

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

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Mayor Knopp 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 Reverend Sanger.

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

MAYOR: STEVEN JOHNSTON KNOPP

COUNCIL MEMBERS: YORK SMITH  
SHERRI HAIRSTON BROWN  
JUDITH HAMRICK  
MATTHEW NEWSOME

A City Attorney was absent due to the resignation of C. Christopher Younger in the August 27, 2015 meeting.

Mayor Knopp requested approval of the Minutes of the meeting held August 27, 2015. Whereupon, Councilman York Smith moved to approve said Minutes and which motion was seconded by Judith Hamrick, and carried.

Mayor Knopp then presented General Fund bills in the amount of \$38,377.18, and following review thereof, Councilman York Smith moved to approve the said bills as the money is available, and which motion was seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome, and carried.

The next item of business presented by the Mayor was the selection of the bond counsel for the water system upgrade project. After a review thereof, Councilman York Smith made a motion to accept the law firm Steptoe & Johnson as counsel for the project, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherrie 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 6:12 p.m.

6:53 p.m., the Mayor reconvened the meeting. The Mayor informed the audience that the Council had taken no action on the selection of a City Attorney. The Council agreed to accept applicants to fill the position. He also informed those present the Council had agreed to accept applicants for an opening of an assistant to the City Clerk. The Mayor explained that the Council had also discussed the soon to be vacant Mayor position.

Whereupon Councilman Matthew Newsome made a motion to appoint Judith Hamrick as Mayor pro tem, which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, motion carried with the Councilwoman Sherri Hairston Brown and the Mayor both voting no.

Ricky Wilkerson questioned how the Council could vote for a Mayor pro tem considering the office of Mayor was not vacant. A lively discussion ensued. Councilwoman Sherri Hairston Brown made a motion to rescind the original motion to appoint Judith Hamrick as Mayor pro tem, which motion was seconded by Mayor Knopp, motion carried.

Fire Chief Joey Carey requested the Council approve Firefighter Matthew G. Hatfield be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. The Mayor asked Chief Carey if the proper testing had taken place. Carey informed the Mayor and Council that since Mr. Hatfield was the only eligible candidate, the testing procedure was not required. A motion was made by Councilman York Smith to promote Matthew Hatfield to rank of Lieutenant, which motion was seconded by Matthew Newsome, motion carried.

The Mayor encouraged the public to attend the annual King Coal Festival which will take place in downtown Williamson September 17, 2015 through September 20, 2015. He read through a schedule of events and pointed out a new category of “Best old Fire Truck” in the car show. He encouraged the Williamson Fire Chief to enter the City’s 1923 Fox Ahrens antique fire truck in the car show.

Councilman York Smith thanked the individuals who placed signs through the City announcing the Council meeting, but stated he “did not

realize we needed to hang up signs to announce meetings.” This angered some individuals present and a heated discussion followed.

Councilwoman Sherri Hairston Brown said the Mayor and Fire Chief had met with Ms. Shapiro, who had made a complaint in the previous Council meeting, and they were addressing several problems they discovered. Mr. Shapiro was present in the meeting and thanked both men for meeting with her and attempting to resolve these problems.

Councilwoman Brown asked Mr. Allen, Project Manager for Veolia Water, to give the Council an update on the Vinson Street issue. Mr. Allen informed the Council that the State Department of Highways told him it will be in October before they can start working on the street. This was troubling to the Council, but all were glad progress had been made.

Councilwoman Judith Hamrick attended the Water Board meeting and encouraged others to do the same. She expressed how informative the meeting was, and that she was pleased with the progress the board is making concerning the issues in that department.

Councilman Matthew Newsome did not have any comments.

Carl Beckett raised concerns with sewage being leaked on his property. He said numerous complaints have been made to the “water department” and Veolia Water, but no action had been taken to correct the

problem. The Mayor advised Mr. Beckett to provide the City Clerk with his contact information and the Clerk would address the issue.

Teresa McCune expressed her dissatisfaction with Councilman York Smith for his remarks about the signs placed around town announcing the Council meeting. She also expressed how people were offended by the way Mayor Knopp has treated them.

Randy Price read a letter to the Council that he had written in opposition of Senate Bill 234. He requested the Council contact state representatives and ask for a repeal of the bill.

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

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK