

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 Thursday June 16, 2022**. 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: Justin Addington, Vice Mayor, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Vice Mayor: Justin M. Addington
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico
Council Member: Eileen Deckard
Council Member: Robert Hammonds
Council Member: Gregory W. Smith
Council Member: Teresa A. Tilson
Council Member: Larry Wagner

ABSENT:

Mayor: Christopher J. Powers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the May 17, 2022 regular Meeting Minutes was made by Teresa Tilson; seconded by Larry Wagner.

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

Motion to accept the May 2022 Financial Report was made by Greg Smith; seconded by Eileen Deckard.

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

Old Business:

Updates were given by the Vice Mayor regarding the following items:

Town Hall Renovations – New door installation has been delayed until site prep, electrical preparation, and on site security is arranged for day of installation.

Council Member, Robert Hammonds, commented that he will begin finding possible contractors to complete the work, and report back to the Council.

Bids have been received (3) for the new HVAC system for the Police Department

Council Member, Teresa Tilson, made a motion to accept the bid from Boones Heating and Air, LLC, in the amount of \$5,475.00, for the new HVAC system for the Police Department. Seconded by: Robert Hammonds

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

(The cost of this project will come from ARPA funds received)

NEW BUSINESS:

Health Insurance decisions and Employee Benefit changes will be addressed in Closed Session.

Trash Can disbursement discussion was opened. Clarifications were asked to be made to the letter that will be given to the person who receives the Trash Cans.

1. That the cans are the property of the Town of Weber City
2. Landlords can receive multiple cans for the number of residents on their owned properties.
3. If cans are damaged, lost, or otherwise no longer usable, that the responsible party will pay to have it replaced at the Current Market Value plus shipping

Once these revisions are complete, a date will be set for citizens to pick up their cans at the Town Hall. Possibly a few dates to choose from. A committee will be present to distribute the cans, receive signatures of responsible parties, and record serial numbers to connect to address location.

Council Member Robert Hammonds noted that Bruce Cross was a big help to the Town the day the Cans arrived. He brought his heavy equipment to unload them from the delivery truck. Robert has asked him to invoice the Town for his services that day. The Council all agreed.

Bank Signees: A motion was made by Council member Teresa Tilson, to remove Rhonda Neeley's name as a signer on the Town's banking accounts, and add Penney Capps, the new Town Clerk, at the completion of her 90 day probation which ends, July 1, 2022. Christopher Powers and Justin Addington will remain the same on all accounts, and the accounts will require 2 signatures still. The motion was seconded by: Greg Smith, Council member

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

Mayor Chris Powers was absent. No Mayor Report given.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report:

Council member, Teresa Tilson, suggested a monetary award be given to the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department (WCVFD) so that they could purchase the needed personal equipment for each volunteer fire member. However, it was discussed that such donations are not allowed within ARPA fund guidelines. So the ARPA Committee has requested that the WCVFD produce a detailed list, estimates, or even invoices, for the desired equipment, not to exceed the amount of \$30,000, so that purchases of said equipment could be made by the Town through ARPA funds. The WCVFD will bring those requests to future meetings, or to the ARPA Committee directly.

Finance Committee Report:

Teresa Tilson and Greg Smith, Council members have presented the Budget for FY2022-2023 at the Budget Hearing that took place this same date. Also noted that now that rates on deposits are increasing again, it may be time to reinvest some of the Town's Reserve Funds in a Certificate of Deposit or other investment account.

Maintenance Committee Report:

Justin Addington and Robert Hammonds, Council members, will be arranging for estimates for the contractor work required for the door installation at both the Town Hall and Police Department locations. Also, there are several lights out at the Fire Hall, and this need will be addressed soon.

Personnel Committee Report:

Justin Addington and Larry Wagner, Council members, had nothing to report at this time.

Planning Committee Report:

Eileen Deckard and Greg Smith, Council members, had nothing to report at this time.

Street Committee Report:

Robert Hammonds and Larry Wagner, Council members, reported that due to the season, the Town has received several calls from citizens regarding overgrown trees, shrubs, and grass obstructing roadways, and safe viewing of our streets. Some of these streets are maintained by VDOT and official work order requests are being made for the County or the State to take care of it. However, timeliness is not a virtue with either of these entities. Council member Robert Hammonds, tries to address any and all complaints within Weber City streets, but noted that it would be better to have even a part-time person available to address these complaints since he is bi-vocational and not available in a timely manner either. Available equipment is also a concern.

Police Department Report:

Chief Matt Bishop verbally presented the Council with the Officer Activity Report noting that Call Logs were on the average for each officer.

He informed the Council that the Garage bay door is broken and requires repair. It was noted that the company R & M Doors was the original installer, and should be contacted to arrange repairs when an officer is present.

Chief Bishop also informed the Council that in recent weeks, that several, if not all, Police Officers for the Town, have submitted applications for employment elsewhere. He noted that it is a financial decision and not an emotional one, to leave the Town. At this time, no resignations have been submitted for acceptance, but he gave the Council a possible 2 week timeline for these changes to begin. He also commented that he also has sought employment elsewhere, but plans to stay long enough to address the changes within the Police Department to make a smooth transition for the Town.

This item was received as information.

Fire Department Report:

The representative for the WCVFD was present but had nothing to report at this time.

Public Presentations:

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

#1 Ms. Marti Whitt, a citizen of Weber City expressed her interest, concern, and support for the Town to implement a Hazard Duty Designation on the Retirement commitment for all members of the Weber City Police Department. And to make whatever decisions necessary to retain the Town's current Law Enforcement personnel.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

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

A motion to go OUT of Closed Session and back into Regular Session was made by Eileen Deckard, and seconded by Robert Hammonds.

Motion passed with: **5 voting AYES, 0 voting NAY, 1 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 Teresa Tilson, Council member, seconded by Eileen Deckard, Council member, and roll call vote made with these members voting "AYE" were:

Eileen Deckard, Robert Hammonds, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson, and Larry Wagner.

Voting "NAY" were: **none**, with **1** Absent.

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, Council Member, for the following changes to be made for Town employee benefits, effective July 1, 2022:

1. Change the Health Insurance Plan from Anthem HealthKeepers to Anthem KeyCare Gold PPO. With the Town paying the premiums for Employee Only coverage. Dependent coverage costs will now be the responsibility of the employee.
2. The Town will now offer and cover the cost of Hazardous Duty Distinction to be added to the Town's VRS Retirement Plan. It is understood that this is an irrevocable benefit, that once it begins, it will carry on for the duration of the Town's existence. This benefit will be given to any employee that qualifies, specifically those employees who are Full Time Law Enforcement personnel. This benefit is not available to Clerical positions.
3. It is understood, these benefit changes, and their subsequent cost to the Town will be covered in the Budget for FY 2022-2023

Seconded by Greg Smith, Council Member.

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

The next meetings were announced as follows:

Special Called Meeting to Approve Proposed Budget FY2022-2023
Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday , July 19th, 2022 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Greg Smith
Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Vice Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps