

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, July 16, 2024**. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by **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:

Mayor:	Justin M. Addington
Town Attorney:	Michael Carrico
Council Member:	Eileen Deckard
Council Member:	Jeff Flanary
Council Member:	Teresa Tilson
Council Member:	Wendell Tipton
Council Member:	Vacant
Others:	Penney Capps – Clerk, Donald Harding, III - Police Chief, Frank Tittle – Public Works

ABSENT:

Council Member:	Zackary Salyer (working out of town)
Treasurer	Rhonda Neeley (medical leave)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the following meeting minutes in one vote was made by **Wendell Tipton**; seconded by **Teresa Tilson**:

June 18, 2024 Public Hearing on Budget Minutes

June 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2024 Special Called Meeting – Personnel Minutes

June 28, 2024 Special Called Meeting – Adopt FY25 Budget Minutes

Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **1** Vacant, **0** Abstentions (3:35)

Motion to accept the **June 2024 Financial Report**, was made by **Teresa Tilson**, seconded by **Wendell Tipton**.

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

The Mayor had no new comments to address at this time.

Old Business:

Verizon Connect GPS Fleet Monitoring System

Jeff Flanary reminded the Council that they made the motion to revisit the Verizon GPS/Camera contract this meeting. He commented that his employer has the same GPS system for their driving fleet minus the video cameras. He stated that it provides very little information unless it flags certain events with the vehicle and has no safety features. He said that perhaps the Town's system may provide more information since it has video capability. Eileen Deckard stated that, "as you know, we have seen a lot with that already and is a good reason to keep it". Mr. Flanary stated that in his opinion, clarification needs to be made who has the right to look at the data gathered by the system and there should be a chain of command followed properly when an incident occurs. Ms. Deckard stated that that was previously voted on, and Administrative permission was given to Mayor Justin Addington, and Treasurer, Rhonda Neeley, no one else has permission to "mess with it". She urged the Council to review their minutes regarding that vote. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, stated that Police Chief Donald Harding was also supposed to have access to the system. Ms. Deckard commented that Chief Harding could view the system, but was not granted Administrative duties. Mr. Flanary stated that he was not present at the meeting when that was voted on. Teresa Tilson commented that she did not think that Ms. Neeley (Treasurer) was given Administrative duties, however Ms. Deckard stated it was what was voted on, and again urged Council to go back and review their minutes. Due to some of the information being of a confidential nature, some Council did not feel it right for anyone other than proper chain of command viewing the footage. Ms. Deckard said that Ms. Neeley only viewed the system when asked. Mr. Carrico suggested that maybe the camera portion of the contract be removed, and use only the GPS tracking system, to determine vehicle location and also the importance of tracking speeding instances, whether in pursuit or just speeding through town. Mr. Flanary stated that he was not completely downing the system, just urging that the proper chain of command needs to be followed both up and down. Mr. Carrico mentioned that he tried to contact Kyle Kilgore, the Commonwealth Attorney, regarding the subject of confidentiality, but was unable to reach him before the meeting. He asked Chief Harding to provide for the Council a summary of the information he got previously from the Commonwealth Attorney, and suggested tabling this issue until next month to allow the Council to get all the information needed to make a clear decision. Mr. Flanary said he thought the Council wanted to have a Verizon representative present at this meeting to answer questions. No one with Administrative duties was designated to contact Verizon to arrange the meeting. Ms. Deckard stated that the system has been turned off even though the Council agreed to revisit the subject of cancellation, and that no one had the authority to turn it off. Mr. Carrico said the Council definitely needs more information, and that the Council might ask the Town Clerk to contact Verizon in the absence of the Town Treasurer, to arrange for Verizon to make a presentation at the next meeting August 20th. He asked the Mayor what he thought about the subject. The Mayor said the system needs to be revisited for sure, he understands that the system only records when flagged by certain activities, and does nothing when a police officer is being held at gun point or shot. It is only live when triggered. The Mayor said if there was a way the officer could activate the recording when needed for safety, it would be better, but since it does not, it is a "useless tool". Mr. Carrico stated that the new bodycams the Police

Department is hoping to order will actually do that. Ms. Tilson moved to table the item until next meeting as suggested, and to have a Verizon representative at the meeting. The Town Clerk, Penney Capps asked for clarification if she has been given permission for Administrative access to the account to arrange such a meeting. She was told no. The Town Attorney told the Mayor to contact Verizon for the appointment, however the Mayor stated that he no longer has access to the account and without a passcode, Verizon will not even discuss the account over the phone. Currently only the Treasurer, who is on Medical Leave, has access to the account and was able to access the system to gather information upon the request of Council Member Zackary Salyer. Mr. Carrico volunteered to contact someone to arrange the presentation for next month. Ms. Deckard suggested keeping the contract since the Town was already obligated to it, and perhaps cancelling it next year when the contract renews if deemed unnecessary.
The item was tabled until next month.

Fire Department (Roland Street) Guttering and Roof Repair

Maintenance Committee member, Jeff Flanary stated that he had intended to view the repairs needed at the Fire Hall, but his current work schedule kept him from doing so, so he asked to table this item until the next meeting to give him time to visit the location. Also, with no rain for weeks, it is hard to see the location of the roof leak. Eileen Deckard stated that Travis Neeley who performed the work on the roof previously needs to be contacted to check on the leak again.
The item was tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Signer added to the New Peoples Bank Checking Account

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Eileen Deckard to add Wendell W. Tipton as a signer to the Town's Checking Account located at New People's Bank to assist in availability in getting checks signed in a timely manner when other signers are unavailable. Wendell is a Council member and Finance Committee member.
Motion passed with 4 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 1 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Appoint New Council Member

A motion was made by Wendell Tipton, seconded by Teresa Tilson to appoint Keltie Kerney as a new Council Member to fill the current vacancy. Ms. Kerney will serve on the Council until the November 2024 elected Council Member takes office. Council asked if anyone else present wished to be considered for the vacancy. Being none, the motion stands.
Motion passed with 4 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 1 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Vote on Town Match for Byrne/Justice Grant Award

A discussion began by Teresa Tilson, for the required Town match (amount **\$17,812.00**) for the Byrne/Justice Grant awarded to the Weber City Police Department in the amount of **\$71,254.00**. Council asked if the funds were included in the newly adopted FY25 Budget. They were not. One Council member stated that the funds need to come from the Police Department budget, not the Town. A Council member suggested that the funds may now be available since the Department was unable to hire a new full-time

officer. Chief Harding stated that although the funds are available at present, it could hinder the efforts of the department to secure a full-time officer in the future. This item has been tabled until further review of the FY25 Budget by the Chief and the Finance Committee.

Council Appointments for Town Offices – Clerk, Attorney, and Police Chief

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Wendell Tipton to re-appoint the current people for the offices of Town Clerk (Penney Capps), Town Attorney (Mike Carrico) and Police Chief (Donald Harding, III).

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

Purchase Dump Trailer for Public Works Department

A motion was made by Jeff Flanary, seconded by Eileen Deckard to give Frank Tittle the authority to find, evaluate, and purchase a dump trailer for Town use up to the amount of \$2,800.00 as discussed.

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

Hiring Policy Change Request for Part-time Police Officers

A motion was made by Jeff Flanary, seconded by Teresa Tilson, to allow the Police Chief and the Mayor the authority to hire part-time Police Department employees as needed, with restrictions, until the Council is informed at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. They will consult with the Town Attorney also to ensure the hiring follows Town policy.

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

Effective Date for FY25 Payroll Rate of Each Employee

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Eileen Deckard to make the effective date for the new hourly pay rates for each employee as outlined in the FY25 Budget to begin July 7, 2024.

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

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, had no new information to share with the Council, just gave a reminder about the Council's need to make the following appointments for this new fiscal year: Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Police Chief.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Zackary Salyer

Currently the Town has **\$132,428.70** ARPA funds left to spend. \$100,000 of that has been designated for the Police Department renovation. A start date has not been set yet. The remaining amount may be used for other areas after the renovation is complete.

Finance Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Wendell Tipton

No new items to present.

Personnel Committee Report: Eileen Deckard

No new items at this time.

Planning Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Zackary Salyer

No new items at this time.

Street Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Wendell Tipton

Still waiting for the Scott County PSA to finish working on the water lines on the roads, before addressing some of the needed repairs.

Maintenance Committee Report: Jeff Flanary

Jeff Flanary deferred his time to Frank Tittle, Public Works, who updated the Council regarding mowing and maintenance tasks that have been completed and those ongoing. Messages from citizens who report needs to Town Hall, have been relayed to Public Works and VDOT. Frank has been researching the purchase of a Dump Trailer to save the Town money. There are several uses for the trailer, in clean up of roadways, sidewalks, and road repair. He has located a 6' x 12' used dump trailer for sale by an individual for \$2,800.00, with clear title.

Teresa Tilson asked if the excess funds in Public Works and Streets from Budget year 2024 could be used for this purchase. Mike Carrico stated that unused funds from the previous year essentially carry over into the new year. Council decided to vote on this item.

Police Department Report:

Chief Harding gave the report. He announced that the Weber City PD will be participating in the National Night Out – a nationwide block party – on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, located on Frank B. Smith Drive near Food City. Former Mayor, Pat Deskins, has volunteered the use of his property for the event. The event will also be a back-to-school bash with handouts for the kids, and prizes to win. He has contacted area merchants for donations of bicycles and other items. He encouraged Council members to get involved by contacting friends and businesses as well.

He also gave an update that the Town's insurer, VACORP is okay with ride-alongs, but now requires a signed Assumption of Risk Form for anyone participating in a ride-along. An example of the form is coming from VACORP.

He commented that the director of communications for Scott County confirmed that the new digital radios purchased with the county last year are installed in the cars and with each officer containing GPS capability with dispatch.

He then asked Council to revise the current policy on hiring new people for the Police Department to allow the Chief and the Mayor to hire part-time officers quickly as needed, after consulting the Town Attorney, and informing the Council of those new

hires at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. Jeff Flanary stated to the Council that the Town has hired Chief Harding to run the Police Department, and he should be allowed to do that job he is qualified for with informing the Council along the way.

Fire Department Report:

Lola Dean, Fire Dept Treasurer gave the report. She commented that the disbursement of the \$15,000 Fire Department Grant money needs to be executed in a more timely manner each year so the Department can use those funds.

Her second comment was directed to the Police Department. On July 11-12 her vehicles were some of the ones broken into and vandalized all over Weber City. Her property is adjacent to Town Hall, and there were no security cameras positioned to capture the event. The Bank did not have any either. She stated that it took all day before police responded to her aid.

Matt Ison of the WCVFD commented that the check they received tonight was in the amount of \$15,000.00 and the newspaper stated that \$17,000.00 was in the FY25 Budget. Council explained that the additional \$2,000 in the Fire Department budget category was for building maintenance, repair and expenses for the Fire Hall building the Town owns on Roland Street. It is not an additional donation, nor was it ever disclosed as one by the Town. The Fire Department asked that the Town continue to consider giving additional funding to the department this year. Town Attorney Mike Carrico stated that the Finance Committee may be able to look at the Town budget, when the Town Treasurer returns from medical leave, to see what could be done at that time.

Public Comment: Opened 8:00 pm and Closed 8:01 pm
None

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was necessary this meeting.

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

N/A

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Teresa Tilson**, seconded by **Jeff Flanary**. Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY **1** ABSENT, **1** Vacant, **0** Abstentions

Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps