

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEBER CITY, VIRGINIA

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a Regular Meeting Session at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023**. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by **Vice Mayor Justin Addington**, and opened with Prayer by Council member, **Eileen Deckard**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: **Mike Carrico, Town Attorney**, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Christopher J. Powers (came in late from work)
Vice Mayor: Justin M. Addington
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
Council Member: Eileen Deckard
Council Member: Derek Percy
Council Member: Gregory Smith
Council Member: Teresa Tilson
Council Member: Zackary Salyer

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the **December 12, 2022 Regular Called Meeting Minutes** was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Eileen Deckard**.

Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **3** Abstentions (Justin, Derek, Zack)

No Motion was made to accept the **December 2022 Financial Report** due to an error in the report. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Report and Comments:

Vice Mayor, Justin Addington, began by explaining that the Mayor was delayed by an incident at work, but would be joining the meeting shortly. He then welcomed our newest Council members, Derek Percy and Zackary Salyer. The existing Council then introduced themselves and key people of Town operations. He made mention of the new 2023 Committee assignments that each member received in their packet.

Old Business:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Greg Smith, Council Member, and seconded by Zackary Salyer, to begin the Audit process for the Town of Weber City, by contacting Robinson, Farmer, & Cox Associates who performed the previous audit. It is believed that there is an existing 3 year contract. The Town Clerk will verify this with RFC, Associates.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Per the request of the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department, Teresa Tilson, Council Member, made a motion for the Maintenance Committee to get 3 quotes to replace the HVAC system at the current Fire Department building owned by the Town of Weber City. The current units are not performing properly and heating the bays as needed.

Motion was seconded by Zackary Salyer. Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Items will be covered in Closed Session.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report:

Council Member, Teresa Tilson reported that although the 3 quotes have been received for the multiple heat pump units that have been requested for the new building location for the WCVFD, more information is needed before it can come to a vote, and will table the issue to a future meeting.

Finance Committee Report:

Council Members, Greg Smith and Teresa Tilson, stated that they hoped to begin the Budget FY2023-2024 process in February with a presentation to the Council ready by May. They would like to begin collecting quotes for various Town services that have expiring contracts, specifically trash removal, or new services that are necessary, so they can be considered in the new budget.

Maintenance Committee Report:

None at this time

Personnel Committee Report:

Items will be discussed in Closed Session.

Planning Committee Report:

No new developments to report.

Street Committee Report:

None at this time. The committee exists of the 2 newest members who received that assignment at this meeting.

Police Department Report:

Chief Donald Harding, III, presented the Council with a brief summary of Department happenings. The list included: new cruiser laptops have been received and will be installed within a few weeks; reminder regarding the Resolution letter concerning the USDA Grant; will meet soon with the new Personnel Committee to address needs of the Department; and what is the next step for designing, planning the renovation of the Police Department since the one Architect design quote exceeds \$5,000. He introduced their new motto: "Citizens Serving our Community".

Fire Department Report:

Bruce Cross, Fire Chief, reminded the Council, that time was of the essence in voting to assist them or not regarding the purchase of the heat pump units for the new Fire Department location. He also came prepared to discuss an outstanding invoice of \$37,430.14 from Atlantic Emergency Solutions, dated February 2021 for fire gear purchased, and cost covered by CARES funds from Scott County. He stated that the gear was on back order, and was not received until June 2022. The funds were supposed to be set aside by the Town Clerk, so that when the gear was received the invoice could be paid. He stated that the bill is severely delinquent at this time, and headed to collections. He stressed that it needed to be paid immediately. Several Council members commented that they were unfamiliar with this transaction, and urged that further research through email and previous meeting minutes be made to confirm the authorization of this payment. The Town Clerk was then instructed by the Town Attorney to do this research and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, asked Bruce if he had a timeline on moving the Fire Department to the new location. Bruce said 3 – 5 years. So due to that time frame, he urged Bruce to look at the current building for needs that can be met with ARPA funds. Bruce said the current HVAC system and building itself is not conducive to operations. Eileen Deckard, Council Member, made mention that a formal request has not been made to purchase/repair the heating units. Mike urged that a motion be made for the Maintenance Committee to acquire 3 quotes for replacing the HVAC unit for the Roland Street location owned by the Town of Weber City.

Public Presentations:

The floor was then opened up for Public comment and/or questions.

Lola Dean informed the Council that she has voluntarily hired someone to clean up the Railroad right of way (trash pick up and weed eating, etc.). She was not requesting to be reimbursed by the Town, but perhaps a donation of any old equipment that the Town is no longer using. The Council agreed to look into it.

Bill Hensley, Weber City citizen, made a request to repeal the Penalty and Interest that was added on January 1st for the 2022 Property Taxes. He stated that it was personally difficult for him so soon after the holidays, and was concerned that it was the same for most people. The Tax billing was delayed in 2022 due to the information received from Scott County. The Council agreed to discuss it, and come to a solution.

Hunter Gillenwater, owner of New Life Garbage, introduced himself and his coworkers, gave a brief description of their services, and indicated that their company would be delighted to enter a bid for trash removal services if in the future the Town would be seeking a new provider contract.

Being no further Public Comment, Vice Mayor Justin Addington, closed the floor for Public Comment.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter **INTO** Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal issues was made by **Teresa Tilson**, Council member. Seconded by **Greg Smith**, Council member. Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

A motion to go **OUT** of Closed Session and back into Regular Session was made by **Teresa Tilson**, and seconded by **Derek Percy**. Motion passed with: **5** voting **AYES**, **0** voting **NAY**, **0** **Absent** and **0** **Abstentions**

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor, Council Members, and the Town's Attorney entered into Closed Session.

A motion to certify that only lawfully exempt matters, for which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Mayor and Council members, was made by **Teresa Tilson**, Council member, seconded by **Derek Percy**, Council member, and roll call vote made with these members voting "AYE" were:

Eileen Deckard, Derek Percy, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson, and Zackary Salyer.

Voting "NAY" were: **none**, with **0** Absent

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer, Council Member, seconded by Derek Percy, Council Member, for the following item:

To advertise with Scott County Virginia Star for the Police Officer vacancy whether Certified or Uncertified.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, Council Member, seconded by Eileen Deckard, to pay \$200.00 each month for December, January, February, and March to Kelly Williams Barton, to be "On Call" for snow removal, and to pay the State reimbursement rate for snow removal hourly for using his services during a snow event, when he invoices the Town.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

A motion was made by Greg Smith, Council Member, and seconded by Zackary Salyer, Council Member, to set February 1, 2023 as the date to impose Penalty and Interest for 2022 Property Taxes, to reverse the P & I that was imposed on January 3, 2023, and credit any paid P & I to the 2023 tax account.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

The next meeting was announced as follows:

Regular Town Council Meeting: Tuesday February 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Greg Smith**, seconded by **Zackary Salyer**

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Vice Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps