

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, February 21, 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:

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:

Mayor: Christopher J. Powers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the **January 17, 2023 Regular Called Meeting Minutes** was made by **Zackary Salyer**; seconded by **Derek Percy**.

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

No Motion was made to accept the **December 2022 Financial Report** due to an error in the report.

No Motion was made to accept the **January 2023 Financial Report** due to an error in the report. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

Public Presentations:

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

Larry Wagner and Bill Hensley brought to the attention of the Council a resident at 281 Wilmeth Street that is in violation of the Town's junk/trash ordinance. A letter from the Town was sent to the resident in July 2022, but no improvements have been made to the condition of the property. If anything, the problem has become worse. The home is an eye sore, and the blocked street, a hazard to other residents. They are asking the Council to address the problem with the owner, and get it cleaned up.

Linda Laney and friends, addressed the Council about the current condition of the Town's sidewalks. They walk several times a week for a couple of years now, and have noticed that the same grass/weeds, trash, and debris that clutters the sidewalks, has been present for several months, even up to a year. They brought photos of hazardous materials, broken glass, and other items that present a problem for the public. They also mentioned the hazardous condition of the Scott County Lumber

Company that is currently half torn down, asking if something could be done to urge the owners to complete the task, and clean up the site. Aside from the threat of steel beams falling, there is broken glass present, and a port-a-potty that has been left unattended on the job site with its own health hazards. Council members asked the Town Attorney what could be done legally regarding this, and he stated he would check into the current ownership of the property. The Town Clerk will contact Scott County Services, who we already have a contract with, to see if a crew can be sent to address the sidewalk clean up.

Hunter Hensley came forward to announce his candidacy for District 1 Board of Supervisors, by the Republican Party. He expressed a desire to continue to assist the Town with ongoing projects and representation, and asked for the Council's support in the upcoming election.

Kevin Helms announced that he is running again for the Treasurer's Office of Scott County, and asked for the Council's support. He listed several ideas that he has to improve relations with the Treasurer's office, addressing items such as Tax Billing issues, Tax Delinquency rates, possible twice a year billing for Property Taxes, and investing the County's surplus funds.

Kristina Hurd is seeking the Republican nomination for Commissioner of Revenue. She is a former member of the Board of Equalization, and saw first hand some changes that need to be made regarding the Tax office. Updated equipment, more available office hours, forms on a new website, and improved relations with the public, to name a few things.

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

Vice Mayor, Justin Addington, began by announcing to the Council that Mayor Chris Powers would be taking a leave of absence for a few months, and that he would be stepping up to fulfill the Mayor's duties for the near future.

Old Business:

Derek Percy, Council Member, and Maintenance Committee member, brought up for further discussion, the request for use of ARPA funds for HVAC units for the current Fire Department location owned by the Town of Weber City, and the request for use of ARPA funds for HVAC units for the Fire Department's new location, that is within the Town of Weber City, city limits but not owned by the Town. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, has been doing research as to the guidelines for use of ARPA money in regards to Fire Departments located within the County. Air quality products are generally covered by ARPA funds. Fire Chief, Bruce Cross, requested that the Town reevaluate the Town's willingness to support the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department. Three bids have already been submitted for the HVAC units for the new location, and bids will be collected for the Town's Fire Department building also. Those bids will be collected by the Maintenance Committee.

A motion was made by Derek Percy, and seconded by Teresa Tilson for the Maintenance Committee to collect 3 bids for replacing an all over HVAC system in the Fire Department building owned by the Town at Roland Street.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, Council Member, and seconded by Zackary Salyer, to distribute a check in the amount of \$37,430.14 to Atlantic Emergency Solutions for the Fire Department gear that was ordered in February 2021, received in June of 2022, and funds provided by Scott County for this purpose. The funds were received by the County in 2021, and deposited in the Town of Weber City account until the invoice was received.

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

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer and seconded by Eileen Deckard to add Greg Smith and Teresa Tilson as signers to the New Peoples Bank Account for accounting and investment purposes.

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

Motion was made by Greg Smith and seconded by Zackary Salyer, to begin requesting and collecting at least 3 bids for Audit services to begin the Audit process for the Town of Weber City.

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

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Derek Percy, to approve the current Part Time Police Officers hired by the Town of Weber City, who are: John Gillenwater, Logan Vermillion, and Ethan Penley.

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

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson and seconded by Zackary Salyer to approve the 2023 Committee Members as appointed by the Mayor, Chris Powers, and the appointment of Vice Mayor, Justin Addington.

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:

No new developments to report.

Finance Committee Report:

Council Members, Greg Smith and Teresa Tilson, mentioned that a motion needs to be made to add the Finance Committee members as signers on the Town's Checking Account at New Peoples Bank in Gate City. They also requested that if any Council

members had items that they would like considered for the Budget for FY2023-24, to please submit that information ASAP since they would be working on the Budget soon.

Maintenance Committee Report:

Derek Percy addressed his report during Old Business items, regarding the Heating/Cooling units for the WCFD.

Personnel Committee Report:

Items will be discussed in Closed Session.

Planning Committee Report:

No new developments to report. It was mentioned that maybe the members of the Planning Committee could be instrumental in the planning of the 2023 Fall Festival and the 2023 Christmas Parade, or at the least, enlist the help of Town citizens for the planning of those events.

Street Committee Report:

Derek Percy, Committee Member, gave a report regarding the over the street flooding on Click Street and Maple Street last week. He presented many photos of the flooding. We will make a work request with VDOT for drainage repair to Click Street and also Tulip Poplar that are VDOT streets within Town. Maple Street is a Town street, and the drainage problem may be the responsibility of the property owner of the apartments at the top of the hill, 168 Maple Street. Mr. Percy and Mr. Salyer asked for assistance with VDOT request procedures, since they are new to the Council.

Police Department Report:

Chief Donald Harding, III, presented the Council with a brief summary of recent Police Department events, and budget proposals for FY2023-2024. He also met previously with the Personnel Committee about guidelines for hiring additional officers.

Fire Department Report:

Most of the Fire Department report was addressed by the Maintenance Committee during Old Business. However, there was mention of the monetary difference available from the original deposit of \$47,231.55 from Scott County for the Atlantic Emergency Solutions equipment, and the final check amount of \$37,430.14. That amount is: \$9,801.41. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, will check with the County Administrator if the funds can be spent on qualifying merchandise or paid back to the County.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter **INTO** Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal issues was made by **Eileen Deckard**, Council member. Seconded by **Zackary Salyer**, 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 **Zackary Salyer**.

Motion passed with: **5** voting **AYES**, **0** voting **NAY**, **0** **Absent** and **0** **Abstentions**

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

The Vice 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 Vice Mayor and Council members, was made by **Greg Smith**, Council member, seconded by **Teresa Tilson**, Council member, and roll call vote made with these members voting “AYE” were:

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

Voting “NAY” were: **none**, with **0** Absent

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, and seconded by Derek Pearcy, to hire Terry Sivert as a Town of Weber City Police Officer, with a salary of \$52,520.00, with insurance and Hazard duty benefit beginning on first day of employment instead of a probationary period. .

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

A motion was made by Eileen Deckard, Council Member, seconded by Zackary Salyer, to amend the Personnel Manual to say that Council is to approve all hiring and/or firing of Full-time, Part-time, or Temporary employees of the Town of Weber City and the Weber City Police Department.

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 March 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Teresa Tilson**, 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