

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 20, 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: Gregory Smith
Council Member: Teresa Tilson

ABSENT:

Mayor: Christopher J. Powers
Council Member: Robert Hammonds
Council Member: Larry Wagner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the **August 16, 2022 Regular Called Meeting Minutes** was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Eileen Deckard**.

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

Motion to accept the **September 6, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes** (Hiring of new full-time officer) was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Eileen Deckard**.

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

Motion to accept the **August 2022 Financial Report** was made by **Eileen Deckard**; seconded by **Teresa Tilson**.

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

The Mayor was absent due to a family illness. No report given.

Guest Speaker Presentation – Keith Wilson and Bob Richards

An organization is planning a Walking/Bike Trail for Scott County that will stretch from behind Food City in Weber City to behind Gate City High School in Gate City. This is known as the Moccasin Gap area of the County and holds historical value. It will be designed like a State Park, and not convey vehicle traffic. The organization has requested of the Town of Weber City, a letter that shows our support of this endeavor. There are studies to complete, and designs that will be submitted, before money becomes an issue to address.

Old Business: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Items voted on....

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, and seconded by Greg Smith to make a Resolution to support the study for the new walking trail proposal presented to us by our Guest speakers Bob Richards, Mayor of Gate City, and Keith Wilson, Project Director. Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **2** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Items for information...

None

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Items will be covered in Closed Session

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report:

No new developments to report

Finance Committee Report:

Teresa Tilson and Greg Smith, Council members, are researching a State Fund that is available to place unused ARPA funds for a larger return on the investment. Those funds would be pooled with other entities around the State and available to us to withdraw when funds are needed. Currently waiting on Federal Reserve rate changes before a decision is made. This item was given as information.

Maintenance Committee Report:

No new developments to report

Personnel Committee Report:

Justin Addington and Larry Wagner, Council members welcomed the new employees to our Police Department.

Planning Committee Report:

No new developments to report.

Street Committee Report:

Robert Hammonds and Larry Wagner, Council members.

AAA Paving will be the company doing the repairs to Lee Street. A contract is in the works.

Police Department Report:

Police Chief, Donald Harding III, gave the Call Summary Report, and informed us that he has recently returned from the Chief Retreat at the Breakers Park, VA, stating that it was very beneficial. He requested of the Council the purchase of laptop computers for each cruiser, and expressed that perhaps those could be covered by ARPA funds. He has begun collecting cost quotes, and will present them to the committee. He told the Council that he has recently applied for a new LOLE Grant to assist in covering Overtime expenses also.

He made a formal introduction to the Council members of our new full time officer, Jessica McGraw who is a Certified Police Officer with experience, who will be a great asset to our Town.

He also introduced to the Council, a new member of the Weber City Police Department, K-9 Officer, Apache. Apache is owned and trained by our current officer, John Gillenwater, who is willing to lease Apache's services to the Town for \$1.00 per year.

Chief Harding informed the Council, that he and the WCFD are combining efforts this year to host a Trunk or Treat event and/or a Fall Festival for Weber City. They are looking at Sunday, October 30th as a possible date, with games, candy distribution, food trucks, gospel singing, etc in the works. More will be announced at a later date after a meeting with the event's coordinators. His report was received as information.

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief, Bruce Cross stated that the cameras previously requested were not needed at this time. However, he did request that the ARPA funds committee review the possibility to use those funds for 8 to 10 HVAC units needed for the new WCVFD location. He would soon need at least 4 units, approximately \$38,000, with the current planned renovations to the building.

Public Presentations:

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

There was no one present.

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 **Greg Smith**, Council member. Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **2** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

A motion to go **OUT** of Closed Session and back into Regular Session was made by **Eileen Deckard**, and seconded by **Teresa Tilson**. Motion passed with: **3** voting **AYES**, **0** voting **NAY**, **2** **Absent** and **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 Vice Mayor and Council members, was made by **Teresa Tilson**, Council member, seconded by **Greg Smith**, Council member, and roll call vote made with these members voting “AYE” were: **Eileen Deckard, Greg Smith, and Teresa Tilson.**

Voting “NAY” were: **none**, with **2** Absent.

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, Council Member, seconded by Eileen Deckard, for the following items:

1. to increase Penney Capps’s (Town Clerk) hourly wage by \$1.00/hour to a total of \$17.00, to be retro active to July 4, 2022 when her 90 days probation period ended, with any and all back pay issued to her.
Motion passed with **6** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **0** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions
2. Effective as of 9/20/22, all, new, full-time employees hired will have benefits effective the Date of Hire. To include, but not limited to: Health Insurance, Retirement, and Hazard Duty Retirement Distinction.
3. To issue a one time bonus check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to any currently employed, full-time employees of the Weber City Police Department who worked during the COVID pandemic that began in 2020 until the present.

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

The next meeting was announced as follows:

Regular Town Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Teresa Tilson**, seconded by **Greg Smith**
Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **2** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Vice Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps