

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020
REGULAR MEETING OF WESTON CITY COUNCIL

1. The January 6, 2020 meeting of the Weston City Council was called to order at the Lewis County Courthouse located at 110 Center Avenue, Weston, West Virginia at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Kim Harrison.
2. The Mayor then asked for a moment of silent meditation, and then asked Betty Brooks to lead in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Harrison then asked for roll call. Present in person at the meeting were Councilman Steve Weaver, Councilman Randy Bohan, Councilman Gary Foster, and Councilman Herb Curtis, City Manager Chad Minnick, City Clerk Kristin Droppleman Donaldson, Police Chief Josh Thomas, Building Inspector/Street Commissioner Bryan Reed, and Sanitary Board Director Dee Evans.

4. ***Approval of Minutes and Reports***

The minutes from the October, November and December meetings were approved as distributed.

5. ***PRESENTATIONS - None***

6. ***CITY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:***

a. Reports

- Planning Commission – Next meeting is January 14 at 6pm at City Hall
- Historic Landmarks Commission – Sherry Rogers informed council they did not have a quorum for the last month’s meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2020 at 5:30p at TALA
- Parks and Recreation – Connie Riffle said she would like to have a meeting next month to discuss purchasing benches and a pavilion for Polk Creek
- Weston Arts Council – No report.
- Fairs and Festivals – No report.
- URA – No report.
- LCEDA – Mayor Kim Harrison attended the meeting and information was included in council packets

7. ***WESTON SANITARY BOARD REPORT***

WSB Director Dee Evans provided an update on current projects (report attached). She informed council that contracts 3 and 4 are completed. Dee also gave an update on the progress with contracts 1 and 2. Dee then spoke briefly on the jet truck stating they are in the bidding process now. The stormwater fund for 2019 is \$35,030.00. Councilman Herb Curtis asked if the funds had been moved to the interest bearing account yet. Dee said she has to have the approved minutes from tonight to get everything moved.

8. ***CITY MANAGER REPORT***

City Manager, Chad Minnick reported that everything is in the finance report just some things still need organized. We will be receiving our 2nd quarter sales tax payment within the next couple weeks. He also stated that we are currently \$60,000.00 ahead on municipal fee collections. Due to the holidays the second check run for December wasn’t done until today. Chad said he has a meeting set up with Suttle and Stalnaker on January 21, 2020 at 5:30pm and asked that council attend. Mayor Harrison asked if the information would be available for the audits. City Manager, Chad Minnick said yes it would be available.

Chad spoke briefly about the department reports saying they each have a copy in their packet. Police Chief Josh Thomas put a year-end report for 2019. The Street department worked split shifts this month and managed the Christmas lights. Chad stated that they are working on a solution for the willow creek railing. Street Commissioner Bryan Reed spoke up and said the railing is finished. Councilman Gary Foster said the urgency for the railing was based on that area being a bus drop off for kids.

Street Commissioner, Bryan Reed said he is working on getting the street department cleaned up. They are trying to find a place for all the bricks. Councilman Gary Foster asked if something could be done with the water on Fourth and N River. Bryan said there is a spring there but he would look in to it. City Manager Chad Minnick informed council that the traps have been set for the vultures and some have been tagged.

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In conclusion, Chad informed council of some meeting dates for January which are as follows – January 8, 2020 at 5:30 at the Senior Center for a presentation on the logo; a special session meeting on January 13, 2020 at 5:30 at the City building. A meet and greet with city boards and commission is set for January 15, 2020 at 5:30p at the Senior Center; and last he has a work session scheduled for January 27, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Councilman Gary Foster made a motion to approve the department reports as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Herb Curtis; motion carried.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

Approve/deny resolution 2019-10 removing all current authorized signers from the Historic Landmarks Commission bank account held at United Bank, assign Mayor Kim Harrison, Councilman Gary Foster, City Manager Chad Minnick and City Clerk Kristin Donaldson as authorized signers on the Historic Landmarks Commission bank account held at United Bank, and authorizing the City Manager to close the Historic Landmarks Commission held at United Bank and open a new account at Huntington Bank for the Historic Landmarks Commission with the same signers listed above. Councilman Randy Bohan made a motion to table the resolution; Councilman Herb Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accept resignation of Councilman Gary Foster from the City of Weston planning commission. Councilman Herb Curtis made a motion to accept the resignation; Councilman Randy Bohan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. VISITORS SECTION

Bill Brooks – Mr. Brooks of Walnut Street wanted to express his concerns with the conditions of his street. He said it continues to get worse.

David Gump – Mr. Gump thanked the police department for their recent arrest on his street. He then asked Street Commissioner, Bryan Reed how much snow needs to be on the roads before they put the plow down. Bryan stated around an inch - which he felt was too much. Mr. Gump said he has cameras on his house and there have been times when there was a lot more than that on the roads and the plows were up.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Kim Harrison reported that she attended ribbon cutting for Kathy's Ice cream barn. She also attended the LCEDA meeting. She worked the Miracle on Main Street event. She attended the combined neighborhood watch meeting, the cemetery board meeting as well as the historic landmarks commission meeting. She also went to a drug court graduation and had lunch with elementary school students at Peterson School.

Ward 1 – Councilman Steve Weaver participated in the Miracle on Main Street event. He attended the Historic Landmarks commission meeting. He said that he has been addressing complaints and concerns from his ward. He went on to thank Bryan and the street department for repairing the railing at willow creek.

Ward 2 – Councilman Randy Bohan said he wants to get the water back in the drains. He feels we need to clean up around town such as houses and cars before doing any stormwater projects.

Ward 3 – Councilman Gary Foster said he attended some ribbon cuttings and thanked Bryan for his efforts on the 12th Street complaint.

Ward 4 – Councilman Herb Curtis thanked Bryan Reed for the 'children at play' signs. He then informed Judy he had some complaints to turn in to her.

Councilman Herb Curtis made a motion to go into executive session; Councilman Randy Bohan seconded the motion. Motion carried. City Manager, Chad Minnick then asked the reason for the

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executive session; Mayor Kim Harrison said it was for personnel. Chad then stated if it was for him he wanted it in open session per WV §6-9A-4 subsection 2a. Councilman Herb Curtis then asked Chad to recite the code. Chad continued as follows: Matters arising from the appointment, employment, retirement, promotion, transfer, demotion, disciplining, resignation, discharge, dismissal or compensation of a public officer or employee, or prospective public officer or employee unless the public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee requests an open meeting; Councilman Herb Curtis then made a motion to resend his previous motion regarding executive session; Councilman Randy Bohan second the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Herb Curtis proceeded in open session by reading a letter of warning to Chad. He said the letter is in regards to the trade in of two trucks that was not voted on by council. He also stated that the inability for employees to communicate with council was unacceptable. Councilman Herb Curtis then asked for each of the councilman and the mayor to sign the letter as well as Chad. Chad then stated that he would supply his questions and comments to council in regards to this matter. Chad asked if they followed the open governmental meetings act which states 3 councilman cannot be together at one time discussing city business. Councilman Herb Curtis stated that it was the Mayor and himself that drafted the letter. Councilmen Foster, Bohan and Weaver all confirmed that tonight was the first time seeing the letter. Chad then stated

“Kristin, I’d like you to notate in the minutes that the governing body has not formally voted to agree on this that three of the members have only seen this within the last 10 minutes and that without consulting counsel without meeting together as a group to discuss it that in my professional opinion this is entirely inappropriate”

Councilman Weaver stated that since he had not seen the letter prior to the meeting he refuses to sign it. City Manager, Chad Minnick then stated the letter was dated December 17, 2019 states in the letter it goes in effect December 4, 2019 but was not distributed until January 6, 2020. Councilman Herb Curtis stated that it took some time getting it together. Councilman Herb Curtis then made a motion to place the letter of warning in Chad Minnick’s personnel file; Councilman Randy Bohan seconded the motion. Motion carried (Councilman Weaver opposed).

Councilman Randy Bohan said that the ethics complaint filed against him was strictly between him and the complainant. The situation was compromised from the beginning when it was shared with all of council. The Ethics Commission said they would take care of the complaint. Councilman Bohan also went through the credit card statements asking what certain items were and the reason for the purchase. Councilman Bohan feels that we over spent on the new computer and would like receipts to go with the credit card statements from now on.

Adjournment

Councilman Gary Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Herb Curtis; motion carried.

Kim Harrison, Mayor
City of Weston

ATTEST:

Kristin D. Donaldson, Clerk
City of Weston