

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, DECEMBER 10, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M.

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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 Mayor.

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:	SHERRI HAIRSTON BROWN
	JUDITH HAMRICK
	MATTHEW NEWSOME
CITY ATTORNEY:	JOSHUA FERRELL

Councilman York Smith was absent from the meeting due to illness.

Teresa McCune approached the Council with concerns about water standing in the roadway on Second Avenue in front of the Public Defender's Office. She is concerned that it will become a hazard this winter when the water freezes. Jason Allen will check on this issue.

Mayor Carlton requested approval of the Minutes of the meeting held November 12, 2015. Whereupon, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown moved to approve said Minutes and which motion was seconded by Judith Hamrick, and carried.

The Mayor moved on down the agenda to Old Business. The Council did not have any old business to address at this time.

The Mayor then requested the Council's approval of the unaudited financial report as presented by the City Clerk. Whereupon a motion was

made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to approve the report and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

Mayor Carlton then presented General Fund bills in the amount of \$113,533.57, and following review thereof, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown moved to approve the said bills as the money is available, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick and carried.

Mayor Carlton then presented November Payroll in the amount of \$54,225.75, and following review thereof, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown moved to ratify the said payroll, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick and carried.

The Council had a personnel issue to address and a motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to go into executive session, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried. The Council went into executive session at 6:11 P.M.

At 6:48 P.M., the Mayor reconvened the meeting. The Mayor informed those present that the Council had discussed several austerity measures and will discuss more as the meeting progresses.

Mayor Carlton then presented the final reading of the amendments to Ordinance 175.07 and 175.08. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick moved to approve the Ordinance, and which motion was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome and carried. The Ordinance will go into effect immediately.

The Mayor presented the second reading of the amendment to Ordinance 345.36. Whereupon a motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and said motion was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

The next item of business was the reappointment of Lacy Muncy to the Williamson Utility Board. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made a motion to approve the reappointment, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

The Council discussed amending the fees charged for renting dumpsters and the length of time a customer can rent the dumpsters. After a brief discussion, the Council did not take action. Jason Allen has asked to be included in the future discussions of changes for dumpsters.

The Mayor requested the Council take into consideration a resolution closing the Police Pension fund to new hires, and placing those new hires in the Consolidated Public Retirement System pension fund for Police and Fire. The Mayor informed that this change will have no effect on those currently in the pension plan. A motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to approve the resolution to place new hires in the Consolidated Public Retirement System using the optional method, and said motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

The Mayor requested the Council take into consideration a resolution closing the Fire Pension fund to new hires, and placing those new hires in the Consolidated Public Retirement System pension fund for Police and Fire. The Mayor informed that this change will have no effect on those currently in the pension plan. A motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to approve the resolution to place new hires in the Consolidated Public Retirement System using the optional method, and said motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

The Mayor informed the Council and the public of his plans to have a career fair for local unemployed workers, namely local coal miners. The Council gave the Mayor their full support for the event.

The Mayor presented the Council with changes to the emergency response fees charged when the Fire Department responds to fires and automobile accidents within the City. The Council members are open to amending the Ordinance to change the fees, but Councilman Matthew Newsome expressed his concerns about the fees being charged to individuals instead of their insurance policies. The Councilman was assured that only the insurance policies would be billed.

The City Clerk requested the Council authorize the transfer of one hundred five thousand six hundred forty one dollars and forty nine cents from the CD Account to the Money Fund Account; thus closing the CD. The funds will be drawn down from the Money Fund as needed to fund reimbursement grants, and will be deposited back into the account once the reimbursement is received. Whereupon a motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to transfer the funds and close the CD, and said motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

The Fire Chief approached the Council with a request from the Mountaineer Development Corporation for a property variance on Victoria Street. The Council was in agreement that it was not the job of the Fire Chief to make such requests, and requested Mountaineer Development Corporation approach the Council themselves. The Council did not approve the variance.

Sergeant John Hall, with the Williamson Police Department, approached the City Council on behalf of the Police Chief Barry Blair and gave an update on the new IRP Radios purchased with grant funds from Homeland Security.

The Council discussed the possibility of adding security cameras to monitor the fuel tanks at the City Garage on Vinson Street, or remove the

tanks and begin using fuel cards. The City Clerk and Police Chief have been working together to present this to the Council. The Council did not take any action since the Police Chief was absent from the meeting.

The Mayor expressed his excitement for the job fair he is working on, and he invited local professionals to participate in the event.

The Mayor asked if any members of Council had any comments. Councilwoman Sherri-Hairston Brown asked the Fire Chief and Jason Allen to work together to address the ongoing issues with trees on Maple Walk and to address the issues with the deteriorating steps. The Councilwoman closed her comments by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

The other members of Council did not have any 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.

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK