

WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, November 7, 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	ABSENT
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6	
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7	

City Officials in Attendance:

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis L. Blosser	City Manager
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Ken Fletcher	Chief Code Official
A.D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

October 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

The motion passed, 6/0

A motion was made by Councilman Marsh and second by Councilman Fracasso to approve the minutes of the:

October 18, 2016 Special Meeting

The motion passed, 6/0

Mayors Awards and Proclamations:

Proclamation for Christian Heritage Week in West Virginia, November 20-26, 2016 as Proclaimed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

Citizens Remarks:

Steve Psaros – Sustainable Strategies

My name is Steve Psaros, and I live at 306 Colliers Way. I am a lifelong resident of the City of Weirton. My wife and I, Heidi, raised three children. All three of them had higher education. Not one of them lives in the City of Weirton because there is no work. I come here tonight, Mayor and City Council, after reading the article in Weirton Daily Times, about the Finance Committee recommending an agreement with Sustainable Strategies to create a resource map to find resource opportunities. I don't know what opportunities? The feasibility study is a very civic and developmental project's as it states in the paper. There is mention of Lee Avenue Bridge, recreational areas, and Brownfield redevelopment. Not one word how we are going to bring some jobs in the City of Weirton. Is there any consideration being given to establishing a training center to train workers, electrical, welding, plumping, and computers for industrial things? This is something I have thought about for many years. If we are going to bring in new business, you have to have a skilled workforce. In my opinion, we need to bring companies in that pay a middle class wage. I think we all know where we stand as far as the wages and the businesses in the City of Weirton. To do this, we need a workforce with various skills. Weirton is a City being sustained by an aging population. The younger people with the higher education leave. The young people that we have here I think they need to learn skills. I have been peripherally involved with the Weirton Christian Center and the Dunbar Recreation Center. I have been around and listened to the City, Office Officials, County Officials, State Officials. I have attended at least half a dozen meetings where there was something trying to be done but nothing was accomplished. I suggest we give consideration to contacting the various unions to see if a combined training center, where you get these various disciplines, for these young people once they get out of high school because some of them do not move to higher education or any other skills. Somehow we have to gather the young people and train them. Guess what, if you bring in any new business here who is going to be the workers? We are an aging community. But I applaud this administration for the forward thinking. We must think outside the box. I remember reading the headlines that President Gee is going to do something for two cities. They were going to do a study and they were going to help the cities. What they were going to do I can't remember, it was a few years back. I think what we need not only worry about whether it is recreation those are good things to do. The Lee Avenue Bridge you have that on your plate. I do not know what we are going to redevelop in the City of Weirton. Whatever we do we got to go out

there with this new organization that you are talking with, and maybe some of this can be done. We got to do something or this city will die on the vine. I thank you for your time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Miller wanted to notify everyone that this Friday is Veterans Day, which at 11 o'clock down in front of the Community Center, will be the memorial presentation.

Travis Blosser, City Manager - I wanted to talk about a man who served this community with distinction, our Finance Director, Thomas J. Maher, Jr. Several times I have bragged about him in public, and in private. He was the most loyal and caring person I have ever met, and my biggest cheerleader as becoming City Manager. I will always remember the dedication and leadership that Tom showed in everything he did. The city, and its employees, and elected officials had a special place in his heart. We truly were his work family. As many know, Tom worked long hours to improve things he saw as problems, and I can remember many late night discussions on policy and ways to make our operation more efficient. He gave his heart and soul for this organization, and dreamed constantly of what it could become. It was his dedication and hard work with City Council that has put our community in the most financially sound position than in the last two decades. We as an organization owe a huge thank you to Thomas J. Maher, Jr. for the tireless advocacy that he delivered every day. Tom for me was that once in a lifetime individual, and I was so happy to spend the time I got with him, and his impact on my life is forever etched in my heart. Tom and I promised sometime back to never leave anything unsaid, and I calmly told him no friendship is an accident. I didn't just lose a Finance Director today, I lost a confidant, my wing man, and my buddy. As Tom would say, the work still needs to be done, and we have more to do in order to make this city become what it truly can be. We will always cherish our moments with him. I will never let his impact on this organization be forgotten as it is up to us, those remaining, to help keep his legacy alive.

Mayor Miller, Tom was an interesting guy. When I first met him, when I became Councilman, he was hired by Bill Miller, I believe, the Mayor, and Tom as City Clerk. When I became Mayor the first person I sat with was Tom. Listen Tom, we got to start to get ready for the sales tax. That is your first priority. The second priority is direct deposit for the checks of the employees. It became a standing joke with him every time we were in a Department Head meeting how we are doing with direct deposit? He would say patience Mayor, patience. I have to get everything lined up so everybody gets their checks, and if they still want to get them hand delivered we want to still provide that. I said, no we don't, we want them going straight to the bank for the convenience of it. He was meticulous in what he did, and he gave great advice, he was a gentlemen all the way. We will miss him.

Councilman Fracasso – I would like to say I haven't known Tom that long a year and a half maybe. I can honestly say that I have never met anybody that was more dedicated to his job than Tom. He worked clear up to the last minute that he could. Also, I sat down with Tom on a few occasions, and he helped me through when my wife was going through

cancer. He helped me out tremendously. He consoled me, told me that everything would be alright. I will miss Tom.

Councilman Ash wanted to ask a question. Whatever happened to the Italians that were supposed to be moving up here from Wheeling? Whatever happened to the Battery Recycling place? What happened to these places? We hear about them but I don't see anything.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, the Battery Recycling Facility we don't have any update on Pietro Fiorentini, we received some information but I can't get to specific what we received. In the next couple weeks, there is supposed to be a formal announcement of some sort.

Councilman Weigel, Mayor is there an update on the WVU Study? Are we waiting on them?

Mayor Miller, It has probably been a year since we met with WVU and Sr. Advisor, Jay Cole, Office of the President, they were to put a team together and come back to us. We had a good meeting, and had recommendations with doing incubator systems and training sessions with WVU and using their equipment, and their knowledge with the various department heads. They were working with couple communities that have faced the loss of major employment industries in our community. Since then we have not had any feedback from them at all.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, we will reach out to them and see where everything is at. They came down, and met with the Mayor and I, but then they had separate meetings and they used the Community Center to meet with various individuals that they pulled that their Sociology Department went out for that. They were supposed to be giving us a copy of different reports. We did get an Economic Impact Study from them. That is the one thing they did share with us. Their Economic Department does specific reports for the West Virginia economy. But they also break it down into specific areas as well. We also did receive a copy of that, but they were supposed to be doing an updated version, and we were going to get a copy of that as well. We plan to reach out to them to see what the status is, and where everything is going. Certainly if the University decided to pull back on something, we would like to know that too so we can let people know the University is not moving forward with that path. We understood through our conversation they wanted to move forward with it. It was the university president's decision to move forward.

Mayor Miller, one thing we are not holding our breath for them to move forward. Mark and Ken, Planning Board we get a lot of calls from various individuals who are interested in the City of Weirton for development. We are not waiting for them to bail us out we are going to work in the direction we think we need to go.

Councilman Weigel, are we going to work with this contractor Sustainable Strategies Services? That will be great to involve them.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, and being specific to what Mr. Psaros said. As we discussed in Finance, and I give Craig credit because I don't think he can fit every comment into the

square inches of columns, or he would have the whole newspaper with just me talking. We did discuss pensions, and that is one of the things we talked about it in terms of our pension side, and they are assisting in lobbying efforts with that. We do not need to talk about training centers and anything like that. Yes, they are essentially a grant broker, but they are also a lobbying firm on the federal level. In terms of being able to get additional resources that you would otherwise not get your hands on. It is one thing hearing somebody saying yeah we can do it, but when you see the cities in West Virginia and what they have done. Ranson for instance, which I have highlighted in the Finance Committee, over an eight year period 10 million dollars' worth of grant dollars that they were able to pour into Ranson. It was not a million dollars a year, but they got a grant, and they moved forward with it. They involved transportation improvement grants, grants for the Police Department, grants for Fire all types of different avenues. That is what that Resource Roadmap will be here for. When they come in, our boys will put them with multitude of people, and talk about the specific projects that we are looking at. But also getting them going out and meeting with other organizations to say, what are some other things that are needed here? What about the Training Center, thing of that nature. And them being able to come up with those funding resources to say we can make this work. You are going to have three others the county, city, and unions involved in that but we can get the dollars for you. That is what they will be looking for. It is a whole host of everything. I don't want anybody to think just Lee Avenue that it is the only project that we are focusing on. They are a lobbying firm.

Councilman Weigel, their resume was very impressive and over the entire country.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, they work with the east and west coast. That is why they are successful with federal legislators and also successful in state too. Ranson moved couple of the bills that they wanted to see in the legislator. They moved couple of those forward for them. Never got them officially passed, but it went further than most of the cities going down with the piece of legislation because they have a lobby mark.

Request by Council to convene into Executive Session consistent with WV Code 6-9-A-4-A(9) to consider personnel matters.

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2010. An Ordinance To The Amendment No. 775 to the Control Map No. 214 of the City of Weirton for an Extension of Yellow Line 30 Feet on Estes Avenue and Ivy Street (Councilman Marsh)

Motion was made by Councilman Marsh, second by Councilman Ash.

Motion passed 6/0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 776 To The Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish a Dedicated Disability Parking Space at 3154 Orchard Street (For Ms. Stacey Norman) (Councilman Ash) EMERGENCY READING

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Connell.

Role Call:

Councilman Ash	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Weigel	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Wright	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Jackson	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 6/0

2. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 777 To The Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton for a Yellow Line 20 Feet across Driveway at 156 Church Street (20 Feet Yellow Line in Front of 151 Church Street) (Councilman Fracasso)

Motion was made by Councilman Fracasso, second by Councilman Ash.

Motion passed 6/0

3. An Ordinance Amending the Text of the Unified Development Ordinance Table 1 (City Manager)

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Fracasso.

Motion passed 6/0

4. Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of a 2017 Ford F550 4x4 Regular Cab/Chassis for the Sanitation Department at Public Works (\$48,265.00) (City Manager)

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

5. Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of a Loadmaster Elite 6 Yard Packer for the Sanitation Department at Public Works (\$42,950.00) (City Manager)

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

6. Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of a Freightliner with a Loadmaster 25 Yard Packer for the Sanitation Department at Public Works (\$165,901.00) (City Manager)

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

7. Resolution to Authorize Revisions to the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget (City Manager)

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

Role Call:

Councilman Ash	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Weigel	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Wright	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Jackson	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 6/0

8. Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into Mutual Aid Agreement Emergency Medical Services with New Cumberland Ambulance Service (City Manager)

Motion was made by Councilman Marsh, second by Councilman Connell.
Motion passed 6/0

9. Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into Mutual Aid Agreement Emergency Medical Services with Brooke County Ambulance Service (City Manager)

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

10. Resolution to Enter into Professional Services Contract for Resource Roadmap Services with Sustainable Strategies DC (\$15,000.00) (City Manager)

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

11. Resolution to Authorize Contribution to Brooke-Hancock Veteran's Memorial Park (\$5,000.00) (City Manager)

Motion was made by Councilman Wright, second by Councilman Connell
Motion passed 5/0

Councilman Ash, just to clear something up, I am going to abstain from this even though I did not benefit from it whatsoever. I think it is proper I abstain. The money goes directly into the Veterans Park, and I assist them in many different ways.

Travis Blosser, City Manager – If I can Councilman Ash, and I spoke about it in the Finance Committee that we had the revenue stream that there was significant damage done to pieces out there at that park. Councilman Ash said it takes a specialist to fix a lot of that stuff, and it is going to be fairly expensive. This was an increase amount from last year Councilman Ash based on the high cost that there are going to see with repairs. The fact is it is the entry way to our downtown. It is a beautiful park. We had the revenue available because being down in spending in our civic contributions so we had the ability to do that.

Councilman Ash, one last thing, City Attorney just suggested to me maybe somebody else ought to sponsor that.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, I will sponsor that as City Manager.

Mayor Miller, I have a question Councilman Ash. The Veterans Park, now it sits outside the City limits?

Councilman Ash, Yes

Mayor Miller, do you get any financial support from Brooke County?

Councilman Ash, None, I received since 1996 a \$1,000.00 from them. I don't know why that is, and it is the same thing from Hancock County. It is named Brooke/Hancock County Veterans Memorial Park.

Mayor Miller, we did some work there to clean some trees up, that was blocking the view. We had to go to the State to get approval because it was outside the city, and we used our people,

and contract person there. I just wondered why they did not participate much at all. Maybe a kind letter to them will help.

12. Ordinance to the Amendment No. 778 To The Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to place Three Stop Signs at the bottom of South 11th Street and Weir Avenue (Councilman Connell) EMERGENCY READING

Motion was made by Councilman Fracasso, second by Councilman Ash

Role Call:

Councilman Ash	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Weigel	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Wright	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Jackson	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 6/0

Mayor Miller would like Travis Blosser to give an update on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Travis Blosser, City Manager – not much from anything that anybody else has, but essentially the State is continuing to wrap up a majority of their studies. They did their core drillings. Some of the core drillings did not come back as favorable as they would like them on some portions of the slip. They are putting together their plan. What is making it a little more difficult is the fact we are also trying to plan our sewer line relocation, and it is being compromised because of the slip. Right now you have a line that is running, and it has shifted and moved. We have to have a permanent location for that. Some of the difficulty is we don't want to go and expend the funding, and Butch can talk more about that. The funding to relocate that line, and the State comes back with a plan that shows that line being moved again. But as far as right now, the State is not giving any time on reopening. I have told the media a couple of times no time line. We do understand residents are frustrated. We are just as frustrated. We would like to see the road open now. We are working with the Ordinance No. 12 that was just passed. We are trying to put in steps in place, and we are planning on putting out maps on roads that residents should be trying to hit in inclement weather. You should not be trying to go down Power House Hill or South 11th Street during inclement weather. You should be trying to avoid that and hit other major artery routes to get to where you are going. That road was not designed when it was built for the increased amount of traffic that it is seeing and especially in inclement weather. So we want to make sure the traveling public is safe that they are trying to hit those other routes. I firmly understand that a lot of people are not going to listen because that is a quicker way to get where ever they want to go. We plan to put those maps out and to have information on our site, and to get other community organizations to share that information as well. Our Public Works Department has

already worked on it, and is working on plans to ensure we are hitting those roads with increased plowing and salt. We are cautioning people that Pennsylvania Avenue will probably not be open until after winter. We do not foresee it being open in the next month.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department – Chief Alexander

Obviously you can tell we are participating in the no shave November. The Weirton Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Department are raising money by way of donation for the Comfort House where all the money is going. Anybody wants to give donations see me or any of my guys who are growing beards.

Utilities – Water and Sewer – A. D. Mastrantoni

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Councilman Marsh, I have a question on the water side. Did the Water Board just institute a service charge for using credit cards?

Butch Mastrantoni, Utilities Director – No, we never instituted a service charge. It was a convenience charge, and we never took a formal vote. It was something that the Finance Department had put together as part of the package.

Councilman Marsh, why did someone call me the other day, and said they had paid that downstairs for their credit card.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, the convenience fee. We had not been taking credit cards, as I understand. Councilman Weigel also called me. He had got gotten a call from someone. Butch and I have discussed it a little bit. We have never been taking credit cards at the level that other places were taking them. Basically, with the new policies in your own business with the new insurance, and the things of that nature with the agreements with the card companies to be PCI clients with regards to peoples information. Basically, I think the way you have to look at it is as a customer base if you are the person paying cash, and you are paying with a check those credit card fees have to be paid. When someone comes in using a credit card, and it differs depending on what kind of credit card your using. It Differs on whether it is credit or debit that they charge those fees. When that happens, it would be the utility on that end that would be paying that convenience fee basically for the customer. When you look at several different companies, whether it is Mon Power or other places unless you are taking a draft from your bank account it is almost like an ATF automatic withdrawal of funds. ATF essentially charges a fee. It is a convenience fee for being able to have the option to make that payment.

The way these utility companies have looked at it is essentially the people pay cash, pay check, who come in, and make payment, and are not using that credit card are then subsidizing on the back end all those people coming in using the credit card. You may get a divide of 50/50 (50% of your customers using cash or check, and 50% of your customers using credit cards). The 100% would be paying for everyone's use of a credit card. I think what a lot of these utilities have said, there is a convenience fee if you decide to use a credit card because of those increased charges from those companies based on the PTI compliance and changes that have been made.

Councilman Wright, Why can we not go to online bill pay? It is a conversation Tom and I have had numerous times.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, we do have online billing. We tried to increase our reach to give people alternative avenues to make payments. That was part of the PCI Compliance with our Accufund software that basically handles all of our books for everything like payroll. Basically, they had a credit card provider that interfaced with us in a better manner than any other industry out there. Also, some of the companies will give you a flat rate, and say for every card you use that is only \$2.00 or \$5.00 every time they use the card. Those companies anymore you are signing agreements with them that alleviate all of their responsibility on PCI Compliance and shift it to the customer. That means we are liable if that customer information is hacked for any reason which we have seen all too many times. Target for instance, using them as an example, paid out a little over \$40,000,000.00 for just losing about 100, and some credit cards that was hacked and information that just got out there. They paid out a significant sum of money as part of a deal that they had to make on that. We are opening up all those avenues and online pay is available. We have that set up. It is built in with our Website. It is a click on the link and it takes you automatically to our online bill site. We are making some changes to that to make it more customers friendly. That is a web portal basically through Accufund. The IT Department is working with Accufund on some changes to that to provide some additional customer information to make it easier.

Butch Mastrantoni, Utilities Director – I just want it on record that Water and Sewer did not institute any of these charges. These are convenience fees paid by the customer for using that card. We do not get anything back. We don't bill it, we don't get anything back. Public Service frowns on those fees being charged by Utilities because again it is disadvantage that people who do not use those cards to pay their bills. We have established convenience fees through the credit card companies for those customers to have an avenue to that. The Water and Sewer Department gets nothing from that.

Code Department – Ken Fletcher

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Councilman Marsh, I have had several contractors come in, and tell me how much more steam lined the permit process is, and they are happy about that. They are not waiting 4 weeks to get a Permit to put a deck on. Thank You.

Fire Department – Chief Shumate

I would like to take the time to thank the Park Board Director, Terry Weigel for having our EMT Recert Class and we will be using the Weirton Room, which is an excellent facility. Appreciate the hospitality of the staff.

Also, the department just finished a core rescue class, which if you take a rescue class anymore you have to take a core rescue which is a 40 hour class. I am proud to say that the 19 firefighters have taken the test, and all 19 have passed. There is about a 50% to 60% pass rate for all of the state, and our department did excellent.

For Councilman Ash, Warrant Officer Scott is returning to duty Monday at the Fire Department where he will complete his reserve training and he is coming back as a Helicopter Pilot.

Library – Rik Rekowski

We have a Community Leader, Dr. Luthra. Dr. Luthra is a member of the Chamber and of the Rotary, and of the museum. He is premiering a film here in Weirton, December 10th at the Mary H. Weir Public Library. The time is 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm and it is free on Saturday, December 10, 2016, at the Library. The film is with a hollywood producer and the title is Sunflower. I am not going to tell you anything more what this film is. It has no words but it is a cultural enrichment film about memory. The public will be invited December 10th at 5:00 pm, and it is a free showing. You will hear more about it as the weeks go on.

Public Works – Rod Rosnick

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Transit – Marke Henne

Just that the Pennsylvania Avenue is an issue and we are doing the best that we can. All 16 runs will be run each day up that hill and down that hill. We are asking to reroute around Cove Road. Please bear with us if you have anyone that has issue with it we are trying very hard to instruct them.

Planning & Development – Mark Miller

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Park Board – Terry Weigel

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Finances– Travis L. Blosser, City Manager

General Fund Cash Report for October 2016

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$2,892,207.03
Interest on Checking:	\$776.23
Deposits:	\$2,238,496.78
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,200,435.65
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$3,931,044.39
Beginning Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Interest on Investments:	\$0.00
Investment Proceeds:	\$0.00
Change in Value:	\$0.00
Deposits:	\$0.00
Withdraws:	\$0.00
Ending Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Petty Cash:	\$800.00
Total Cash and Investments Available:	\$3,931,844.39

Motion was made to approve the bills, accept the financial report and all departmental reports by Councilman Wright, second by Councilman Marsh.

Motion passed 6/0

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion was made by Councilman Connell, second by Councilman Ash.

Motion passed 6/0