

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, JANUARY 14, 2015, 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
	YORK SMITH
CITY ATTORNEY:	JOSHUA FERRELL

Councilman Matthew Newsome was absent from the meeting due to being out of town for work related training.

The Mayor spoke about the passing on former Councilman Jim Reid. He served nine years as a member of the City Council. Councilman York Smith requested the City flag to be lowered in honor of Mr. Reid.

Marvi Rosen expressed her concerns about the Fairview Cemetery not being cleaned properly. Mrs. Rosen recently buried her mother in Fairview Cemetery and she explained the conditions of the Cemetery were deplorable. A discussion ensued about the ownership of the Cemetery. Councilman York Smith stated the Cemetery is “owned by the people who have family buried there.” Councilwoman Judith Hamrick suggested a committee be formed to maintain the Cemetery and individual families pay a fee for the purpose of maintaining it. A member of the public suggested using prisoners to keep the Cemetery clean. It was pointed out that they may not

be able to work on the Cemetery since it is on private property. The Mayor informed that the work release program is under the direction of the Mingo County Commission. He asked Mrs. Rosen if she would be willing to approach the County Commission requesting the assistance of the work release program. Mrs. Rosen agreed to do so.

Dee Kapourales spoke on behalf of Action in Mingo thanking everyone who helped this year with the Great White Way event.

Jeremy Blankenship, Grant Preece, and Wes Caudill approached the City Council on behalf of the Tug Valley Shriner's Club. They recognized the City for the help given during their annual Christmas Party. They presented a plaque to the City of Williamson and certificates of appreciation to Councilman York Smith and Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown. Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Hairston-Brown were both appreciative.

The Tug Valley Shriner's Club hosts an annual car show in downtown. The Club presented a letter requesting the use of downtown once again for the car show. The Mayor requested that Council approve the Club to use the downtown on May 21, 2016. The request is for the use of Second Avenue and Logan Street from 8AM to 5PM. In the event of rain, they requested the approval for the event to be held on May 28, 2016 for the same locations and hours. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Hamrick's motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Teresa McCune approached the Council once again with concerns about water standing in the roadway on Second Avenue and Dickinson Street in front of the Public Defender's Office. The Mayor asked Jason to

look into the issue and make a recommendation to the Council. In addition, The City Attorney will contact the property owners concerning the issue.

William Duty approached the Council with concerns about the homelessness situation in the City. He has approached local churches and the Police Chief, Barry Blair, for assistance with this issue. He asked the Council to offer suggestions and work with him on this issue. The Mayor suggested contacting Adult Protective Services at the Department of Health and Human Resources. Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown explained to Mr. Duty that the individuals live under the bridge by choice. She explained that they choose to not go home because they do not want to “abide by rules of the home.” Teresa McCune ask for permission to respond to Councilwoman Hairston-Brown’s remarks. She stated that this community calls itself a “Christian community.” She cited two bible verses that she feels are related to this topic. She explained that it is not as simple as the homeless just “choose to not go home.” There was no further discussion on this topic.

Norma White expressed concern about Mike’s Tires blocking Pike Street in front of their business and the trailer full of tires they have placed behind the fire department. The Mayor requested both Police and Fire Chief to address the issues and to enforce all applicable City and State laws.

Mayor Carlton requested approval of the Minutes of the meeting held December 10, 2015 and special meeting held on December 15, 2015. Whereupon, Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown moved to approve said Minutes and which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, 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.

Mayor Carlton then presented General Fund bills in the amount of \$110,585.53, and following review thereof, Councilwoman Judith Hamrick moved to approve the said bills as the money is available, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown and carried.

Mayor Carlton then presented December Payroll in the amount of \$53,343.92, and following review thereof, Councilman York Smith moved to ratify the said payroll, and which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown and carried.

The Mayor informed Council that the City had received resignations from both long time employees, Nancy Ray and June Huff. They both have retired from the City Clerk's Office as of December 31, 2015. Nancy Ray had served in the Clerk's Office for thirty-four years and June Huff had served in the Clerk's Office for twenty years. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to accept the resignations, and which motion was seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

The Council had another personnel issue to address and a motion was made by Councilman York Smith to go into executive session and was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried. The Council went into executive session at 6:31 P.M.

At 7:27 P.M., the Mayor reconvened the meeting. The Mayor informed those present that there was nothing to report from the executive session.

The Mayor presented Ordinance 345.36 to Council for the final reading and approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sherri Hairston-Brown to approve the Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilwoman Judith Hamrick, and carried.

The City Attorney presented Ordinance 175.03 to Council for the first reading. Since this was only a reading, no formal action was needed by Council.

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 York Smith, and carried.

The City Attorney then presented a lease agreement to the Council for Wright Tree Service. The company is parking their trucks in Fairview on City property and requested a lease from Council. After a short discussion, the approval of the lease was tabled until the next Council meeting.

The Fire Chief presented a packet from MCA (Medical Claims Assistance) for their fire billing services. The fees for fire services would be charged to the auto and homeowner insurance policies, not the individual. The rates presented in the packet would require the Council to update the current Ordinance. The Mayor recommended Council consider the changes, and Councilwoman Judith Hamrick asked for a sample Ordinance to review. The City Attorney will provide a sample. No other action was taken by Council on this matter.

The City Clerk requested Council give permission to move forward with collection efforts, up to and including placing liens on property if it becomes necessary. Whereupon Councilman York Smith made a motion to authorize the Clerk to use the necessary means to collect fees owed to the City and which motion was seconded by Sherri Hairston-Brown, and carried.

Fire Chief, Joey Carey spoke on behalf of the Mingo County Fire Chief's Association and expressed his gratitude for local support of their

coat drive efforts. They provided two hundred twenty-five children with coats this year, and hope to provide even more next year. The Association will be setting up a special account, for future use, designated for the coat drive. Councilwoman Judith Hamrick made phone calls to local organizations to help locate the children in need and their coat sizes. Chief Carey thanked the City Council, on behalf of the Association, for the five-hundred-dollar contribution from the City.

The Chief of Police was on the agenda, but he did not have any comments for the Council.

The Mayor informed the public about the upcoming job fair to be held at the Williamson Field House. The event is scheduled for January 21, 2016 from 10AM to 2PM. Several businesses have signed up to participate and the Mayor encouraged others to contact the Field House and sign up, too. He also informed the public of the upcoming sock hop to be held at the Field House. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilman York Smith expressed his concerns about the street light out on Bishop Street. Councilman Smith asked the Clerk if he had contacted the power company concerning the light, and the Clerk informed him he had. He asked Jason Allen if Veolia had contacted Asplundh concerning a tree on Sycamore Street that is overhanging power lines. Mr. Allen informed Councilman Smith that he was unaware of the situation. He asked Mr. Allen to follow up and make sure the tree is removed before it causes a power outage.

Councilman Judith Hamrick expressed concerns about barking dogs in her neighborhood. She has contacted the Chief of Police concerning the issue.

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 Mayor Carlton to adjourn, seconded by Councilman York Smith, and carried.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK