

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 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
 Council Members: Justin Addington, Casey Kinkead, Teresa Tilson, Eileen Deckard via Phone

ABSENT: Steve Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept the January 19, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Motion to accept the January 2021 Financial Reports was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Public Presentations: None

Boundary Adjustment /Ordinance Committee: Mr. Carrico stated the Zoning hasn't been reviewed during the last month.

Financial Committee: Mike Carrico stated he and Interim Mayor Greg Smith had met with the PSA board on February 9, 2021 to get input from the board if they would be willing to bill a trash charge on behalf of the Town and placed on Weber City residents' water bills. Mr. Carrico stated that the board would review and discuss with legal counsel and get back with the town with an answer. Mr. Carrico said he believed this would be the best approach for the town to take and he hopes to hear something back by next month. If the PSA is willing, the town would need to hold public hearings to make the public aware. Mr. Carrico stated that the trash, along with the tax rate are the biggest items needed to complete the budget for July 2021.

Discussion was made by all members in attendance regarding the current CD low rates and it was decided that, until there is an upward rate change, the town would not invest the CD funds. The funds will remain in the town checking account.

Casey Kinkead questioned why, if the town plans to switch the bank account that it would need to be with a town bank. Mike Carrico advised that this is due to the banks paying a franchise tax and the town should want to support a local bank. Casey Kinkead advised he does agree with that; however, the town should be looked at as a business and the funds should be invested as such with the best return possible.

Mr. Carrico stated that Interim Mayor Greg Smith had sent him a copy of the audit proposal and feels that it is ready to be sent out to request bids. Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated he has the proposal ready to request bids and that this will be ready to go in 2-3 weeks as well as they could audit the 2019-2020 now and return in the fall for the 2020-2021 fiscal year books.

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson to get an audit completed for fy 2019-2020 and pursue audit for 2020-2021 was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Fire Department: No one in attendance from the Fire Department.

Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that he recently met with Lola Dean and Fire Chief Bruce Cross. They wanted to approach the town to request the existing Fire Department building be deeded to the Fire Department. Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated he advised before that would be considered he would need a letter of such request, and a copy of their board meeting minutes from the Fire Department Board. Teresa Tilson questioned if the Fire Department currently pays rent or what contract they do have; she was advised by the council that the Town does not collect any funds for the use of the building. Teresa Tilson stated that she believes the building needs to be kept or sold for the Town's benefit – not given away. Justin Addington questioned if the Town Charter requires a fire department within the town limits. Interim Mayor Greg Smith responded to advise that the Charter states the town has to have a fire department. Mike Carrico advised that the Charter can only be changed by going through the state legislators. Teresa Tilson advised she would like to see numbers and details from the fire department and that we would need to discuss this more. The members of the council discussed openly the frustrations concerning the fire department's rejection of the offer to be given the old Roberts Tire building.

Legal Affairs. Mr. Carrico stated that the liquor by the drink petitions has been drafted; however, it cannot be placed on the May 2021 ballot due to the Primary for the Governor and it would not be within the 55-day timeframe. Liquor by the drink can be on the November 2021 ballot.

Mr. Carrico stated he does have the revised contract ready for Officer Hensley.

Mr. Carrico stated he has met with Dan Fellhauer to discuss some of the new laws. He feels that the town is doing well being in control of the tickets and that the changes are not that significant.

Mr. Carrico advised that he has assisted with filings for the council members that have advised to him they wish to be placed on the May 2021 ballot for the special elections.

Maintenance Committee: Casey Kinkead made a motion to accept the bid from Price Guttering to extend the metal flashing and seal the gutters where leaking and to extend downspouts into drain lines where needed. The motion was seconded by Justin Addington; the motion passed with 3 voting AYES: 1 voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Casey Kinkead questioned if the repair should be put off until July 1, 2021 due to the budget issues; after discussion, it was decided to get the repairs completed in this current fiscal year due to the damages to the building.

Mayor's Report: Interim Mayor Greg Smith advised the council that on February 4, 2021 he met with AEP and VDOT to discuss the current street lights as well as potential new streetlights to be placed on the US23 and US58 location intersection. He stated the current lights are 30 years old. The town can request new streetlights and AEP will replace them at no expense to the town for installation; the new lights would result in roughly a 20% increase in actual light. The town has 164 streetlights on side streets and for less than \$60 per month or approximately \$700 increase per year, the town would get new lights.

Interim Mayor Smith also discussed getting lights replaced along 23 and getting new poles installed. He is awaiting a cost estimate from AEP who stated that the projected cost could be anything between 15-30 thousand dollars. The Virginia Corporation Commission has yet to approve LED lights. If AEP can install LED lights the cost could be less per month. From a safety and economic standpoint, the lights would be necessary and it is suggested to reach out and see if the town could possibly qualify for any grants for the proposed project. Mr. Smith stated he would speak to Frank Kibler at Lenowisco to research any potential grants. Frank B. Smith Drive down near Food City has no street lights at all and this street has potential for development. Mike Carrico questioned if the Virginia legislators are currently considering the LED lights as they are in session. Mr. Smith stated he would follow up with his friends at AEP.

Interim Mayor Greg Smith asked for volunteers to be on a Budget Committee. Eileen Deckard and Justin Addington volunteered to be on the committee. Teresa Tilson and Casey Kinkead advised they would also

be willing to submit ideas as well so that the Town comes up with a solid budget for the budget year 2021-2022.

Street Committee: Interim Mayor Greg Smith said he had spoken with McMurry Excavating and the hole in the road on Sunnyvale is set for repairs as soon as Mr. McMurray can fit it in his schedule.

Police Department: Police Chief Bishop addressed the council to advise he is still in the process of updating the policy and procedure manual for the police department. He has given a copy to Mike Carrico for review, and he added six general orders that he would request be reviewed. Chief Bishop submitted a copy of the Lawfit Performance Ability Course and suggested this would be something to implement. This is a physical agility test that would help protect the town against possible liabilities by testing new officer candidates. After open discussion by the council, they stated they agreed the test would be beneficial.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter a closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Justin Addington; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

A motion to go out of closed session and back into regular session was made by Casey Kinkead; the motion was seconded by Justin Addington; the motion passed with 4 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 Justin Addington, Eileen Deckard, Teresa Tilson, Casey Kincaid and none voting "NAY": 1 Absent.

Action from closed session: A motion to ask for the resignation of officer number 364 was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson; the motion passed with 4 voting AYES: none voting NAY: 1 Absent.

Interim Mayor

Town Secretary