

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEBER CITY, VIRGINIA
****Corrected as requested by Keltie Kerney on May 19, 2025 Meeting****

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a Regular Meeting Session at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 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 **Eileen Deckard, Council Member**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: **Justin Addington, Mayor**, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Justin M. Addington
Vice Mayor: Wendell Tipton
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico – joined by phone
Council Member: Eileen Deckard
Council Member: Jeff Flanary
Council Member: Keltie Kerney
Council Member: Teresa Tilson
Council Member: Zackary Salyer – arrived at 7:15 pm due to work
(the voting totals reflect the arrival times)

Town Employees: Treasurer - Rhonda Neeley, Clerk - Penney Capps, Frank Tittle – Public Works, Donald Harding, III - Police Chief (arrived at 7:20 pm due to work)

ABSENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

A motion to accept the **February 18, 2025**, Regular Called Meeting Minutes was made by **Keltie Kerney**; seconded by **Wendell Tipton**.

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

Motion to accept the **February 2025** Financial Report, was made by **Wendell Tipton**; seconded by **Jeff Flanary**.

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

None at this time.

Old Business:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Wilmeth Street Culvert Project

Council member, Wendell Tipton, opened a discussion regarding the Wilmeth Street project. A rusted culvert must be replaced, and a small retaining wall constructed for proper drainage. The culvert has been collapsing causing the pavement to buckle which is becoming hazardous. Something must be done soon. Frank Tittle, Public Works, has been seeking estimates for the project. Blue Collar Construction is the only submission so far, with an estimate of **\$16,500.00**. Wendell Tipton suggested that the Council vote to accept this estimate since the collapse of the culvert is eminent. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, reminded the Town that we must have proof of Requests for Proposals and the results of those requests before moving forward. The requests must contain the Scope of Work for the project, a deadline for the response time, and include “decline to bid” as a choice in the document. The RFPs can be sent to several companies and advertised on the Town’s website.

This item was tabled to allow time to request and receive additional bids for the project.

Use of Remaining ARPA Funds once Police Department Renovation Project Closes

A motion was made by Keltie Kerney, seconded by Eileen Deckard, that the remaining balance of the Police Department Renovation Project funds, which will be equal to or less than **\$21,849.38** (the amount at the time of this vote), be transferred to the Street Fund. Council members, Jeff Flanary and Teresa Tilson, explained that their vote is “nay” until Chief Harding has an opportunity to declare the project complete, and a correct dollar amount determined. Mayor Justin Addington said if Chief Harding is able to attend tonight’s meeting before the conclusion, the item can be revisited tonight. Motion passed with **3** voting AYE, **2** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Vacant, **0** Abstentions

Purchase Commercial Mower for Town

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Zackary Salyer, to table the discussion to purchase a Commercial Mower until the April meeting to allow the Finance Committee time to explore possible funding.

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

Open a Suspension Account for Money Seized by WCPD

A motion was made by Keltie Kerney, seconded by Eileen Deckard to approve opening a Suspension Account at a local bank, to allow deposits of seized money during an investigation. Once a judgement is made, the funds are shared between agencies and the account will allow for this distribution. It differs from the Asset Forfeiture account in that these funds will be “suspended” there until the judgement.

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

Grant Approval When Zero Cost to Town

Mayor Justin Addington is granting permission to the Grant writer of the Weber City Police Department to electronically include the Mayor’s approval signature for any grant application that is at zero cost to the Town. When the Town is required to match funds for a grant, those items must be voted on by the Council, but if no funds are required from the Town’s budget, making the grant a true 100% funded grant, then his electronic

signature is allowed. Mayor Addington wanted this permission to be on record. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, stated that a vote is not required for this item.

****Correction to these Minutes dated March 18, 2025 was requested by Keltie Kerney during the May 19, 2025 meeting to include her original statement****

“Council member, Keltie Kerney, asked about the following: “what if it’s zero financial status to the Town, but has other elements of things we must do, say for example, we must send an officer to a certain convention, or that we have to send out posters, fliers, and other elements of requirements that may not actually be an upfront expense?” Mayor Addington stated in that case those items would be brought to his attention and voted on by the Council.

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

He apologized for not being able to attend and said that he plans to work on the Zoning Proposal this month to have a draft ready for review. Also, he reminded the Council that budget discussions need to begin, and dates set for future meetings regarding Budget FY25-26.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Zackary Salyer

Committee members stated that all the ARPA funds have been allocated, and we are now awaiting the closing of the Police Department Renovation Project to see if there will be any surplus if the project remains under budget.

Council member, Eileen Deckard, suggested that the remaining ARPA funds from the Police Department Renovation Project coming in under the budgeted \$100,000.00 be used for street repairs. Teresa Tilson, Council member, asked if the Police Department is completely finished and the project is closed. Chief Harding was not present at the time to answer this question. The Town Treasurer, Rhonda Neeley, asked to clarify the details before a motion is made. As of March 12, 2025, the project had remaining funds in the amount of **\$21,849.38**. It is unknown currently if there are additional needs or purchases yet to pay out. She suggested that confirmation be made with Chief Donald Harding, III, that the project is complete, and all expenses have been processed before transferring the remaining amount for street repairs. The remaining ARPA money must be spent on an approved project, and street drainage repairs is an allowable expense. Mayor Justin Addington stated that the surplus funds should be used for timely street repairs in Town and not forfeited.

Finance Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Wendell Tipton

Budget discussions have begun, but no finished work is ready to present. They are looking at areas needing consideration for the FY26 Budget. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, encouraged the Budget Committee to arrange time with Town Treasurer, Rhonda Neeley, to examine the current figures for FY25 to determine overages and deficits.

Personnel Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Keltie Kerney

Committee members are working on changes to the Employee handbook and Town policies regarding employees. The material is not ready to present to Council at this time.

Zoning/Planning Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Zackary Salyer

Committee members are still gathering information to present the Council with a rough draft.

Street Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Wendell Tipton

Their report was covered with the discussion regarding the Wilmeth Street Culvert Repair. They also acknowledged the response from Scott County PSA regarding the street repairs following the recent water line repair project in town.

Maintenance Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Frank Tittle

Public Works member, Frank Tittle, shared that the PSA has contacted a new company to re-pave the areas of town streets that were affected by the 2024 water line project since the first company did a less than satisfactory job. Also, he is creating an ongoing list for pothole repair, culvert repair, and ditch cleaning now that the winter season is concluding. That list will be given to VDOT area supervisor, Todd Jesse to include in their budget discussions for our area.

Mayor Addington mentioned that there are currently 3 government agency vehicles that are using the Town Hall parking lot with permission for overnight parking. Occasionally, there are vehicles left for days whose owners are unknown to Town employees. There are no signs designating the parking area being used for business only at the risk of being towed. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, suggested that signs be purchased, clarifying authorized parking areas for government vehicles, employees, and customers of Town Hall. "Parking for Town Business Only" was suggested. The unknown vehicles become a problem during snow events when vehicles need to be removed for plowing and if spaces near the building are occupied for several days causing our elderly residents to have to park further from the building, increasing the chance of injury during inclement weather. It is suggested as a courtesy that the government vehicles granted parking permission use the spaces furthest from the building as available. WCPD can run the tag information for vehicles without overnight permission and place signs warning that the vehicle will be towed after 72 hours. This item was received as information. No vote is necessary.

Frank Tittle, shared with the Council a request to purchase a zero turn Scag Commercial Mower. He provided several estimates for their review. The Town owns a residential John Deere riding mower, that is not suitable for mowing in large brush areas that are near the railroad and larger paths of grass beside US Hwy 23.

The discussion was tabled to a future meeting so the Finance Committee could review the budget for funding.

Council member, Zackary Salyer, requested the Public Works member, Frank Tittle, to inventory all equipment owned by the Town for possible use or resale to contribute funds for any new equipment needed. This does not require a vote.

Police Department Report:

Before Chief Donald Harding, III, gave his Police report to the Council, Mayor Addington chose to revisit the earlier discussion and vote regarding the surplus funds from the Police Department Renovation Project. Chief Harding mentioned items that still need to be done before the project is considered complete. One item is a split HVAC system for the remaining garage and basement areas that currently are not climate controlled. The Council asked for an estimated amount that is required. Chief Harding said that it would be under **\$10,000.00**, but an official estimate from Boone Heating and Cooling has not been received yet. He stated that he will have a more accurate figure for the completion of the project by the next meeting. So, the earlier vote will remain as-is and revisited next meeting for any amendments to the motion once final figures on the renovation are received.

Chief Harding thanked those who attended the ribbon cutting of the official unveiling of the new and improved Weber City Police Department. He also announced the Department's approval of a \$100,000.00 Grant for drug detection equipment. The grant is 100% funded with no Town match required.

Finally, Chief Harding requested the Council vote for the Treasurer to open a deposit account to be used as a Suspension Account for monies seized during an arrest. These funds would remain until a judgement is made in the case and distributed among cooperating agencies.

Mayor Addington discussed with the Council an additional request from the WCPD: to allow the grant writer to approve grants requiring zero Town money matched with the Mayor's electronic signature. Any grants requiring Town funds would still be signed by the Mayor and voted for approval through the Council.

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief, Bruce Cross, stated that Hunter Hensley would be speaking on their behalf tonight. Mr. Hensley read aloud a statement from the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department. A full copy of that three-page statement is attached to the record of these minutes. Chief Cross then stated that he was very disappointed in the entire Council, and asked for the resignation of Council Member, Wendell Tipton, in response to a rebuttal printed in the Scott County Virginia Star newspaper previously this year. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, said that the Council has asked for a Fire Department Report only, and that public or personal opinions need to be held until the Public Comment section on the Agenda is opened to the public.

Public Comment: Opened: 8:01 pm

Bruce Cross

Fire Chief, Bruce Cross, stood and repeated his earlier comment that he was very disappointed in this Town Council in allowing a Council Member to publish the rebuttal letter in the first place. He then called for Wendell Tipton's resignation. He further commented that the Town refuses to help the WCVFD with Federal funds the Town has received in recent years. The chief's wife and other fire department members demanded an apology from Mr. Tipton and the Council for the hurtful statements made in the rebuttal.

The Mayor informed those present that Public Comment is a time for comments to be made, but conversation between the Council and the Public cannot take place.

Closed Public Comment: 8:05 pm

CLOSED SESSION

None

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Keltie Kerney**, 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, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm