covid-19 contamination to the station and the fire fighters. He discussed recent purchase of 1.7 acres made just outside the town limits for a fire station that can meet their needs. He advised for many years he has had his eye on the old food city building for all that it can offer to the town. He has an accepted offer to purchase the old Food City shopping center; he is very sure that they can sell the recently purchased 1.7-acre property and make a profit for the fire department to assist with the funds needed. At this time he is not asking the town for funding, however he is asking that the town be prepared to help with support of the project he is trying to get the loan now. At this time, his focus is on getting proper facility to accommodate male and female fire fighters and getting the trucks off the hill. Mr. Cross state he has hired an architect to look at the building. He asked for a letter for the bank backing the department. He is also checking with the county to determine if any of the Cares Act Funds can be used for the project to design a decontamination area. Mr. Cross also wanted to advise he has been working closely with Interim Police Chief Bishop in regards to Covid-19, and stated he has been very helpful and would like to express to the board he hopes they keep him so that they can continue to move forward working well together.

Mayor Deskins advised that he would appoint a committee to work with Mr. Cross in any way the town can. He advised Mr. Cross he likes what he was saying and just need to see how the town can help.

Boundary Adjustment /Ordinance Committee: Eileen Deckard advised she hopes by the next meeting she, Greg Smith and Mike Carrico can get the document prepared for review. Mike Carrico advised that the committee did meet with the county. The results from the meeting would be inconclusive until the town has a zoning ordinance. Mayor Deskins suggest that the town adopt the County zoning if possible. Mayor Deskins asked Mike Carrico to look into adopting the county zoning.

Financial: No report

Fire Department. Bruce Cross stated he had nothing more than to requested prayers while dealing with the virus.

Legal Affairs. Mike Carrico addressed the members of the council to advise he has everything set for the Town Election for May 2021 to allow adequate time to get any interested persons time to be on the ballot to run for council. The May 2021 elections will also allow time to get a referendum on the ballot if the town wishes to peruse Liquor by the drink. He stated he also needed to discuss the trash contract, accounting contract and tax collection contract in closed session. He stated everything is going fine in court he is still seeing an increase in citations and that all cases are looking good and very well warranted.

Maintenance Committee: Casey Kinkead advised he has checked into the drainage issues located at the town hall building he had contacted several vendors seeking estimates on diagnosing and resolving the issues. As of this date, three vendors have looked at this issue two of the three stated needed new roof as well as gutters. After discussion, with the board, to the best of the town's knowledge, it is still the original roof. However, the gutters are showing to have been repaired in 2013. Mayor Deskins asked Mr. Kinkead to continue to pursue quotes on replacing the gutters as well as the roof. He also stated lets repair this issue before planning to patch and paint the blocks.

Mayors Report Mayor Deskins stated he had spoken with the vendors now permitting skill games in the town limits. The Virginia Department of Taxation, taxes \$1200 per machine with 12% of that tax returned to the town. This revenue is at this time allowed to the locality until July 1, 2021. The proceeds for the first month should come in during the month of September.

Personnel Committee Eileen Deckard stated that she had hoped to speak with Mr. Addington to schedule interviews.

Police Department Interim Chief of Police Matt Bishop addressed the board to advise he wanted to go over the police department's numbers stating that they had 53 Traffic Summons an increase in citations of 43.39%, stating by enforcing the speeding more traffic is slowing down and only 5 calls were from motor vehicle accidents. Mr. Bishop discussed the needs for overtime during the month. Says that the DCJS has a mandatory physical requirement and he has obtained that for officer Hensley and Chambers the town is now compliant. Drug screening is not a requirement and would like council input on how to proceed. Mayor Deskins advised the personnel committee to review this and get back with him.

Interim Chief Bishop advised of quotes obtained for the garage doors and stated we are still waiting on additional quotes. Mayor Deskins advised Casey Kinkead that he would ask the maintenance committee for review prior to the next meeting.

Interim Chief Bishop advised after speaking with Mayor Deskins the schedule had been changed to give roughly 20 hour per day coverage giving rotating shifts that he believes it is very fair and should increase productivity allowing officers opportunity to utilize the selective enforcement. He is also giving out cards that the officers have checked the premises to local businesses after they randomly check them on the night shifts.

Mayor Deskins presented Interim Chief Bishop with a letter of recognition for work well done on apprehending a suspect on a hit and run from Kingsport, TN. The entire council applauded the good work.

Street Committee Casey Kinkead advised the streetlight on Spring Street the light had been reported as being out, the light is at the end of the street it is one that had been turned off as part of the street light audit that did not reflect for the town. Greg Smith stated he also had checked it out and he believes it is a streetlight that needs to be moved to provide light to the road not the residence. Mayor Deskins asked the clerk to get a cost for this move of the street light and get back to the council for the next meeting.

Eileen Deckard stated that she had never seen a light pole like what was placed on Pierce Street. This is the new street light style provided by AEP. Mayor Deskins advised this is the new modern style.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter a closed session to discuss financial and personnel issues was made by Teresa Tilson Deckard and seconded by Steve Smith, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

Teresa Tilson made a motion to go out of CLOSED SESSION and back into regular session; Greg Smith seconded the motion. motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor, Council members and the Town’s Attorney entered closed session.

After returning from closed session, the mayor and council members hereby certify that only legal matters, for which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Mayor, and Council members. Voting “AYE” were Mayor Patrick Deskins, Eileen Deckard, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson; Casey Kincaid, Steve Smith and voting “NAY”were NONE 1 Absent.

Action from closed session: A motion to enter the legal services contract with TACS was made by Teresa Tilson, was seconded by Greg Smith, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

A motion was made to purchase any items using the general fund checking account that have prior approval from Freda Starnes to reimburse the town using covid funds by Teresa Tilson, was seconded by Eileen Deckard, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

Mayor Deskins stated before we adjourn he wanted to stress the need to annex the Bray Farm area. Mike Carrico stated nothing more to pursue annexation can be done until the zoning and liquor by the drink was in place.

ADJOURNMENT: Casey Kinkead made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Greg Smith, motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

Mayor Patrick Deskins

Town Secretary