

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The meeting was held virtually by online Zoom Virtual Forum. Justin Addington led the council in prayer.

PRESENT: Mayor: Vacant
 Interim Mayor: Greg Smith
 Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
 Council Members: Justin Addington, Eileen Deckard, Casey Kinkead, Teresa Tilson, Steve Smith

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept the October 20, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

Motion to accept the October 2020, November 2020 and December 2020 Financial Reports was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Casey Kinkead; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

Public Presentations: A resident stopped by before the meeting began and asked Police Chief Matt Bishop to discuss his complaint with residents that still have Tennessee tags and not obtaining Virginia tags as well as having expired tags, stating that unless the vehicle is on the road they can't issue a citation. Mike Carrico and Chief Bishop discussed with the council the new laws that are being changed as well as current issues due to Covid that has made this task harder to enforce. New laws go into place in March 2021 and Mike Carrico and Chief Bishop will get together with the Commonwealth Attorney to discuss.

Boundary Adjustment /Ordinance Committee: Mike Carrico asked about the status of TeleTech at the county industrial park. The sign has been taken down at this point.

Financial Committee: The town CD's from New Peoples Bank expired and the CD's weren't renewed due to interest rates at such a low percentage at this time. Interim Mayor Greg Smith asked how the council would wish to invest the CD funds; the CD proceeds have been placed in the General Fund Checking account for the time being. The closing of the Weber City New Peoples bank, effective April 16, 2021, was discussed. Mike Carrico suggested to speak with the local banks to see what rates they can offer. Teresa Tilson suggested explore the CD rates and bank rates with the highest return.

Fire Department: No Report was given; Hunter Hensley, Fire Department volunteer, was in the meeting to discuss at the Fire Department board meeting. The board approved to move forward with the purchase of the Old Food City Building. Fire Chief Bruce Cross was currently in a meeting with the current building owner to finalize this process. Mr. Hensley stated the drawings from the architect should be in hand by the end of the week. Steve Smith advised the town has yet to be made aware of factual numbers regarding the details of this purchase.

Legal Affairs. Mike Carrico addressed the members of the council to advise that he has sent the contract regarding the police academy agreement for Officer Hensley to the town offices and it should be ready to be signed. He has met with Mike Edwards, the Voter Registrar, and that for the liquor by the drink petitions we need 92 signatures turned in 82 days prior to the election. He has also made a snow removal contract. Mr. Carrico stated the town can sign up with VDOT for reimbursement of VDOT streets. Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated he would discuss that in the Mayor's report and he has been looking into possible contract with VDOT.

Matt Bishop advised, upon looking at the referenced contract for Officer Hensley, that it is vague and the timeframe is incorrect within the document. He would request that Mr. Carrico revise this contract to

reflect a 2-year timeframe as well as include the numbers to reflect how much Officer Hensley would owe the town for a buyout to leave if he decided to leave.

Interim Mayor Greg Smith questioned Mr. Carrico on the status of hiring an Auditor. Mr. Carrico stated that he and Greg Smith can get together to get this set up. Mr. Smith stated the town should try to get a proposal from each accredited auditor.

Eileen Deckard questioned the status of the Covid Policy; Mike Carrico stated at this point he didn't think the town would need a Covid policy. Police Chief Matt Bishop suggested have a standard pandemic policy and not just limit the town to Covid. Eileen Deckard stated that the town should look into that. No further discussion was made.

Eileen Deckard brought up the zoning ordinances along with boundary adjustments and asked if Mr. Carrico has that ready to present to the council. She asked if the council needs to set a timeframe to get this done. Mike Carrico stated it is hard to hold public hearings when the meetings are being limited due to Covid this should be discussed in person and suggest table it until February 2021 meeting. All expressed they agree.

Maintenance Committee: Interim Mayor Greg Smith questioned Casey Kinkead if he had anything new he stated no. Greg Smith advised that the downstairs heat pump had went out and was now repaired. Casey Kinkead questioned Matt Bishop if the garage door has been finished. Matt Bishop advised that he has been in contact the garage door opener has been ordered and has yet to be installed. Casey Kinkead questioned the council about spending money on repairs, knowing the budget is low and the town is considering moving in with the fire department. Steve Smith stated we are still waiting on valid numbers from the fire department regarding the Food City building. Casey Kinkead questioned if we need to proceed with building repairs here for the downspouts and the channeling block. The town clerk will be asked to get newly updated quotes for the repairs. Steve Smith stated we need to take care of what is here now. Mike Carrico asked that those be included in the next month's packets. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mayors Report: Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that he had hired a part-time police officer, Arthur Chambers aka Pete Chambers, stating he has a great resume and will be helping the town out. This will be beneficial while Officer Hensley is at the academy for 20 weeks.

Mr. Smith advised he has had one person approach him with interest in joining the council. Her name is Betty Alessandrini. Mike Carrico advised that this would need to be discussed in closed session.

The town has entered into a snow plowing agreement with Kelley Williams, a local contractor. He will be using a large tractor with 8 foot blade at a rate of \$100 per hour. A ton of salt has been purchased. Eileen Deckard asked if the town had determined what streets belong to the town.

Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that he and the town clerk had met with VDOT and they have agreed to get the plowing of state streets completed. Issues with position turnovers at VDOT resulted in no snow plowing services provided to the town after the most recent snowfall. The town will need to work out a contract with VDOT around mid-year for the following snow season.

Fire Department Volunteer, Hunter Hensley spoke out and advised that the fire department would like to thank the town for the most recent plowing and that they appreciated it.

Tax Revenue was discussed and questioned as to when is the appropriate time to increase the tax revenue rates for next year's budget allowing for proper public notice. Taxes have not been increased within the town since 2004; the current rate is \$0.14 per \$100 assessment. Mike Carrico will research the Virginia Code as to when this is required to be completed.

The council and town attorney addressed the current budget shortfall with Covid limiting budgeted revenues as well as the increase in trash pickup cost. The town clerk suggested the council speak with the water department and determine if they would be willing to add a trash fee to Weber City customers' bills in an attempt to reduce the amount of increase that would needed this may offset that increase amount needed for the next year's budget. Mike Carrico and Interim Mayor Greg Smith will speak to the PSA water board. Also, Officer Ted Fletcher addressed the board to suggest the town look

into renting cans to place the trash in due to most residents not placing trash in cans, as currently required. Mike Carrico suggested we raise the rates as well as implement a trash fee as well.

Interim Mayor Greg Smith stated that he had contacted AEP and is now speaking with VDOT so that the town can get new street lights on US23 and US58 towards the old Wendy's building for lighting the town. He stated the increase per month would be less than \$60 to have all new lights on residential side streets. This would make the town lighting increase by 20% on the residential side streets. He would ask that the town start to think of this and hopefully by the next meeting he will have more details.

Personnel Committee: Mike Carrico suggested this be passed until after closed session. Eileen Deckard brought up that she would still ask the town to think about getting LEOS for the police officers. No discussion was made.

Street Committee: It was agreed by the council that the hole on the side of Sunnysvale Street near Blanton is the town's responsibility to repair since it is underneath the actual road. The council requested that the town clerk call McMurray Excavating for the repair.

Police Department: Police Chief Bishop stated that in lieu of a report a closed session should be entered into due to personnel issues. He would address the board and then leave the meeting so that they may discuss.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter a closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues was made by Steve Smith; the motion was seconded by Teresa Tilson; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

A motion to go out of closed session and back into regular session was made by Teresa Tilson; the motion was seconded by Steve Smith; the motion the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

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, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson; Casey Kincaid, Steve Smith and none voting "NAY".

Action from closed session: A motion to extend probationary period for Patrick Deskins until the next meeting was made by Justin Addington; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Smith; the motion was seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY.

Interim Mayor

Town Secretary