

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 **7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 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: **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
Council Member: Jeff Flanary
Council Member: Keltie Kerney
Council Member: Teresa Tilson
Council Member: Zackary Salyer

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

ABSENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Council member Keltie Kerney asked for clarification in the Minutes regarding the voting for the Wilmeth Street Project.

There was a vote to use the remaining ARPA funds for Street Repairs in the amount equal to or less than \$21,849.38. The motion was made by Keltie Kerney and seconded by Eileen Deckard. Motion carried with 3 ayes, 2 nays, and 1 absent. The vote to approve the provider for the work to be performed was “tabled, due to a lack of received bids for the project”. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, reminded the Council that at least three estimates or a decline to bid must be received before a choice of provider can be made. The two items are separate in nature. The Town Attorney clarified that the minutes correctly reflect this difference.

Council member, Keltie Kerney, noted that the vote for “Grant Approval When there is Zero Cost to the Town” did not address if there were requirements/contingencies of the grants in question that would cause additional expenses for the Town, how those items would be handled.

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, clarified that that detail was not addressed when the item was voted upon. There were no amendments to the original motion made at this time.

****Council member Keltie Kerney requested that a correction be made to the minutes, reflecting her original statement at the March 18, 2025 meeting. Those corrections have been made.****

A motion to accept the **March 18, 2025**, Regular Called Meeting Minutes was made by Zackary Salyer; seconded by Jeff Flanary.

Motion passed with 4 voting AYE, 2 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 0 Abstentions

Motion to accept the **March 2025** Financial Report, was made by Wendell Tipton; seconded by Keltie Kerney .

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

Mayor Report and Comments:

Mayor Justin Addington made a request of the Council to add Good Friday as a paid holiday for Town employees. He noted that Scott County and Gate City recognizes Good Friday and has added it to their paid holiday list along with State recognized Federal Holidays. He acknowledged that it requires a Council vote but added that he is in 100% agreement that Good Friday should be a day that the offices are closed and a paid holiday for staff. He asked for a motion from the Council regarding this. Keltie Kerney, Personnel Committee member, asked that since this is a personnel issue, that this item be deferred to the Personnel Committee before coming to a vote. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico stated that there already exists a list of approved holidays and this would just be in addition to that list and the Council needs to be mindful that police officers working on approved holidays receive a higher hourly rate of pay and that needs to be a budget consideration. Council member Eileen Deckard read the current approved holiday list, thirteen in total, that does not include Good Friday.

Council member, Keltie Kerney, made a motion to defer this item to the Personnel Committee for discussion to be brought back to the Council at another meeting. Council member, Teresa Tilson, asked if a decision could be made tonight since Good Friday is at the end of this week. Council member, Jeff Flanary, stated that if a decision could not be made tonight, there would be no time before Friday to reconvene and vote on this item. The question was asked why the urgency to vote on this tonight since it was not granted in previous years. The answer is because it is this week without the luxury of another meeting before the holiday in question.

The motion by Keltie Kerney to defer this item to the Personnel Committee, was repeated, then seconded by Eileen Deckard.

Motion passed with 3 voting AYE, 2 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 1 Abstentions

Council member, Jeff Flanary, asked if the Town would like to plan an event like a mini fair or festival to take place on a vacant area within town limits. Even if not this year but looking for the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Health Insurance Program for FY2025-26

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Zackary Salyer to approve the current Health Insurance program with The Local Choice, including the increased amount for the employee health benefit for FY2025-26.

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

Wilmeth Street Culvert Project

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Eileen Deckard, to approve the bid submitted by McMurray Excavating in the amount of **\$13,875.00** for the Wilmeth Street drainage repair 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.

The bids received were: McMurray Excavating \$13,875.00; Blue Collar Construction \$15,500.00; American Steele and Concrete \$16,700.00; Muller Inc. declined to bid.

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

Council member Keltie Kerney asked the Town Attorney to clarify the Town's policy on "Conflicts of Interest" during any bidding process. The Town's policy addresses nepotism and not being able to accept bids from anyone related to town elected officials, employees, or staff.

Council member, Keltie Kerney, wants to donate her time as Council member, and no longer wishes to receive monetary compensation for her services. The Treasurer will research how to handle this within our payroll system and the legalities along with it. No vote is needed.

Use of Remaining ARPA Funds once Police Department Renovation Project Closes

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer, seconded by Teresa Tilson that the remaining balance of the ARPA funds, in the final amount of **\$21,707.22** be transferred to the General Ledger line item "Street Fund", now that the Police Department Renovation Project has concluded.

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

Purchase Commercial Mower for Town

This item was tabled in the March meeting and will be tabled again until estimates can be gathered for the desired piece of equipment.

Council member, Eileen Deckard, has done some research regarding renting equipment on an as needed basis instead of purchasing it and shared some of those figures with the Council for future consideration.

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, called for a brief recess at 7:28 pm, and resumed the meeting at 7:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tax Refund Request due to Overpayment – Sampson #0936

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer, seconded by Keltie Kerney, to issue a refund of the twice paid taxes per the customer's request, to Sampson – Account #0936 in the amount of **\$114.50** for overpayment of Property Tax. The owner paid the Town and the Collection agency TACS. TACS issued a check back to the Town and now the property owner has requested a refund.

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

Purchase 2020 Ford Explorer from Freedom Ford – Police Dept

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Wendell Tipton, to purchase the 2020 Ford Explorer from Freedom Ford of Wise, VIN #1FM5K8AC2LGC13126, in the amount of **\$17,857.77**, funded with the Claim check issued from VACORP replacing the vehicle totaled March 1, 2025.

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

Remaining Insurance Claim Check to Auto Supplies

A motion was made by Jeff Flanary, seconded by Zackary Salyer, to issue the remaining amount (\$5,815.26) after the purchase of the 2020 Ford Explorer and the striping for 3 vehicles, to the Police Department G/L for Auto Supplies to cover additional auto expenses for the two donated 2010 Ford Crown Victorias, and mechanical updates.

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

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Has a few Closed Session issues to discuss.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Zackary Salyer

The funds have all be allocated for projects and the Town has until December 2026 to pay all invoices for the projects. There is no new information to report.

Finance Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Wendell Tipton

Teresa Tilson, thanked Wendell Tipton, Rhonda Neeley, and Donald Harding, III for meeting and preparing the budget thus far. At this rate it looks like we will have a draft budget ready to present to the Council next meeting.

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. Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, suggested adding a sign ordinance to the Zoning package.

Street Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Wendell Tipton

Their report was covered with the discussion regarding the Wilmeth Street Culvert Repair vote, and they received updates from PSA and VDOT regarding ongoing repairs. Jeff Flanary suggested that Landon Stallard with Excel be considered next time when gathering bids for Street Repairs.

Maintenance Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Frank Tittle

The growing season is upon us and mowing and weed eating has begun through town. The Scott's Services worker that we have assigned to us will graduate the program in June. Frank has requested another worker be assigned to us, but the director of the program said that none are available at this time. The Town has an agreement with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and pays for this service.

Mayor Addington stated that Mike Elliott has done an excellent job for the Town and would like to be considered if the Town ever sought to add a part-time position to the Public Works Department in the future.

Council members asked if the Town owns any safety vests for the workers. We have some but they are old and dry rotted. The Council instructed office personnel to order new ones.

Wendell Tipton asked if signs can be ordered for the Town Hall parking areas, designating who can utilize the spaces and that violators will be towed. The mayor stated that as long as the signs total less than \$500.00 for the order to be made.

Police Department Report:

Chief Donald Harding, III, gave his Police report to the Council. He presented 3 quotes for used vehicles to replace the lost vehicle in March. A 2020 Ford Explorer located in Illinois for \$23,000, another 2020 Ford Explorer also located in Illinois for \$19,000, and one 2020 Ford Explorer located at Freedom Ford in Wise, VA for \$17,858.77. Freedom Ford transfers all the equipment from the old cruiser to the newly purchased one which is a great savings in the long run. The insurance check covers the purchase and the striping of this car, and the two donated 2010 Ford Crown Victorias. He is asking the Council to vote specifically to use the remaining funds for Police Department Automobile Supplies expenses.

Fire Department Report:

No representative present.

Public Comment: Opened: 0:00 pm

No one present

CLOSED SESSION Time: 7:54 pm

A motion to enter INTO Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel issues was made by Keltie Kerney, Council member, seconded by Jeff Flanary, Council member. Motion passed with 6 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 0 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Time: 08:50 pm

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, Zackary Salyer, Keltie Kerney

Voting "NAY" were: 0 with 0 Absent

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

Attorney Mike Carrico, read aloud each motion.

1. Request Police Call Report

The motion reads:

To have the Chief of Police provide a report of the number of stops and arrests in a monthly report, and the type of stops, to the Council monthly.

Motion: Zackary Salyer 2nd: Keltie Kerney

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

2. Use of Equipment Clarification

The motion reads:

Only equipment owned by the Town of Weber City is to be used by the Town of Weber City for Town business, repairs, etc.

Motion: Keltie Kerney 2nd: Eileen Deckard

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

3. Salary Increase for Public Works Position

The motion reads:

To increase the salary of the Public Works Director with an hourly pay increase of \$4.00 per hour effective beginning the next pay period.

Motion: Keltie Kerney 2nd: Zackary Salyer

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

4. Clarification of Use of Town Vehicle

The motion reads: Public Works Director is not allowed to take the vehicle back and forth to home and only utilize the vehicle for Town business.

Motion: Keltie Kerney 2nd: Eileen Deckard

Motion passed with 3 voting AYE, 2 voting NAY 0 ABSENT, 0 Vacant, 1 Abstentions

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Keltie Kerney**, seconded by **Teresa Tilson**.

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, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm