

Westmoreland City Council
July 10, 2025 Minutes

Governing Body members present: Councilmembers, Jim Smith, John Coleman, Ashley Rice and Jessi Kincaid.

City Staff present: Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Treasurer, Amy Reed; and City Clerk, Julie Wren

City Staff Absent: Mayor, Waide Purvis; Councilmember Bruce Meininger; City Attorney; Summer Dierks.

Others present: The Times; Lily Hansen, Residents; Jessica Jack, Michelle Campbell, Jeremy Lehning, Ashley Wege, Kaylene Plummer, Sandy Anderson, Chelsie Eisenbarth and Jim Moore, PTSO; Dale Rice, and Caring Community Foundation; Valerie Ramage.

There being a quorum present, Council President Ashley Rice called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda: Coleman asked to add Jeremy Lehning to the agenda proposal to make a donation for the slide. Rice removed D.2. Passing of Ordinance 610.

Motion: Smith moved to approve the amended agenda. Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Consent Items: Motion: Smith moved to approve the consent items. Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Chelsie Eisenbarth thanked Council for allowing their Fireworks sign be put at the RV Park. Also, the donation the City gave towards the 4th of July event for Westy Social Society, since the event did not happen, what would the Council like to see happen with the donated money?

Motion: Kincaid moved to allow the donation be used for the next community event. Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS-

Discussion on proposed budget for 2026- Alex Mittie w/Adams Brown: Alex presented the 2026 budget along with some utility concerns for both 2025 and 2026. The city had a loss of \$70k in 2024 because of higher expenses and lower income. 2025 receipts were up, leaving about 70k for the end of 2025 in the utility fund and showing only about \$27k left in cash reserve at the end of 2026. He said this is just too low and leaves nothing for any emergencies or repairs and suggests an increase in fees as soon as possible. He recommends that another \$50k more needs to come in, in a year for this fund. He also recommended a \$10-\$12 raise in utilities to cover this. It has been quite some time since we have done a utility increase. He shared the budget

document checklist and it's timelines to ensure we notify the county of our plans for the mill rate for 2026. It was discussed and agreed upon by the Council to exceed the revenue neutral rate and to keep the mill rate the same. Alex also said he will need us to decide on a hearing date and whether we plan to increase our utility rates before he finalizes the 2026 budget.

He also discussed the cities sales tax increase along with the special sales tax fund that we set up for the .5% of all funds to be deposited in and set aside for the cities pool to be rebuilt. He briefly went over that we set up an equipment fund for 2026 as well. He reported that our cash reserve would be 292k for 2026 which is down quite a bit from the previous year(s).

Discussion on Volleyball Pit: Krohn said we need to get bids.

Motion: Kincaid moved to put the volleyball pit out for bid, Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0

Discussion on Playground next to Pool: Krohn said we need to get bids.

Motion: Kincaid moved to put the Dechairo park playground out for bid, Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0

Jeremy Lehning: Jeremy asked for a wish list along with costs, for the pool and it's current needs as well as future needs. He asked us to prioritize the list. Some examples were given like guard stands, a new slide, additional shade structures, water features, etc. He said he has raised about \$131k in donation money to go towards these types of things. He asked for the list to be to him by July 20th and it would go to the CCF board for approval on July 23. They would then reimburse the city for the wish list items, once approved and receipts are turned in.

Old Business:

National Flood Insurance Program Conversation: After a brief discussion it was decided to not participate in this program.

Future agenda items: Resolution #2-25 authorizing the offering of the Series 2025-1 GO Temporary Notes, Budget Hearing, RNR Hearing, Passing of Ordinance 610 for the .5% Pool Sales Tax Fund.

Reports:

Treasurer: With what Alex reported about fees, Reed reported the sooner the better we need to make a rate change. The Council discussed.

Motion: Kincaid moved to raise the water base rate to \$26.75, Additional 1,000 gallons to \$10.65, and Trash \$23.50 to begin September 1st. Coleman seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Maintenance Report: Krohn stated the Mayor would like to have a tour of all city properties scheduled. Rice asked Wren to set up a time and date for this. Code enforcement- There's a lot of vehicles that have been turned in and will be prosecuted.

Clerk's Report: Wren reported there are pickleball sets and basketballs available during the daytime for residents to use. We are replacing 10 street banners and decided to put our new logo on them. The Council helped pick out the final product. Caring Community Foundation sent out a grant opportunity.

Streets- Meininger was absent.

Utilities- Coleman had nothing to report.

Animal Control- Smith had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning- Smith had nothing to report.

Pool- Rice had nothing to report.

Cemetery- Kincaid had nothing to report.

Parks- Kincaid had nothing to report.

Fire Department- Smith had nothing to report.

Flint Hills Regional Council- Michelle stated there's a meeting next Friday.

Mayor- Purvis was absent.

Attorney Dierks- Dierks was absent.

There being no further business.

Motion: Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Coleman seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Council President Rice declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.
Approved by the Governing Body on August 14, 2025.

Signed: Ashley Rice
Ashley Rice, Council President

ATTEST:

Signed: Julie Wren
Julie Wren, City Clerk

