

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, FEBRUARY 11, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Robert Carlton opened the meeting by requesting that those present please bow their heads for prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, with the prayer being offered up by the Chief of Police, Barry Blair.

The Mayor next requested a Roll Call and it was ascertained by the City Clerk the following persons were present, in person:

MAYOR:	ROBERT CARLTON
COUNCIL MEMBERS:	YORK SMITH
	SHERRI HAIRSTON-BROWN
	JUDITH HAMRICK
	MATTHEW NEWSOME
CITY ATTORNEY:	JOSHUA FERRELL

Judith Southard expressed her discontent with her inability to get to her house after the recent snow storm. Her home is located “at the top of Prichard Street.” She was out of town during the storm, and had to remain out of town an extra day because of the condition of the street. She had to pay someone to shovel the snow from the “whole block” so she could get home. The Mayor informed Ms. Southard that she should call City Hall in the future “so we can try to do something about it.” In the event City Hall is not open, he instructed her to call 911 and they could get in touch with Jason Allen, Project Manager for Veolia Water. The Fire Chief, Joey Carey, also spoke up and said individuals can call the Fire Department during emergency events within the City.

Teresa McCune asked about a “significant loss of revenue” from the Tug Valley Appalachian Regional Hospital in the Water Department. She questioned how this happened. The Mayor informed that he would have had more access to figures if Ms. McCune would have asked about this earlier in the Utility Board meeting. He explained that ARH has the capability of using water from Williamson Utility Board or from Mountain Water District. He informed her that he has not spoken with the “manger over there” as to the specific decision he has made. Ms. McCune asked if the Utility Board was able to raise the ARH rate independent of the “rest of the rates and the PSC.” The Mayor informed her the answer to that is no, but the adjustment to the rate was because a previous rate contract in place had expired a few years ago. She asked when the rate adjustment was applied to the hospital’s account, and the Mayor informed it was in the Fall of 2015.

Jim Meade approached the Council about his concerns with Wright Tree Service. He stated that they are now parking on the “old Price Motor” lot in Fairview. He went on to say since they were operating a business out of the City, they should pay business and occupation taxes. In addition, he complained about the trucks speeding through the area. The Police Chief will have the Police Department increase patrols in the area.

There being no other public comments, Mayor Carlton requested approval of the Minutes of the meeting held January 28, 2016. Whereupon, Councilman Matthew Newsome moved to approve the minutes and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

The Mayor moved on down the agenda to Old Business. The only item of business presented under old business was the approval of the lease for Wright’s Tree Service in Fairview Addition. After a brief discussion, a

motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick to approve the lease which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

Mayor asked the Council for approval of the January 2016 financial report as presented by the City Clerk. Whereupon a motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown and which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

A budget revision for the fiscal year 2016 budget was presented to the Council for approval. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick asked the City Clerk, Larry Brown, if he had included the other department heads when preparing the revision. Mr. Brown informed the Councilwoman he had done so and in doing so they were able to make cuts and create an \$85,155 contingency line item. Whereupon a motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick and seconded by Councilman York Smith. The vote required a roll call, so the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the role. The vote was as follows:

Mayor Robert Carlton	YES
Councilman York Smith	YES
Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown	YES
Councilwoman Judith Hamrick	YES
Councilman Matthew Newsome	YES

The revision was approved with a unanimous vote and the Clerk will forward the revision to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office for final approval.

Mayor Carlton then presented General Fund bills in the amount of \$100,142.11, and following review thereof, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston - Brown had a question concerning one of the bills. The bill was to Color Copy Express in the amount of \$327.50. The Councilwoman asked the Clerk what the bill was. Mr. Brown informed the Councilwoman that the

bill was for materials used in the recent job fair. She asked the Clerk to see the bill. The Clerk left the desk and retrieved the bill. After each Council member reviewed the bill, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown stated that the Council had not authorized any funds to be expensed on the job fair. As a result, she made a motion to approve the payment of the bills, excluding the bill in question, when the money becomes available, and which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith and carried. The bills approved totaled \$99,814.61.

The next item on the agenda was personnel. The Mayor made a request for the Council to go into executive session. With no motion being made from Council, the Mayor moved on down the agenda.

Fire Chief Joey Carey approached the Council with a request to approve a contract with Medical Claims Assistance for fire and rescue billing. The contract presented is for a period of one year and their rate of pay will be nine percent of fees collected. The Fire Chief stated that he had met with the City Attorney to review the contract. The City Attorney, Joshua Ferrell, did not see any issues with the contract. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman York Smith, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown and carried.

The Fire Chief presented an amendment to Ordinance 958 to the City Council. The Ordinance is for emergency service fees. Mr. Carey has worked with the City Attorney and Medical Claims Assistance billing specialist to prepare the appropriate language in the amendment. The Council accepted the amendment and approved the first reading of the amended Ordinance.

Chief Carey informed the Council he had attended a recent Mingo County Commission meeting to be sworn in as the Chairman of the LEPC.

Once in the meeting, he discovered that he was on the agenda to discuss leasing the ambulance owned by the County Commission. The Commission is currently not using the ambulance. The Chief stated the Commission discussed “six hundred dollars per month” to lease the ambulance for the City. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick requested the ambulance proposal be presented to Council to ascertain cost of operating a city ambulance service before entering into a lease. After a lengthy discussion, the Chief will provide a proposal to the Council, but the Council did not take any action in this meeting.

The Chief of Police presented the Council with information about the City switching to fuel cards instead of maintaining fuel pumps at the city garage. The Chief requested the Council approve the WEX fleet cards. The Mayor questioned if a vote could take place since it was not specifically listed on the agenda. The City Attorney said that the Council could vote if it was mentioned in the minutes from the previous meeting. The City Clerk read a section of the minutes from the January 28, 2016 meeting in which Councilwoman Judith Hamrick asked the Police Chief to bring the request for cards before the Council in the February 11, 2016 meeting for a vote. The City Attorney informed the Council that this was sufficient to allow a vote. Whereupon a motion was made by Councilman York Smith, and which motion was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

Jason Allen, Project Manager with Veolia Water, brought a price quote to the City Council for repairs on Park Street. FEMA has provided thirty-five thousand dollars for the repairs. The original contractor is unable to complete the repairs. Mr. Allen requested the Council hire another contractor to complete the repairs, but the cost will be an additional six

thousand dollars. It was unclear if the project will need to be bid out since the original contractor, who won the bid with FEMA, is unable to do the project. The City Attorney will determine if it will be necessary to bid the project out again. The Council took no action on this issue.

The Mayor stated that the budget revisions approved earlier in the meeting is an attempt to bring the City into financial stability. He feels like we will be successful in doing so unless there becomes an issue with revenue in the next five months.

Councilwoman Judith Hamrick asked Jason Allen to speak with Judith Southard and explain why her street did not get plowed since he was not in the meeting at the time Ms. Southard brought her concerns before the Council. He was unaware of the situation, but informed that their priority is to keep the streets to the nursing home and hospital cleared, and then other streets secondary.

Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown asked Mr. Allen to take care of a pothole on Vinson Street. It is in the location where the West Virginia Department of Highways recently made repairs. Mr. Allen will take care of the issue.

Councilman York Smith requested the Council consider replacing the microphones used at the Council desk. They do not work properly and “people cannot hear half the time.” The Mayor informed the Councilman that we will place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Shawn Williamson, an employee of Color Copy Express, asked the Council why the bill for Color Copy Express was not approved for payment. The Mayor stated, “that’s is a question for me also, Shawn.” The bill was “incurred as part of the City job fair. It was a banner hung over Second Avenue advertising, and that was the only advertising done. There were two

small four by eight banners.” He went on to say, “but apparently some of the Council choose to not pay that bill this evening.” “I think it was brought up to the Council previously, and they consented in general to the holding of the job fair. And I think less than five hundred dollars in expenses should be paid.” Councilman Matthew Newsome spoke up and said, “I think that is the question, there wasn’t any approval for funds to be spent, Shawn.” The Mayor stated that he has “a budget in the Mayor’s office.” He then said, “you tell the people why you won’t pay the expenses for a job fair for all of these people that are out of work.” Mr. Williamson then asked if the bill was not approved by the Council, should it be rewritten to the Mayor instead of the City. The Mayor informed Mr. Williamson to send him the bill and he will pay it. The Mayor said, “I think it is nit picking, ok, by the Council, and I think they should be held up to public ridicule because of it.” He went to say he thinks it is “absolutely absurd, and that’s my opinion on it”

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned, upon motion by Councilman York Smith to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK