

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. (actual start time 7:02 pm) on Tuesday, January 21, 2025**. 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 **Donald E. Harding, III, Chief of Police**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: **Mike Carrico, Town Attorney**, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Justin M. Addington
Vice Mayor: Wendell Tipton
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
Council Member: Eileen Deckard (via Zackary Salyer's phone)
Council Member: Jeff Flanary (arrived 7:11 pm)*
Council Member: Keltie Kerney (arrived 7:04 pm)*
Council Member: Teresa Tilson
Council Member: Zackary Salyer

**The vote count reflects these times.*

Town Employees: Treasurer - Rhonda Neeley, Clerk - Penney Capps, Frank Tittle – Public Works, Donald Harding, III - Police Chief

ABSENT:

None. Two Council members arrived after called to order. The votes reflect those times.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT: (00:01:40)

A motion to accept the **December 10, 2024**, Regular Called Meeting Minutes was made by Teresa Tilson; seconded by Zackary Salyer.

Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **2** ABSENT, **0** Vacant, **0** Abstentions (00:02:26)

A motion to accept the **January 8, 2025**, Special Called Meeting Minutes was made by Zackary Salyer; seconded by Wendell Tipton.

Motion passed with **4** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **2** ABSENT, **0** Vacant, **0** Abstentions (00:02:40)

Motion to accept the **December 2024** Financial Report, was made by Wendell Tipton; seconded by Keltie Kerney .

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Vacant, **0** Abstentions

Mayor Report and Comments:

Introduced Chief Donald Harding, III for a presentation to honor Weber City business owners Michael Stanley and Calvin Ramey, along with Lieutenant Jesse Jones for a recent successful theft investigation. (A copy of the full presentation read aloud is included at the conclusion of these minutes.)

(00:06:36)

Mayor, Justin Addington, then gave an unofficial Snow Plowing Report just as information. Since obtaining the Snow Removal Contract with VDOT, our Town of Weber City Snow Plow Truck has been in operation through 3 snow events, totaling 116 hours of operation, earning \$17,400.00 for the Town of Weber City. Citizens are reaching out to the Snow crew and the Mayor thanking them for a job well done.

Old Business:

Trees Cut on Town Property

Council Member, Keltie Kerney asked for a status update on the investigation of the trees being cut down on Town own property. Mayor Addington asked the Maintenance Committee, Eileen Deckard and Frank Tittle if they have been able to address the tree issue. Eileen said that she and Frank were able to speak with Mr. Qualls about the trees, and he explained that he cut them down because they were leaning towards his property at the time, and possible danger to his home. He did not remove the trees. They are still laying where they fell, behind the Fire Department located on Roland Street. It is understood that Mr. Qualls did not reach out to the Town before cutting the trees down. Police Chief, Donald Harding, III conducted an investigation per Council request. Mr. Qualls stated that he had spoken with the Mayor at that time Chris Powers, and the Fire Chief Bruce Cross, and received permission to remove the diseased trees. Council asked if the trees can be cut up as firewood and donated to the community citizens. Several ideas were discussed. No motion was made at this time.

Ordinance Violation – Trash

Council Member, Keltie Kerney, asked if there has been any response regarding the trash located at a Church Street property from the first ordinance violation letter sent to the property owner. There has not been. And the trash is still there.

A motion was made by Keltie Kerney, seconded by Zackary Salyer, to send a Certified Letter to owner of Church Street property for 2nd warning of Ordinance violation for trash removal.

Motion passed with 6 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Council Member, Zackary Salyer, asked if there has been any resolution regarding a Business License for those delinquent from 2024. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, stated that that item will be discussed in Closed Session due to its legal nature.

No motions were made at this time.

Council Member, Keltie Kerney, asked if a date has been set for John Kilgore to return to a Town of Weber City Council meeting to speak about the new lessee for the Teletech building and any possibility of implementing any of the Council's suggestions for the vacant portion of the property. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, stated that he would reach out to Mr. Kilgore personally. The Town Clerk made an email request in November 2024, to which Mr. Kilgore's assistant said they would contact us after the first of the year when they began filling his calendar. There has been no date given at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Police Department Renovation Ribbon Cutting

A motion was made by Keltie Kerney, seconded by Teresa Tilson, to have an official ribbon cutting event to reveal the newly renovated Police Department when complete. Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 1 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Purchase Brand New Salt Spreader

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Keltie Kerney to accept the bid to purchase a new Hiniker Salt Spreader from Gieser Services in Knoxville, TN, for **\$7,878.00**.

Motion passed with 6 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

None.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Zackary Salyer

All ARPA funds have been allocated for proper uses. We have until 2026 to fulfill the invoices for all projects. The Police Department Renovation work is ongoing and is looking great. The new department will be something the Town can be proud of. Keltie Kerney asked if the Town would like to have an open house once the renovation is complete. Eileen Deckard stated that she did not think it was a good idea since the citizens, as a whole did not benefit from the renovation

Finance Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Wendell Tipton

None

Personnel Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Keltie Kerney

The Committee has asked to table the revisions to the Employee Handbook until the next meeting.

Zoning/Planning Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Zackary Salyer

The Committee is compiling a rough draft to distribute to other Council members before reviewing items in a General Session for Council input.

Street Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Wendell Tipton

The Committee is compiling a road repair wish list for future projects and is keeping a keen eye on possible road damage from snow and salt events.

Maintenance Committee Report: *Eileen Deckard and Frank Tittle*

Frank Tittle reported that during the last snow event, the motor on the salt spreader became nonfunctional, and will either need to be repaired or a new spreader purchased to replace it. Frank presented the Council with quotes for a new spreader, indicating that a local Knoxville dealer can have one delivered in a timely manner before the next snow event. The salt spreader is made by Hiniker, is made of stainless steel, and is sold by Gieser Services in Knoxville, TN, for **\$7,878.00**. The other quotes are as follows: Grainger - **\$8,943.39**; and B & H Sales offering 3 types ranging from **\$7,908.00** - **\$12,171.00**

Police Department Report:

None

Fire Department Report:

Bruce Cross, WCVFD Chief, addressed the Council regarding the lack of snow plowing the parking lot for the Fire Department located on Roland Street. He was appreciative of the job done clearing the streets for easy, safe, access for the fire trucks during the snow event, but asked if the parking lot could also be cleared. He expressed to the Council that Emergency vehicles need first priority in the Town.

Chief Cross also requested that the Town consider more assistance with funding the WCVFD for truck repairs and other needs.

Public Comment:

None. No one present.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter INTO Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel issues was made by Keltie Kerney, Council member, seconded by Teresa Tilson, Council member. Motion passed with 6 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 Zackary Salyer, seconded by Teresa Tilson.

Motion passed with 6 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 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 Zackary Salyer, Council member, seconded by Teresa Tilson, Council member, and roll call vote made with these 6 members voting "AYE" were:

Jeff Flanary, Wendell Tipton, Teresa Tilson, Eileen Deckard, Keltie Kerney, Zackary Salyer

Voting "NAY" were: 0 with 0 Absent

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

Plow Fire Department Lot on Roland Street

A motion was made by Wendell Tipton, seconded by Keltie Kerney, that the Town of Weber City Public Works Department will salt and maintain the parking lot of the Fire Department Roland Street location and Jude Street to allow for emergency vehicles to travel during inclement weather. This vote is to clarify for the record, decisions that had already been made to maintain the Town of Weber City Fire Department Roland Street location.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 1 Abstentions

Source of \$17,812.00 for the Byrne/Justice Match Grant

A motion was made by Wendell Tipton, seconded by Teresa Tilson, to amend the original motion on August 20, 2024 to read that the **\$17,812.00** required by the Town to accept the Match Grant be taken from the Town's reserve funds instead of the ARPA funds. There was discussion for clarification.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 1 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Zackary Salyer.

Motion passed with 6 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps

Announcement: Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm