

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, APRIL 14, 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 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:	SHERRI HAIRSTON-BROWN
	JUDITH HAMRICK
	MATTHEW NEWSOME
CITY ATTORNEY:	JOSHUA FERRELL

Councilman York Smith was absent from the meeting.

Matthew and Michelle Lowe came before the Council to request speed bumps be placed along Park Way Drive. They have a new Church located in the former Frontier Communications building, and have noticed several people driving at speeds exceeding the posted speed limit. The City Council did not take action on placing speed bumps along the road way. Councilman Matthew Newsome, however, will contact the Board of Education for their input before making a decision since this street serves Williamson PK-8 School. Councilman Newsome asked for Jason Allen, Project Manager for Veolia Water, to prepare an estimate of what it would cost to place speed bumps along the street, too.

Steven Hager asked about an update on Vinson Street, but Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown informed him that she has not received an update from the State Department of Highways as of this meeting. Mr. Hager went on to express concern because the Williamson Board of Parks has announced they will not be opening the Williamson Swimming Pool again this year. He asked if the Board of

Parks will drain the pool to prevent issues with mosquitos. Councilman Matthew Newsome informed Mr. Hager the Park Board will be meeting April 15, 2016 and will be discussing the pool in that meeting.

Keith Staten approached the Council about trash being left lying along sidewalks and ditches. The City Clerk explained to Mr. Staten that customers are supposed to contact his office when they set out extra trash and Veolia is sent to give an estimate of what it will cost to remove the items. Once the customer receives the estimate, they pay for the pickup in the City Clerk's office and the trash is removed by Veolia.

Mr. Staten then asked if there was a "burning ban in the City limits." Fire Chief Joey Carey explained that an Ordinance was proposed to prevent burning in the City but did not pass. Chief Carey explained citizens can only burn vegetation and must be burned within the proper burn times. He then asked about having livestock in the City. Police Chief, Barry Blair, explained that the City does have a livestock Ordinance. The citizens can have livestock, but they must be well maintained.

There being no other public comments, Mayor Carlton requested approval of the Minutes of the special meeting held March 24, 2016. Whereupon, Councilman Matthew Newsome moved to approve the minutes and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Mayor Carlton requested approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting held March 24, 2016. Whereupon, Councilwoman Judith Hamrick 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 Council members did not have any Old Business to discuss, so Mayor Carlton moved on to New Business.

The Mayor then presented General Fund bills in the amount of eighty seven thousand two hundred eighty five dollars and ninety-seven cents and

following review thereof, Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made a motion to approve the payment of the bills when the money becomes available, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

The next item on the agenda was discussion and approval to change the meeting time. The Council did not take action on the meeting time change.

The City Clerk requested the payroll be changed from semi-monthly pay periods to bi-weekly pay periods effective July 1, 2016, whereupon a motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick and seconded by Councilman Matthew Newsome to authorize the change, and carried.

The Mayor informed the Council that the County Commission has agreed to offer a vehicle and training for a city dog warden. Lieutenant Garrett Gregory of the Williamson Fire Department has agreed to fill the position at a rate of one hundred dollars per day for two days per month. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick to employ Mr. Gregory as City Dog Warden on days he is not working a shift at the Fire Department, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Fire Chief, Joey Carey, informed the Council that his department had been inspected recently by the State Fire Marshall's Office. The Fire Department received a perfect score on the inspection.

Chief Carey and Lieutenant Garrett Gregory then requested the Council approve a Junior Fire Fighter Program for the Williamson Fire Department. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to approve the program with a limit of ten participants, and which motion was seconded by Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Chief Carey then did a presentation to show the Council the Fire Department's new gear by having Lieutenant Stephen Casey come forward

dressed in the gear. Chief Carey went over the various parts of the gear with the Council.

Chief Carey finished his comments by giving the Council a brief update on the status of the City's proposed ambulance service, and will be presenting it to the Council soon for approval.

Police Chief, Barry Blair, informed the Council the fuel cards are now in place and being used.

Chief Blair asked for approval from the Council to complete paperwork for a grant to fund body cameras for his department. A motion was made by Councilman Matthew Newsome to approve Chief Blair to pursue the grant, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

Chief Blair informed the Council that the City is in the closing stage of the grant, approved last fall, for the purchase of new police cruisers. The Chief had to place a legal ad in the newspaper to satisfy one of the requirements of the grant, and he has done so and proceeded to read the ad to the Council. Chief Blair informed that he is actively pursuing other grant funding opportunities, too.

Chief Blair went on to inform the Council that he has stepped up patrols to address the recent parking issues in downtown by having an officer patrolling the streets. Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown commented that the downtown street was better today.

Jason Allen, Project Manager for Veolia Water, informed everyone that Veolia will begin flushing hydrants on Monday morning.

Teresa McCune asked the Mayor to give the public an update on the Utility Board. The Mayor informed the Utility Board had approved an escrow agreement, as suggested by the Public Service Commission, to address the ongoing issues and to bring down the Veolia debt. He went on to explain that EL Robinson had approached the board asking to move forward on a water

project in the amount of twelve million dollars and a sewer project in the amount of four million dollars. The Mayor explained that the board requested that EL Robinson approach them again in August concerning the project.

The Mayor asked Jason to monitor drainage issues with drains around the City.

Mayor Carlton went on to inform the public that Senator Joe Manchin will be hold job fairs in different areas of the state, and he is anticipated to have one on May 6 in Logan County.

The Mayor asked for people to participate in a city clean up over the next two weeks. He asked that anyone interested in participating in the clean-up should be at City Hall at 9AM on Monday morning.

Norma White asked if the City has been collecting past due garbage fees and business and occupation taxes. The Mayor assured Ms. White that efforts are being made to collect outstanding amounts.

Teresa McCune asked the Mayor if the City would release the five hundred dollars donated to the City for the purchase of mulch to be used at the playground. City Clerk, Larry Brown, informed Ms. McCune that the money was held by the Park Board.

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

MAYOR

CITY CLERK