

## REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance. Justin Addington led the council in prayer.

**PRESENT:** Mayor: Vacant  
 Interim Mayor: Greg Smith  
 Town Attorney: Michael Carrico (Virtual Attendance)  
 Council Members: Eileen Deckard, Justin Addington, Casey Kinkead, Teresa Tilson,  
 Larry Wagner

**ABSENT:** Steve Smith

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to accept the March 16, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Teresa Tilson, the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent: 1 Abstention.

Motion to accept the March 2021 Financial Reports was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent: 1 Abstention.

**Public Presentations:** Marti Whitt came before the board to request that the council look at adding safety features for the Church Street intersection, speeding is an issue and she suggested that the town could use four way stop signs or speedbumps to slow the traffic and add enhanced safety to this area. She also suggested placing a Crosswalk at Holston View Methodist Church across Clonce Street to the field area located on the backside of the church.

Commonwealth Attorney Dan Fellhauer spoke to the council to advise of the current Scott Service Program that has been in place since August 2019. The program offers a community work program as an alternative to jail time, thus allowing an individual to avoid incarceration by serving the town through a work program. The individuals would not need to be supervised by the Town; the coordinators with SCOTT service would be supervising the individuals. The individuals in the program are required to sign a liability waiver with the Commonwealth Attorney's office. Mike Carrico stated they would need to review the waiver and add a liability waiver for the town as well; Dan Fellhauer advised he would look at the waiver. He is suggesting a trial basis of \$1,500 per month for the prosecution of town cases under the MOU. The fee is for prosecution of town matters. His office would also assist in helping to get ordinances revised so that the town can recoup more revenues from fines that currently are being turned over to the state.

**Boundary Adjustment /Ordinance Committee:** None

**Budget/Finance Committee:** Eileen Deckard advised working on the budget she feels the town will need to implement changes in order to get a more appropriate budget in place.

Eileen Deckard discussed that the town really needs to implement a monthly trash billing. This would come with many challenges to begin a service charge, and implementation of collecting this charge. It was asked of the clerk what payment options we have; the answer was we are able to accept electronic fund transfer payments (auto draft payments), online payments, as well as in office or mail. Larry Wagner advised that he does not know of any other town that does not charge separately for garbage service.

Police Chief Matt Bishop advised he has been in the insurance field for several years and is going to get with the representative for the town insurance to possibly get into a better insurance plan and reduce the cost.

A motion for a proposed increase the meals tax rate from 3.5% to 4.5% was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Larry Wagner; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Eileen Deckard discussed the LEOS plan now known as the Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefits to insure officers are properly taken care of.

A motion to start the actuarial study, with a study cost of \$1250.00 was made by Eileen Deckard; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

A motion for a proposed tax increase of 6 cents per \$100 of valuation bringing the rate to 20 per \$100 of valuation was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Justin Addington; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

A motion to adopt a Tobacco Products Tax with a rate of 2 cents per tobacco product sold was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

A motion to advertise for public hearings was made by Larry Wagner; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

**Fire Department:** None

**Legal Affairs.** Mike Carrico stated he had sent over a proposed notice for tax increase and that per the town charter the town would need a 30-day notice of a public hearing, and to list why the need for the increase of taxes. It was asked by the council why the audit proposals have not been sent out stating this is a huge loss for the town in grant funding. The council as a group expressed frustrations that the town is being held up by not getting this task completed. The letters are requested to be out prior to the next meeting. Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated he had given the draft audit letter to the Town Attorney in April of 2020. Eileen Deckard advised she is also awaiting the land lease contract that has not been completed so that the town can lease the railroad area and do proper maintenance for the town's appearance.

**Maintenance Committee:** Casey Kinkead advised the heavy rains did let water come in to the basement of the town hall building. He suggested he does not believe water is coming in from the corners; the town needs to seal and paint the building as a preventative measure. The council discussed and advised they could take advantage of the program offered by the commonwealth attorney's office. Chief Matt Bishop advised he does believe mold is in the basement area of the town hall building.

**Mayors Report:** Interim Mayor Greg Smith advised he had spoken with the county supervisor, Darrell Jeter, regarding the Scott County inspection fees and the 911 street signs and he was told, after Darrell had spoken with Freda Starnes at the County office that the answer was - it was how we have always done it. If the town wanted the current procedure changed the council would need to go before the county board of supervisors. Greg Smith advised that he did not understand why towns would need to pay something more due to the residents pay the same rate as the individuals out in the county not located within a town limit. Casey Kinkead stated he agreed the council should go before the board.

A street light quote is still not ready, it is being reviewed by the VDOT state engineer. Greg Smith stated he has not been able to get an answer from the EDA board or Frank Kibler with Lenowisco regarding potential grants.

**Street Committee:** Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that due to recent heavy rains several streets had been washed out, drains clogged up, and many people had severe water issues inside homes. McMurray Excavating had come out and worked several hours to begin repairs on the streets. It is suggested to repave Lee Street, Wilmeth Street, and several other streets are in need of repair. Teresa Tilson

questioned if we can acquire grant funding for this need. Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that he will know an answer to this once he hears from the EDA office.

**Personnel Committee:** Eileen Deckard advised she would hope the new police officer can appear before the board at the next meeting for introduction. Eileen Deckard advised she would ask the town to consider the hiring of a 5<sup>th</sup> police officer.

**Police Department:** Chief of Police Matt Bishop provided a report stating that Officer Hensley should graduate the academy the third week of May 2021; at the current time he holds the position of valedictorian in his class. He stated that Mr. Hensley is interested in becoming a k9 officer. Officer Harding is doing very well. Chief Bishop has been working from home due to a contact from the Health Department advising he would need to quarantine due to Covid. A draft budget has been sent to the Town Clerk. The police Department handled 63 calls for service in the month of March.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Wagner; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

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Interim Mayor

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Town Secretary