

# **WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Weirton, Hancock and Brooke Counties, West Virginia was held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Weirton Municipal Building.

## **Councilmembers in Attendance:**

Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1
Charles Wright	Councilmember Ward 2
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4
Douglas L. Jackson	Councilmember Ward 5
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7

## **City Officials in Attendance:**

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis Blosser	City Manager
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Thomas J. Maher, Jr.	Finance Director
A. D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Chief Code Official
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
David Smith	Public Works Director

**Mayor Miller** led everyone in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **READING OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman Marsh, second by Councilman Weigel to approve the minutes of the:

### **February 8, 2016 Regular Meeting**

The motion passed, 7/0

**Mayor Harold Miller**

This is a Public Hearing on Item No. 7 the Municipal Sales Tax Ordinance. If anyone has any comments about it, now is the time to make those comments. Any Comments?

**Vince Gurrera – City Attorney**

You may make comments even if you did not sign the list it is a completely different and separate issue.

**Steve Spiewak – Citizen**

Do we have any idea how much money is going to be brought in?

**Tom Maher – Finance Director**

Initial estimates are very early and their total projections are estimated to be at the low end of 1.5 million anticipated, and we really won't know until we do collect it and the City Treasurers Office will be the one to collect it and submit it to the City of Weirton.

**Steve Spiewak – Citizen**

That is way above and beyond what the Business Occupation Taxes.

**Tom Maher – Finance Director**

This is not part of the Business Occupation Taxes.

**Steve Spiewak – Citizen**

I understand that this will replace the Business Taxes.

**Tom Maher – Finance Director**

It is not going to totally replace it that is not the anticipated goal. The Business Occupation Tax will be visited after the revenue is absorbed from the Sales Tax. At that time, determinations will be made.

**Mayor Harold Miller**

Any other comments?

**Mayors Awards and Proclamations:**

Mayor Harold Miller presented Rodney Meeker with a Certificate of Appreciation for his quick response in calling 911 for a family emergency.

**Citizens Remarks:**

## **Steve Spiewak - 2962 Culler Road – Resident – Trash & Garbage**

My name is Steve Spiewak I live at 2962 Culler Road, Weirton WV down by the Old Country Club. Reason I am here I have a little problem. There are two items that I wanted to address one is Trash and the other is Garbage. It seems that Culler Road near where I live is a haven for all kind of trash, parts of desks, tables, chairs anything. I was wondering if maybe we all have our projects in our neighborhoods that have been neglected for over the years and now with the City Taxes maybe we can put in 100 camera's that can pick up whose dumping this garbage and get a picture of the license plate. I am sure maybe these can be moved elsewhere within the City because other blight areas that people are dumping. I pay a man to come to remove my trash and I am on disability and have not worked for some 30 some years. So I am on a limited income, but if I can pay someone somebody else can. Couple times – three times I chased somebody while I was out coming back in late. I lost them every time. If I catch them I guarantee you one thing I will file charges. I will file charges. But maybe if Council could put cameras in those areas, Maryland Heights where ever it is, we got problems. That is one issue.

Second issue, kind of bothered me. It is our garbage collectors. They do one hell of a job. I noticed something in all kinds of inclement weather they pick up I witnessed several areas where I lived before I moved back here. Again our drivers pick up men do one hell of a job. With this holiday I found out something, our garbage collectors get paid \$8.50 an hour part time no benefits. I don't think that is right. Nobody here would work for \$8.50 an hour picking up garbage in any kind of weather. There ahead to stay at home and be on welfare then to come out and pick up our trash. My feeling is I am not represented they have not ask me to come down here, but I think they should be full time, given a substantial raise and give them permission to be able to bid on other jobs within the City and move up. Give them some type of encouragement to better themselves. We can't keep people working. We are getting government funds in this area we are getting grants to come here but we can't abide by better than \$8.50 an hour. That is a shame. As a matter of fact, I go to St Joseph the Worker Church up on the top of the hill. I was talking with one of the fellows up there and a lady over heard me, an elderly lady, and she says what are you going to go down there Steve and bitch about this time? I said I only go down once in a while and this is only my second appearance here. I told her I am coming down here and one of the issues is about \$8.50 an hour part time. Do you know what this old lady told me that is a sin. Make sure Steve you tell them that it is a sin, because nobody is going to come out and work in all kind of inclement weather be exposed to dog bites especially people being criticized all the time for \$8.50 an hour. So, if in your hearts, with this money coming in, if you can take care of our employees these are our people as you said in our prayer today. Take care of our fellow man. God bless you and Thank you very much.

**Communications:  
NONE**

A motion to go into Executive Session made by Councilman Ash and seconded by Councilman Marsh.  
Motion Passed 7/0

**Request by Council to convene into Executive Session consistent with WV Code 6-9-A-4 to consider matters involving or affecting the purchase, sale or lease of property, advance construction planning, the investment of public funds or other matters involving commercial competition, which if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interest of the state or any other political subdivision.**

Do I have a motion to reconvene made by Mayor Harold Miller

Councilman Jackson made a motion to reconvene and second by Councilman Fracasso.  
Motion Passed 7/0

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Costs Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties Pursuant to Ordinance 250 (166 Spruce Street) (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, second by Councilman Fracasso  
Motion passed 7/0

### **2. Resolution Expressing Resolve for the Restoration of the Department of Justice's Suspended Asset Forfeiture Fund (Councilman Fred Marsh)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Fracasso  
Motion passed 7/0

#### **Role Call**

Councilman George Ash	Yes
Councilman Terry Weigel	Yes
Councilman Fred Marsh	Yes
Councilman Chuck Wright	Yes
Councilman Douglas Jackson	Yes
Councilman Enzo Fracasso	Yes
Councilman Tim Connell	Yes

**3. Resolution to enter into Contract for Property and Liability Insurance Coverage for City of Weirton (City Manager) (\$602,189.14)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Fracasso  
Motion passed 7/0

**.4. Resolution Adopting Procurement Policies and Procedures for Weirton Transit Corporation for the City of Weirton (City Manager)**

**Councilman Connell**

Mr. Mayor I would like to abstain from this vote I work for the Weirton Transit Corporation.

**Vince Gurrera – City Attorney**

Will that be the same for number 5 and 6?

**Councilman Connell**

Yes it will be.

**Vince Gurrera – City Attorney**

I don't think you will have to repeat it every time.

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, second by Councilman Wright  
Motion passed 6/0

**5. Resolution Adopting Oversight Procedures for Weirton Transit Corporation for the City of Weirton (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Fracasso  
Motion passed 6/0

**6. Resolution Adopting a Grant Administration Procedure for Weirton Transit Corporation for the City of Weirton (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Jackson  
Motion passed 6/0

## **7. Ordinance Imposing Municipal Sales and Service Tax and Municipal Tax in Accordance with West Virginia Code §8-1-5a (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, second by Councilman Fracasso  
Motion passed 7/0

### **Mayor Harold Miller**

I would like the City Manager to explain this briefly what we are doing on this reissuing of the Municipal Sales and Service Tax.

### **Travis Blosser – City Manager**

Briefly, as we even mentioned at our last meeting the issues we had with our State Tax Department. Council passed an Ordinance that was basically very similar to the city of Wheeling's as to regards to the Sales Tax. The Tax Office got back to us, and essentially all the Home Rule Cities that are now asking for the Sales Tax they want on a blanket Ordinance that are all the same very cookie cutter. So essentially rather than fighting and arguing with the Tax Office, the next couple of months we are making the change of instituting that Ordinance which is three pages. The Ordinance that we passed earlier was about 16 pages. So, essentially the tax office has condensed that information into that Ordinance type and so essentially Council is passing the new Ordinance and rescinding the old one, but it does not change our time frame on the Sales Tax.

### **Mayor Harold Miller**

Basically we gave them more information than they can handle.

## **8. Ordinance to Rescind 1983. An Ordinance to Rescind the Ordinance for the City of Weirton, West Virginia, Enacting Article 796 Under Part Seven Chapter Three Entitled: Consumer Sales and Use Tax (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Jackson  
Motion passed 7/0

## **APPOINTMENT: City Engineer**

### **Mayor Harold Miller**

I like to place for your approval Dan Sikora

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, second by Councilman Wright  
Motion passed 7/0

## **APPOINTMENT: BHJ - MPC**

### **Mayor Harold Miller**

(2 Council Members)

(1 Community At-Large)

Motion to Table to next month

Motion was made to Table by Councilman Wright, second by Councilman Marsh

Motion passed 7/0

### **Councilman Fred Marsh**

Why don't you Mayor or City Manager in one of the packets before the next Council Meeting explain what duties are for this appointment?

## **APPOINTMENT: Human Rights Committee**

Aylana Jeter, 623 Cove Road, Weirton, WV

Jessica Davis, 105 Terry Court, Weirton, WV

Motion was made by Councilman Fracasso, second by Councilman Jackson

Motion passed 7/0

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### **Police Department – Chief Alexander**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

### **Utilities – Water and Sewer – A. D. Mastrantoni**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

### **Code Department – Rod Rosnick**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

### **Fire Department – Chief Shumate**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Councilman Marsh**

I have a question for Chief Shumate.

Several Finance Meetings several months ago in finance we talked about to approve the purchase of the new truck and you were going to move some equipment around. Are you going to move the Tower up on the hill after the station repair? When is that coming up on the hill? That was part of the discussion.

**Chief Shumate**

Right now it cannot go in there.

**Councilman Marsh**

That I understand. But as soon as that repair is complete are you putting Tower 1 on the hill?

**Chief Shumate**

Most likely.

**Councilman Marsh**

OK

**Chief Shumate**

Remember the truck doesn't fit in the neighborhood well.

**Councilman Marsh**

I think your comment was it fits better on the hill than it does down here.

**Chief Shumate**

Yes it does – West Street extension – Your single family dwelling it is not needed on a single family dwelling anyhow.

**Library – Rik Rekowski**

Was not present

**Public Works – David Smith**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Park & Recreation – Terry Weigel**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Finances– Thomas Maher**

## **General Fund Cash Report for January 2016**

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$3,062,399.08
Interest on Checking:	\$775.84
Deposits:	\$1,887,094.21
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,479,868.09
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$3,470,401.04
Beginning Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Interest on Investments:	\$0.00
Investment Proceeds:	\$0.00
Change in Value:	\$0.00
Deposits:	\$0.00
Withdrawals:	\$0.00
Ending Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Petty Cash:	\$800.00
Total Cash and Investments Available:	\$3,471,201.04

We do have two additional invoices that need to be approved.

Mayor Harold Miller made a Motion to Approve  
Councilman Ash makes the motion, second by Councilman Connell  
Motion Passed 7/0

### **Councilman George Ash**

Individuals that has moved from one department to another has their salaries been increased already or are they back to the old salary?

### **Travis Blosser – City Manager**

We have not made any changes to any salaries yet.

### **Councilman George Ash**

O.K. cause we voted on it a couple months ago I wonder why not.

### **Travis Blosser – City Manager**

We have not done the salaries yet other than Gina's. What position are you speaking about?

**Councilman George Ash**

I want to know about the Public Works Director. Do we have a Public Works Director or not?

**Travis Blosser – City Manager**

We do currently serving in the interim capacity while we are doing the training necessary to move Rod has been effective.

**Councilman George Ash**

Has the Public Works Director salary been increased since he came on?

**Travis Blosser – City Manager**

He is interning he is on a mixed salary he is not at the full amount.

**Councilman George Ash**

You have somebody else to take his place on Code?

**Travis Blosser – City Manager**

We are working on that right now as we speak, yes we do believe so.

**Councilman George Ash**

It has been a couple of months it is time to get it done.

**Travis Blosser – City Manager**

I agree.

**Mr. Mayor**

Any other questions?

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting after the closing prayer which was recited by Councilman Connell.

Motion was made by Councilman Marsh, second by Councilman Ash.  
The motion passed, 7/0.