

CITY OF WEIRTON
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 7:00 PM
WEIRTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS*
200 MUNICIPAL PLAZA, WEIRTON, WV 26062
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MAYOR'S AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

❖ **Veteran Proclamation**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

READING OF MINUTES

December 8, 2025 – Regular Council Meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2268 to Amend the Traffic Control Map, Ordinance No. 214, to Establish a Disability Parking Space at 105 Weirview Street. (Councilman Connell)
2. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2269 to Amend Appendix A of the Rules and Regulations of the Police Civil Service Commission of the City of Weirton. (City Attorney)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A Resolution to Authorize Revisions to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget. (City Manager)
2. An Ordinance Modifying Ordinance #1313, as Amended, Establishing New Minimum and Maximum Salary Levels of Specific Non-Union Municipal Employees within Specific Departments of the City of Weirton General Fund and Adding/Eliminating Specific Positions. (City Manager)

*Accessible entrance is located at the Police Department entrance on the east side of the building.

3. A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Six (6) Additional Firefighters, the Reopening and Operation of the County Road Fire Station, and Providing for Current and Future Budgetary Authorizations Related Thereto. (Councilman Connell, Councilwoman Holloway, Councilman Rocchio)
4. An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Weirton Establishing a Section Under the City of Weirton Administrative Code, Chapter 5 Housing, *Vacant Building Registration Program*. (Mayor Harris, City Manager)

CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

PRAYER

*Accessible entrance is located at the Police Department entrance on the east side of the building.

**MEETING MINUTES
WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Council Meeting
Weirton Municipal Building – Council Chambers
200 Municipal Plaza, Weirton, WV 26062
Monday, January 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Timothy Connell recited the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dean Harris called the meeting to order.

City Clerk, Kimberly Long conducted roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mayor and Council Members in Attendance

Dean M. Harris	Mayor
Timothy C. Connell	Councilmember Ward 1
Ralph Cunningham	Councilmember Ward 2
Jesse Keeder	Councilmember Ward 3
Rick Stead	Councilmember Ward 4
Brittany Holloway	Councilmember Ward 5
Anthony Rocchio	Councilmember Ward 6
Christopher Jonczak	Councilmember Ward 7

City Officials in Attendance

Michael A. Adams, Esq.	City Manager
Vincent S. Gurrera, Esq.	City Attorney
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance Director
Jeff Berry	Public Works Superintendent
Mark Miller	Planning and Development Director
Nick Stewart	Building Inspector
Kevin Himmelrick	Fire Chief
Charlie Kush	Police Chief
DeeAnn Pulliam	Assistant City Manager
Kimberly Long	City Clerk
Butch Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
W. Coty Shingle	Parks and Recreation Director
Kevin Davis	Transit Director
Molly Mosser	Mary H. Weir Library Board President

MAYOR'S AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation – Veteran, Paul James Tokash

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEAN M. HARRIS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEIRTON, BROOKE AND HANCOCK COUNTIES do hereby recognize PAUL JAMES TOKASH for his dedicated military service to our Country and his community, on this day January 12, 2026.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Citizen, Todd Melvin, spoke about the misuse of authority and accountability of public officials.

Citizen Jake Spencer spoke regarding speeding and running of the stop signs on Weir Avenue and would like to see increased police presence.

Citizen Karen Mentzer addressed Council regarding a recent CDBG meeting she attended, fire and police funding, use of City funds, emergency services safety, and communication between Council and the Water Board.

READING OF MINUTES

December 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the December 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

Councilman Connell

Motion Approved: 7/0

FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS/FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Connell reported that at the Finance Committee meeting held on January 9, 2026, two of the three financial-related items presented were approved unanimously. The Resolution regarding the hiring of six additional firefighters was approved by a 2–1 vote.

One invoice was presented for approval to be paid from the General Fund:

Grae Con Construction, Inc. \$304,669.70
(Pay App #8 – Community Ctr Project)

The total invoice amount due is \$317,188.75. The remaining allotment of ARPA funds previously allocated to the Park Board is \$304,669.70. The Park Board is responsible for payment of the remaining balance.

Ms. Smoljanovich explained that the budget revision is to reflect the increase in health care benefits for the next six months.

The beginning General Fund cash balance was approximately \$4,506,052.07. Deposits totaled \$700,909.72. Transfers included \$100,000 to the Transit Account and \$99,151.25 to the HUD/IAR account. Interest earned was \$4,328.09. Disbursements totaled \$2,584,791.78, leaving an ending General Fund cash balance of \$2,427,346.85.

Due to understaffing within the State Auditor's Office, there were delays in receiving approvals for previously submitted budget revisions. Approval has now been received for the outstanding revisions.

Motion to accept the financial report: Councilman Stead

Motion Approved: 7/0

A Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was made at 7:20 p.m. by **Councilman Stead**.

Motion Approved: 7/0

Council reconvened into Regular Session at 7:37 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2268 to Amend the Traffic Control Map, Ordinance No. 214, to Establish a Disability Parking Space at 105 Weirview Street. (Councilman Connell)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Connell

Motion Approved: 7/0

2. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2269 to Amend Appendix A of the Rules and Regulations of the Police Civil Service Commission of the City of Weirton. (City Attorney)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Rocchio

Motion Approved: 7/0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A Resolution to Authorize Revisions to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget. (City Manager)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Stead

A Roll Call Vote was Required for the Motion:

Councilman Connell	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Cunningham	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Keeder	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Stead	<u>Yes</u>
Councilwoman Holloway	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Rocchio	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Jonczak	<u>Yes</u>

Motion Approved: 7/0

2. An Ordinance Modifying Ordinance #1313, as Amended, Establishing New Minimum and Maximum Salary Levels of Specific Non-Union Municipal Employees within Specific Departments of the City of Weirton General Fund and Adding/Eliminating Specific Positions. (City Manager)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Jonczak

Motion Approved: 7/0

3. A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Six (6) Additional Firefighters, the Reopening and Operation of the County Road Fire Station, and Providing for Current and Future Budgetary Authorizations Related Thereto. (Councilman Connell, Councilwoman Holloway, Councilman Rocchio)

Motion to Table: Councilman Stead

Motion Approved: 7/0

Discussion: Council discussed the reason for tabling the item related to additional firefighter hiring. It was explained that the matter was tabled to allow further discussion at the upcoming workshop scheduled for January 22, including input from the Fire Department, to ensure the process is completed correctly and supports the hiring and retention of additional firefighters and the reopening of the fire station. Council emphasized that the action to table was not a reflection of opposition to the proposal.

4. An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Weirton Establishing a Section Under the City of Weirton Administrative Code, Chapter 5 Housing, *Vacant Building Registration Program*. (Mayor Harris, City Manager)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Rocchio

Motion Approved: 7/0

CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Public Works Superintendent – Jeff Berry – The salt bin is about 75% full with 300 tons on order. About 16 tons of cold mix was received to allow street patching to continue. The street department is still in need of two truck drivers. One participant from the Mayor's Summer Youth Program has been hired as a full-time employee in the Sanitation Department.

Planning and Development Director – Mark Miller – Thrasher Engineering completed its quarterly review of Marland Heights Road, with no significant roadway movement observed during the three-month period. Maps and pictures are available for review. St. Joseph's College has purchased the former Liberty School property and is proposing an eleven-home subdivision. The project is expected to be reviewed by the Planning Commission in February and then forwarded to Council. Regarding Powerhouse Road, it was reported that Thrasher Engineering is evaluating the matter and is expected to provide two study options: one involving extension or improvement of piling on the offside of the roadway, and another involving hillside modification to stabilize the area.

Code Enforcement – Nick Stewart – Inspector Dave Ziegler passed the Plumbing I examination and Inspector Ty Kelly passed the Building I examination. As of today, the signs on Collier’s Way have been removed.

Fire Department – Chief Kevin Himmelrick – Funding in the amount of \$4,600 was secured through community partners to support a smoke detector program. As a result, over 600 smoke detectors are currently available for distribution and installation in residences lacking working detectors. It was also reported that Weirton Local 948 participated in a statewide fundraising effort benefiting WVU Children’s Hospital, ranking second among the Local Unions of firefighters in West Virginia raising \$5,100 for the cause. Funds raised contributed to the dedication of a hospital room in the name of the West Virginia Professional Firefighters Association. Council expressed appreciation for the Fire Department’s community involvement.

Police Department – Chief Charlie Kush – In December, the department received 622 calls for service, issued 28 citations, made 53 misdemeanor arrests, and 5 felony arrests. The police applicant physical agility exam took place last Saturday, with 10 applicants participating and 8 advancing to the written exam. The traffic camera technology recently implemented, has been instrumental in assisting with hit-and-run and fleeing suspect investigations throughout the city. Installation of the remaining traffic cameras is scheduled to continue throughout the City. Yesterday, the officers began 12-hour shifts, and the change has been well received. Regarding traffic congestion near the Walmart/Wash-Rite area, the Police Department reported that officers are conducting frequent traffic checks to keep vehicles moving, coordinating with business management, and may issue citations if necessary to address impeding traffic.

Assistant City Manager – DeeAnn Pulliam – The 2025 Community Christmas Takeout Dinner served over 300 meals. A thank you was conveyed to EzFresh Meals for providing their facilities and help in preparation of the meals, as well as to City staff and Council members who also participated. The MLK Walk will take place on Monday, January 19th, starting at 11:00 a.m., at Christ the King Church, followed by a presentation at the Dunbar Recreation Center about the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. titled “Wanted by the FBI, James Earl Ray” at 12 p.m. The 13th Annual Festival of Nations event will be on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Millsop Community Center, with free parking and free entry. Members of the Weirton Youth Council were recognized for being in attendance tonight.

Transit Director – Kevin Davis – Ridership is up 10% from this time last year.

Utilities Director – Butch Mastrantoni – Mr. Mastrantoni requested that the Mayor and City Manager schedule a work session with the Water Board and its staff to review operational matters and clarify questions regarding transparency and service performance. He emphasized that this session is intended to ensure that Council and Water Board members have a consistent understanding of operations and reports. The Water Board continues to provide monthly operational and financial reports, including Public Service Commission documentation to Council. He noted that the Water Board meets monthly and that all business is conducted in public, with agendas, financials, and reports provided in Council packets. It was also noted that Water Board staff continue to operate and maintain the water system under challenging conditions and that prior customer service complaints have been addressed in accordance with Public Service Commission findings.

Parks and Recreation Director – Coty Shingle – The youth basketball league currently has 184 participants, which is higher than in previous years. With the increased participation, parking availability at the Millsop Center during evening activities through mid-February may be limited. Additionally, the south wall of the Millsop Center has been completed and tomorrow it will be unveiled showing a new exterior finish that complements the building's brickwork and includes identifying lettering.

Mary H. Weir Library Board President – Moller Mosser – The Library Board is actively seeking a new director, business manager, and on-site bookkeeper. Improvements to the building continue. Councilmembers were encouraged to visit the Library to see the improvements. A thank you was conveyed to the City's electricians for installing LED lights in the foyer.

City Manager – Mike Adams – The Fire Department was recognized for responding to a safety issue involving a loose billboard near Kentucky Fried Chicken. During a recent meeting with the Hancock County Board of Education a minor amendment to the transfer of Red Rider Road to the County in exchange for Sinclair Avenue was discussed to expand the boundaries. Processing of FOIA requests continue with approximately 30 handled within the past couple of months. The Hancock County Commission recognized Weirton for its recent designation by U.S. News & World Report as the second-best place to retire in 2026. Water from what is believed to be from an old mine under Pennsylvania Avenue is being redirected via a temporary channel and strip drain by the DOH. The purpose of the vacant building ordinance on tonight's agenda is to support downtown revitalization. A very productive meeting took place with the DOH regarding the intersection at the bottom of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Form Energy site. It was discussed to possibly combine a couple of different projects to be done by one contractor to hopefully speed up the project. Bids will be going out soon for a city-wide comprehensive plan that will include development, recreation, housing, downtown revitalization, and parks. The City has received several inquiries from new businesses coming to Weirton. The City has communicated with the management of Wash-Rite and the DOH regarding the traffic stacking issue on Park Drive. Park Drive is a state-maintained road so any traffic management actions must be coordinated with the DOH. Additionally South 11th Street will be closed up to Red Rider Road for road maintenance on January 13th.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

No additional comments or communications were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Connell made a motion to adjourn.

Motion Approved: 7/0

Mayor Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Councilman Connell recited the closing prayer.

Minutes approved on February 9, 2026.

Signed: Kimberly Long, City Clerk