

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WILLIAMSON, WEST VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY
HALL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Carlton called the meeting to order and requested a Roll Call and it was ascertained by the City Clerk the following persons were present, in person:

MAYOR:	Robert H. Carlton
COUNCIL MEMBERS:	York Smith Sherri Hairston-Brown Judith Hamrick Matthew Newsome
CITY ATTORNEY	Joshua Ferrell

The first item on the agenda was public comments. The Mayor moved down the list of the individuals who had signed in to speak.

The first person to speak was Shawn Williamson, and he asked if the former Mayor Steven Johnston Knopp was still going to be the Municipal Judge. The Mayor informed Mr. Williamson that this will be addressed later in the meeting under personnel matters.

Steven Hager was next to speak, and he asked about the progress of street repairs on Vinson Street. Jason Allen, project manager for Veolia Water, North America, informed Mr. Hager that the State Department of Highways was working on the project. Mr. Allen explained that the state has scheduled the work to be done near the end of this month.

Mr. Hager asked if the City could “save money” by not allowing city employees to take city owned vehicles home. It was explained that the only employees taking vehicles home were Chief of Police, Police Officers, and the Fire Chief. Chief of Police, Barry Blair, explained that a policy was effected under the leadership of the past Chief of Police, David Rockel, to allow officers to take cruisers home, and it was done because of staffing issues and the need for off duty officers to be able to respond quickly in an emergency. Mr. Hager questioned if Veolia was taking city owned vehicles homes, and it was also explained to Mr. Hager, by Jason Allen, that Veolia employees do not take city vehicles home; their vehicles are owned by Veolia and fuel is supplied by Veolia.

Clark Napier then spoke and asked that Mr. Steven Hager’s name be considered for possible replacements for the Williamson Utility Board. The Mayor informed Mr. Napier the Council will consider all qualified individuals.

Then Ms. Joy Phillips expressed concern to the Council about stray cats and dogs near her residence. She explained the difficulty in mowing her lawn because of this nuisance. The Council suggested calling the Mingo County Humane Office to help with the strays.

In addition to Joy Phillips, Ms. Cassandra Gregory also complained about the stray animals. She said the Humane Office had been contacted and came out to her residence, but failed to do anything to correct the matter. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Mayor’s Office will contact the Mingo County Humane Office in an effort to help with the issue.

Susan Courtney, a resident of Goodman Manor, also voiced concerns about the cats and dogs, and them “doing their business” in the Community Garden.

The Mayor asked if any other member of the public had any comments or concerns for the Council. There being none, the Mayor turned discussion to the agenda item old business. Councilman

Matthew Newsome asked about the status of the letter sent to the United States Attorney Office requesting an investigation of the Williamson Utility Board. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick spoke up stating she had received a response to a letter she had sent requesting an update on the investigation. She felt her response did not adequately explain the status of the investigation, and it was suggested City Attorney, Joshua Ferrell, contact the United States Attorney Office and request an update.

With no further old business, the Mayor moved on to the financial report. City Clerk, Larry Brown, gave the financial report. With no further discussion of Mr. Brown's report, a motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick to approve the financial report, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Mayor Carlton then presented General Fund bills in the amount of \$102,517.43, and following review thereof, Councilman York Smith moved to approve the said bills as the money is available, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

The next item on the agenda was a personnel matter. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made a motion to go into executive session, which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith. The Council went into executive session at 6:31 p.m.

7:27 p.m., the Mayor reconvened the meeting. The Mayor requested a motion to declare the position of Municipal Judge vacant. A motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome and seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick to declare the position vacant. The motion carried. Councilman York Smith then made a motion to appoint the Mayor as Municipal Judge, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried. The Mayor will assume the duties of Municipal Judge after the City Attorney determines if there will be a conflict with the Mayor's private law practice.

The next item of business was the discussion of a revision to ordinance 175.07 and ordinance 175.08. Councilman Matthew Newsome expressed his desire to have these ordinances amended to allow the funds to be used for equipment purchases in the Williamson Police Department budget. The current ordinance restricts the funds to the municipal court. A motion was made by Councilman York Smith for the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to the ordinances, and it was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

The Mayor then requested a portion of the Police Clerk's salary be charged to the municipal court salary line-item instead of the Police Departments salary line-item. After a brief discussion to clarify the Mayor's request, Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made a motion to allow twenty percent of the police clerk's salary to be charged to municipal court. Councilman York Smith seconded the motion, and said motion carried.

The Library Board made a request for a new member to replace board member Judy Brown who had previously resigned, but the position was never filled. Councilman York Smith made a motion to appoint Robin Griffey to fill the unexpired term of Judy Brown on the Board, and was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome. The motion carried.

Jason Allen with Veolia Water requested the purchase of a motor to replace the one on the paving machine. The motor will cost about \$1,300.00. The street crews need to pave a few areas of the City before winter, and the machine is currently inoperable. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to authorize the purchase of a new motor for the paver. The motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

The City Clerk requested the Council allow up to \$200.00 to purchase a digital recorder to replace the cassette recorder currently used to record meetings. A motion was made by Councilman York Smith to authorize the purchase of a digital recorder not to exceed the requested amount and seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

The Council received letters of resignation from Utility Board members Jerry Hurley and Wallace Dempsey. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to accept the resignation of Jerry Hurley, and to appoint Gay Dotson to fill his unexpired term, and was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and the motion carried. A motion was then made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to accept the resignation of Wallace Dempsey and to appoint Larry Rosen to fill the unexpired term, and was seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

The Mayor asked the members of the Williamson Woman's Club present in the meeting to come forward. The Mayor presented the Club with a Key to the City for their work to raise awareness of Breast Cancer.

The Fire Chief, Joey Carey, presented the members of Council with a proclamation declaring October Fire Prevention month. After a brief presentation by the Fire Chief, a motion was made by Councilman York Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to proclaim October Fire Prevention month in the City of Williamson, and carried.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude with members of the public for attending the meeting. He gave a brief update on the Utility Board issues with the rate increase and the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

A member of the audience, Jenny Davis, expressed her satisfaction with the Mayor for "conducting the meeting properly."

The members of Council had no additional comments.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned, upon motion by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK