

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, September 19, 2023**. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by **Interim Mayor Justin Addington**, and opened with Prayer by **Eileen Deckard, Council Member**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: **Mike Carrico, Town Attorney**, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Interim Mayor: Justin M. Addington
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
Council Member: Eileen Deckard
Council Member: Teresa Tilson
Council Member: Zackary Salyer
Council Member: Vacant
Council Member: Vacant

ABSENT:

Council Member: Derek Percy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the **August 15, 2023 Regular Called Meeting Minutes** was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Zackary Salyer**.

Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

Motion to accept the **August 2023 Financial Report**, was made by **Zackary Salyer**, seconded by **Teresa Tilson**.

Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

Mayor Report and Comments:

Interim Mayor, Justin Addington, said that he had intended to address Trash concerns tonight, as listed on the Agenda. However, he was unable to meet with Hunter Gillenwater, owner of New Life Garbage, the Town's current trash service vendor, previous to the meeting, and Hunter Gillenwater was not present at the Council Meeting as he had planned. Justin will meet with the vendor before next council meeting, and address trash concerns then. Council decided to table any and all discussions regarding trash service until the October meeting.

Old Business:

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, informed the Council that corrections needed to be made from previous items voted on regarding ARPA funds given to the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department to purchase 9 HVAC units for their new location on US Highway 23N. He instructed that the 2 previous votes must be rescinded, and a new motion made to include the total combined amount, clarify location of purchase, and the payee of the subsequent check.

The votes are as follows:

RESCIND the Motion of May 16, 2023, and rescind the Motion of August 15, 2023

Previous motion: (1) May 16, 2023

A motion was made by Derek Pearcy, and seconded by Zackary Salyer, to approve a quote from R.E. Michel Company in the amount of **\$30,311.11** for the purchase of 9 HVAC units to be installed at the new location for the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department, located on US Hwy 23N. The quote is in two parts totaling \$30,311.11. The expense will use ARPA funds.

Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **1** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Previous motion: (2) August 15, 2023

A motion was made by Derek Pearcy to pay to the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department the difference of **\$6,359.90** owed for the heat pump purchase, so they can reimburse Enterprise Gas. The motion was seconded by Zackary Salyer.

Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

A motion to rescind these 2 previous motions was made by Zackary Salyer, and seconded by Teresa Tilson.

Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

A motion to approve the purchase from Coastal Supply Co., 9 new HVAC units, in the amount of **\$36,671.01** from ARPA funds, with a check made payable to the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department, with the equipment to be installed at the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department, located at US Highway 23N (the new location), was made by Zackary Salyer, seconded by Teresa Tilson.

Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

Interim Mayor, Justin Addington, asked Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, how to address the council seat vacancy. Mr. Carrico advised the council that the Town Charter allows the Council to vote to appoint anyone who meets the qualifications to fill a vacancy temporarily until election results are in. The election is in November, with only one candidate on the ballot for council member, so following the election, that person will take office immediately. That leaves only the October Council meeting with a vacant council seat. He said that a council member may make a motion to appoint someone to that seat if they wish. Interim Mayor Justin Addington, asked if anyone would like to make a motion to appoint a person to that vacancy. Hearing no motion, this item fails from lack of a motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, and seconded by Zackary Salyer to clarify Rhonda Neeley's title as Treasurer for the Town of Weber City, as listed in the Town Charter.

Motion passed with 3 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions, 2 Vacant

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer, seconded by Teresa Tilson, to honor the 100% Property Tax exemption permanently, for all 100% disabled veterans approved by Scott County Commissioner of Revenues office.

Motion passed with 3 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions, 2 Vacant

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Mike reported that he had no legal affairs to discuss, however, he and Council Member, Eileen Deckard, and Police Chief Harding met with a construction contractor, Freddy Garcia, regarding the bid for Police Department renovation and/or relocation.

The scope of the project is: remove water damage and mold areas, remove and replace walls and ceiling, while reconfiguring the space. Remove the single garage door and metal doors, replacing with new doors or walls. Build an armory, a secure evidence room, a meeting/interview room. Bathroom renovations to bring up to code, upgrades to the kitchen area, HVAC system, and electrical wiring.

Or, relocating the Police Department upstairs, and repurposing the basement area for Council meetings.

One bid has been received from NRLD, Inc. (Tom Addington) out of Gate City, and the Council is continuing to take bids/estimates for the job needed.

Interim Mayor, Justin Addington, told the committee that he knew a contractor who may like to submit a bid. And asked them to contact him.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report:

No new comments at this time, per Zackary Salyer

Finance Committee Report:

No new comments at this time, per Teresa Tilson. The Council asked when the upcoming Audit was scheduled for, and it is to take place in March 2024.

Maintenance Committee Report:

No new comments at this time, per Zackary Salyer

Personnel Committee Report:

No new information at this time, per Eileen Deckard, who also commented that hiring an additional police officer needs to be a consideration.

Planning Committee Report:

No new information to add. Looking forward to meeting soon regarding zoning for the Town.

Street Committee Report:

No new comments at this time, per Zackary Salyer. Have spoken with VDOT regarding the right of way needed to do necessary repairs to the sink holes on Maple Street, and Town Hall has been in touch with Regan McMurray to give an estimate for the job.

Police Department Report:

Chief Harding began his report by congratulating Officer Matthew Bledsoe for graduating from the Police Academy at the end of August. Officer St Cyr, also completed the Firearms Instructor Certification at the Academy.

He also recognized two Weber City Police Officers with commendation letters for recent events. Officer Spencer St Cyr received a Letter of Appreciation for his life-saving actions on August 24, 2023. Officer St. Cyr conducted CPR on a person who had collapsed and assisted Rescue with saving his life. Chief Harding has received many calls of appreciation for St Cyr's heroic acts on that day. The gentleman is still recovering, but we have been told that he would not have survived at all if it had not been for the efforts of Officer St. Cyr.

Officer Matthew Bledsoe received a Letter of Appreciation for his role in solving the stolen vehicle case here in town. An area businessman had a business truck stolen one night, and through the dedicated work of Officer Bledsoe, the vehicle was recovered and a full confession from the suspect was received, on September 15, 2023.

The Department is proud of the actions of these two officers, and encouraged them to keep up the good work!

Fire Department Report:

Chief Cross announced that the first Monday in October will be their last Food Truck Rally for the year. On October 7th, they will be hosting the NAPA Car Show at their location. Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for cSaturday, October 28, 2023. It will also be a Food Truck Rally and Car Show. He invited the Town to participate in any way they would like. The Weber City Police Department has already committed to attend the event.

He also announced a Christmas Tree Lighting, and toy drive planned for Dec 9th in the parking lot of the Fire Department, with many other activities planned on site.

He introduced a new restaurant that will open next door, called Firehouse Diner.

Targeting the opening for October 1st, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

He gave a quick update on the renovations going on in the new building, and some of the plans for the spaces in it.

Public Comment:

Interim Mayor, Justin Addington opened the floor for Public Comment. The first comment came from Jeff Flanary from 213 Legion Street. He voiced many comments and concerns regarding the current trash service vendor, and the amount being charged in January to each household for the trash service. He has spoken with several Town citizens since adding his name to the ballot, and informed the Council that they would be surprised at the negative comments and number of dissatisfied residents regarding the trash service. Mr. Flanary vowed to do his best as the new Council member, come November, and looks forward to working with the current Council and seeing changes addressed in the Town. He suggested asking the Town of Gate City Sanitation crew if they would be interested in contracting trash pick up for Weber City. Council informed him that that has been tried in the past, and did not work. But suggested it was time to revisit that possibility.

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session this meeting.

Before adjourning, Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, addressed the Council regarding the question from the August meeting whether the Town Ordinance on Meals Tax includes Mobile vendors, food trucks, etc. He confirmed that the ordinance DOES include mobile food businesses. The Council decided to table this item until a later date, to allow time for discussion on how to enforce the existing ordinance, or if it requires modification.

The next meeting was announced as follows:

Regular Called Meeting October 17, 2023, at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Zackary Salyer**, seconded by **Eileen Deckard**. Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions, **2** Vacant

Interim Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps