

## REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. The meeting was in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall in Weber City, Virginia. Justin Addington led the council in prayer. The pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

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

**ABSENT:** Steve Smith

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to accept the August 18, 2020 Regular Monthly meeting minutes was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 abstention: 1 absent. Corrected typo errors in the approved minutes.

Motion to accept the August 2020 Financial Report was made by Eileen Deckard; the motion was seconded by Greg Smith the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 abstention: 1 absent.

### **Public Presentations:**

Charles Bridwell addressed the members to give an overview of his engagement with the town council starting in 2018 the Mayor at the time Larry Wagner had asked for his office to assist. He stated that when he first started assisting the town the books were in a very bad condition due to resignations. His office had put in many hours to correcting data entered incorrectly, especially at year-end. He stated that he had given a contract to the Mayor and Town Attorney for review but they said it was not needed. He stated the service agreement was for three years that the town had advised they were fine with the agreement, so therefore his office has continued to bill based on that agreement with agreement ending November 1, 2021. He stated Mr. Carrico had questioned going to standard rate but he thinks that could end up costing the town more money. He stated that he believes the town does need a CPA to be available to the town. He asked if anyone had any questions for him. No members of the board asked questions. Mr. Carrico informed the new council members what had transpired leading up to contacting Mr. Bridwell. The situation of a former employee with questions as to monies not being handled properly when Larry Wagner was mayor. The VRS payments were delinquent, as well as insurance and the office was a chaotic mess. Mayor Deskins stated his issues regarding the contract is that the Mayor at the time would not have been able to enter a legal contract without required approval by the town council at the time and this was not done. Therefore, the current council would discuss this in closed session. Mr. Carrico stated there is no contract signed by the town. Mr. Carrico asked if the town did decide to use Mr. Bridwell's office, what would be the hourly rate. Mr. Bridwell stated his hourly is \$150.00 and \$125.00 for Dustin.

**Boundary Adjustment /Ordinance Committee:** Mike Carrico stated he was not able to meet with the boundary adjustment committee due to a death in his family; he will get with the committee after the meeting to reschedule.

**Financial Committee:** No report

**Fire Department:** No Report

**Legal Affairs.** Mike Carrico addressed the members of the council to advise that he has gotten a change to the Trash Contract allowing the town to get out of the 3 year signed contract if Waste Management needs to increase the price.

Liquor by the drink petition and order is ready for the Mayor and Town Attorney's signature, he is awaiting for the actual petitions that will be signed by the residents we need 10% of town voters. (After the meeting, it was confirmed that the number of registered voters within the town is 886). Mr. Carrico

stated that the property the town is trying to annex at the Bray farm the county already has ability for the liquor by the drink, therefore this would be a requirement of the town for the annexation to be considered. RFP for the town to hire an auditor was done by Greg; Mr. Carrico stated he would disburse the RFP to potential interested vendors. He has spoken to one firm already stating they are interested in doing an audit for the town. He believes the last audit was by the firm Hickok and Fern.

**Maintenance Committee:** Casey Kinkead stated that as of now we are still awaiting the quotes to come in on the roof, he after speaking with a few vendors the issue is not in fact the roof it is more the building would need to have a trim placed at the point of which siding and block meet. We need to have a trim placed on the building then pressure wash the block and re-seal the building. After discussion with the Mayor and Council, it was requested that bids for this project be obtained and review the matter at the next meeting.

A motion to accept the lowest bid to purchase the new garage doors was made by Justin ; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 absent.

**Mayors Report** Mayor Deskins appointed Teresa Tilson and Steve Smith to the Fire Department Committee to assist Mr. Cross if need be.

The town has an old Riding Lawn mower and several weed eaters the council needs to decide if this is something to hold on to or to list on Govdeals website. Matt Bishop stated the lawn mower is in good shape. Eileen Deckard stated she has been in contact with the railroad she has a contact that will be forwarded on to Mike Carrico to work out a lease agreement on the property. Mike Carrico stated if it is possible, the town will need the mower or weed eaters to hold off on listing them for sale for now. Mayor Deskins tabled the matter until the next meeting.

**Personnel Committee** Eileen Deckard stated she would like to move ahead with finalizing the hiring process. Mayor Deskins stated this is to a matter discussed in closed session.

**Police Department** Interim Police Chief Matt Bishop handed out to the council a list of numbers of traffic summons 83 for the month of August 2020, that's a 36% increase from last month; Compared to last year this time 8 summons, is an increase of 90 %. State that Speed is definitely being reduced within the town limits. Follow up on the sale of the truck and snowplow. The snowplow did not get the needed minimum bids. He did meet the reserve on the truck however the winning buyer has not come forward to collect therefore he will need to repost the truck again for sale. Mr. Bishop had officer Hensley come up to the podium to present a letter of commendation for job well done on August 29, 2020.

Interim Chief Bishop advised that Austin Hensley had been hired on July 8, 2020 his 90-day probation should be up prior to the next meeting. He presented the Council a copy of an evaluation he has completed already and unless anything drastic, changes he recommends the council remove him from probation and get the \$1 per hour raise. Mayor Deskins stated this is to a matter discussed in closed session.

Interim Chief Bishop stated that certain tasks need to be completed even if the Chief is off work; therefore after speaking with Mayor Deskins, he would suggest that Ted Fletcher be promoted to Lieutenant and would ask the council to discuss that in closed session.

Interim Chief Bishop presented a copy of a body cam policy to the public and to the council. He is going to leave a copy of that policy with Mr. Carrico and to the Clerk for review.

Interim Chief Bishop discussed the 1033 program for the M16 fully automatic rifles that are on loan to the town from the Federal government, there is no training is available to use this type of gun. He stated he has been in contact with a representative that performs the audit of the equipment, and his advice would be to the town that the town just simply return the rifles due to the liability to purchase new rifles. Mr. Bishop suggest using Asset Forfeiture funds for the new purchase and that he will coordinate with the state police to get help to facilitate a transfer or just return to the Armory in Georgia.

Interim Chief Bishop then asked Officer Ted Fletcher to speak to the board regarding quotes obtained to purchase new rifles. Ted Fletcher spoke with the council regarding the quoted cost to purchase the guns. He had received three bids; Palmetto Armory was the cheapest of the bids. After discussion of the potential guns,

A motion to purchase the new rifles with the asset forfeiture funds was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

**Street Committee** Casey Kinkead followed up with the status of the light on Spring Street; the light is on the schedule to be relocated by AEP at no cost to the town.

Interim Chief Bishop spoke up to discuss the hole in the road located on Sunnysvale Street that is located right on the edge of the road and could be on the residents property however the hole appears to be under the actual asphalt on the road. Mayor Deskins stated he had spoken with a repairperson and they was unclear. He will give the name and number to the Committee after the council meeting.

Eileen Deckard brought up the LEOS status discussion was made by Mike Carrico and Mayor Deskins they advised to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion to enter a closed session to discuss financial and personnel issues was made by Eileen Deckard; the motion was seconded by Justin Addington the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent.

A motion to go out of closed session and back into and back into regular session was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Greg Smith the motion the motion passed with five 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, Justin Addington, Eileen Deckard, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson; Casey Kincaid and voting "NAY" were NONE 1 absent.

**Action from closed session:** A motion to remove Austin Hensley from his 90-day probation and give a raise for one dollar per hour, once his 90-day probation period was over and to be effective on October 8, 2020 was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard the motion passed with five voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Casey Kinkead; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson the motion passed with five voting AYES: none voting NAY 1 absent

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Interim Mayor

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Town Secretary