

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018, 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 12, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of the Weirton Municipal Building.

**Councilmembers in Attendance:**

Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1	
Matthew Provenzano	Councilmember Ward 2	
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3	
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4	
Douglas L. Jackson	Councilmember Ward 5	<b>ABSENT</b>
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6	
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7	<b>ABSENT</b>

**City Officials in Attendance:**

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis L. Blosser	City Manager
Matt Burskey	Interim Code Official
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
A.D. Mastratoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Kathy Mrvos	City Clerk
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Cody Shingle	Park Board Executive Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief

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

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

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

**January 8, 2017 Regular Meeting**

The motion passed 5/0

### **Mayors Awards and Proclamations:**

**Veteran's Proclamation: Wesley I. Holloway**, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on December 13, 2010, and he served his country from June 2011 through August 2014 out of Delta Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> Assault Amphibian Battalion Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms, California and was deployed to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan during October 2012 to April 2013. Wesley received many awards including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and NATO Medal – ISAF Afghanistan. Sergeant Holloway was discharged in August 2014 and graduated from the Franciscan University of Steubenville in May 2017 with honors. We would like to recognize veteran Wesley I. Holloway for his dedicated military service to our country.

### **Citizens Remarks:**

James Keller, 111 Sellitti Lane - Awareness

I am only here for one reason. We have a problem, and it looks like I picked a good day. We are honoring heroes. That is what I am trying to do is create heroes. The past forty years of my life I have known that this problem has been in existence, and for the longest time it has been swept underneath the rug. We have talked about it a lot. As a matter of fact, about a year and half ago this letter was sent out (Do you remember this letter Mayor?) It was sent out to all community leaders from Bubba Miller asking everybody to pull together. In the past year and half, I sat back and I listened. I watched and listened and I watched. You know what I heard nothing ....crickets. But what I also heard was children. Young kids 15 years old, 10 years old, 5 years old all across this area crying. Looking for somebody to help, looking for somebody to talk to. Meanwhile there friends don't understand, so these kids cannot talk to their friends because they do not understand because it is uncool to talk about their problems. If they do not have adults to talk to, they get lost in the shuffle. There is a young kid 14 years old who two weeks ago sat there and looked at me and asked me if I knew his father. I said no. He gave me his father's name. I recognized the name because I saw him on the news. He was an abuser. This little kid and his three siblings were taken out of the home. I asked him what is going on with you and where are you now? He said I am at my grandma's house. Who is watching you? James said, I am a grown adult and it is 12:30 at night, what are you doing here? Nobody is watching me. I just tried to get out of the cold to see one of my friends and this kid was sitting at my table. It sparked a fire once again on something that I have sat on. Mr. Mayor the last time I saw you, and you asked where have I been? I have just been waiting. I feel that the wait is over. Normally when I am standing here, I am talking about drug addiction. I am talking about how we can help addicts. Last time when I stood in this very spot I begged the City Council to open up a detox center. I stood in this very spot to

the Zoning Board Committee when I looked straight at the guy, and I said I am here to make a difference. The guy asked me who is here with you? There was nobody. He hit the gavel and said there is nothing we can do for you come back when you have somebody. I came back, you guys remember that, I came back with 1,200 people. This is a problem that is infested within our city, within our schools. I am going to tell you what is going to happen if we do not fix this problem. Kids are going to grow up, and feel lost they are not going to have anywhere to go, and they are going to turn out like me. Not the me standing before you today. I am talking about the me twenty years ago that got kicked out the City of Steubenville. You guys know how bad you have to be getting kicked out of the City of Steubenville. That was me. I was the guy when I walked into Weirton every single Weirton Cop that was on the force knew exactly who I was, even though I never talked to one of them. Old ladies walking out of the stores would spit at my feet. That is what a big nuisance I was. One day, I fell on my knees and asked God to help me and save me. What he did was take my mother, and then I went crazy some more. Then he made me sick. Then I stood alone for 15 years until a couple years ago (2010). You guys remember that when I stood in front of you .. hey.. we have a problem once again. I talked about the drug problem. In 2009, and every day before June 2010, you could not get anybody to admit that there was a drug problem in this area. In June, I stood up and held a concert. After that concert, I went to Walmart, and every aisle that I went to, I will never forget that day as long as I live. Every aisle I went to, they was talking about the drug problem. Instead of saying not my home, I kept hearing me too. Child abuse is I think the worse problem we have here. It is worse than any drug problem we have because this is the beginning. We have been playing defense for forty years. Forty years we have been playing defense with this. This is the definition of insanity doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. It is time we stop running around in circles, and we go in a straight line. Our children do not feel we are here for them. So what do they do, they turn to the guy who is on the street corner saying, hey I understand....try this. What I am trying to do, and what I feel we all need to do, is what this letter says we need to pull together. I called someone, and I see them on the news all the time (I am not going to mention any names) if you see my video blogs you might know the name. I had a good two minute conversation with this guy until he asked me where I live. I said I live in Weirton ..... nope .... Click. People from Steubenville come over here with their families. Their problems are our problems. Our problems are their problems. But because I lived on this side of the river I got hung up on. People think that these kids are just going to grow and be unscarred. Child abuse is a scar that does not go away. It doesn't go away it doesn't fade. It says in the letter that I want to point out to you the Police, schools, and the Medical Professions of our communities have been working together getting more awareness with this issue. We as leaders of our communities should also be involved in the awareness of the physical and sexual abuse against our children. Remember writing that? Do you remember why you wrote this sir?

Mayor Miller, I was a member of the Comfort House on the Board of Directors when I saw the abuse continue to increase in our county for years and years.

James Keller, I called Mayor Miller a year and half ago. I released a series of videos. It works when you take away all of it, you take away judgement, and you take away the idea

of money. You sit there and just show these children you are there for them. It works so I called him. I believe in Mayor Miller and that is why he wrote this letter. What is so sad to me is the fact that since this letter went out, it was a beacon of hope that just went silent. I am sorry it cannot go silent anymore. There is a little kid two weeks ago that talked with me, and the kid who is 15 years old that got sexually molested by his stepmother who only spent a year and half in jail. She is out now and all her people are attacking the 15 year old. It is the sad sick world that we live in. What am I bringing to the table? Well, I am an entertainer that is what I do, and I am presenting Weirton with a concert this summer. I will figure out all the details and we can get together. A concert brought the awareness of drug addiction to the forefront. Before I go any further, I want to thank each and every one of you guys for responding. A concert brought the public awareness the first time around, and what happened after the concert, we saw grass roots build up and everyone started talking. Half the town was walking down Main Street in 2010. My system works if given the opportunity. I am asking for you to join me in just making sure we get as many people as possible. We had the chili cook off two Octobers in a row, and I showed up and spoke. Here is the thing that I think why that really did not work is because when you do a chili cook off you put another thing to pay attention to on this side, and you put the reason why we are there on this side, everybody is always going to go where they do not have to think too much and they can eat enjoy chili have fun, and hang out with their friends. On this side, we have a serious issue that needs to be talked about and brought to our public. We have to be there more in our schools. We have to be there for our children. I am asking for your backing but not today. Do it my way one time. Trust me one time that is all I am asking. Let me show you what we can do. I want to thank you very much for your time.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**NONE**

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

**N/A**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Ordinance No. 2028. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 784 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish a Double Yellow Line 30 feet in the middle of street where Pennsylvania Avenue connects to Circle Drive. (Councilman Weigel)**

Motion was made to approve by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.  
Motion passed 5/0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Ordinance No. 2030 to the Amendment No. 786 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish Dedicated Residential Disability Parking Space at 131 Cropper Street ( Mrs. Minnie Pete) (Councilman Fracasso) EMERGENCY READING**

Motion to approve by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Fracasso.

Roll Call:	Councilman Ash	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Weigel	<u>ABSENT</u>
	Councilman Marsh	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Provenzano	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Jackson	<u>ABSENT</u>
	Councilman Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 5/0

**2. Ordinance Modifying Ordinance #1313, As Amended, Establishing New Salaries for Firefighters who are Members of the Weirton Firefighters' Association Local #948, and Authorizing the City Manager to sign the New Contract Necessary to place these Changes into Effect. (City Manager)**

A motion was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.  
Motion passed 5/0

Councilman Ash, I would like to ask a question. Is the President of the Union here today? Please stand. Are you alright with the contract?

Jim Brueck, President of the Union, yes sir.

Councilman Ash, Union agrees with it?

Jim Brueck, President of the Union, yes sir.

Councilman Ash, thank you.

**3. Resolution to Enter into Contract for Property and Liability Insurance Coverage for City of Weirton. (\$639,759.00)**

A motion was made by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Connell.  
Motion passed 5/0

**4. Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of One (1) 2018 Hino 338 – 2 ½ Ton Dump Truck for the Public Works Street Department. (\$120,879.00) (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Fracasso, and second by Councilman Connell.  
Motion passed 5/0

**5. Ordinance to Abandon a Portion of an Unnamed 16' Alley, the Western Portion of Avenue F with Utility Easement, and a 15' Alley known as Alley K. (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Ash.  
Motion passed 5/0

**APPOINTMENTS:**

NONE

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Police Department – Chief Alexander**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

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

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Code Department – Matt Burskey**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Councilman Ash, On the 4100 block of Washington Street there are three (3) houses down there that are empty. I would like to have every report that you had in the last 60 days for those three (3) properties.

Also, then I would like to get from Chief Alexander how many times the police department has been down there. Those three (3) properties seem to be getting calls constantly with people breaking in. After I get that report, I am going to turn it over for a nuisance complaint.

## **Fire Department – Chief Shumate**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Library – Rik Rekowski**

Just an announcement and a reminder the Mary H. Weir Public Library is providing at least 40 hours of income tax assistance with the collaboration and support with Change, Inc. This is a volunteer income tax assistance program across the nation. It is available here in Weirton with 40 public hours at the Mary H. Weir Public Library. They have already gone through six (6) Saturdays, 40 hours. They have already used 14 hours so far, and the lines do get large in the mornings.

Also, an announcement that the State Forms as well as the Federal Tax Forms have not arrived yet at the Mary H. Weir Public Library. It would be great if the public would communicate to our State and local Federal Government by email to expedite those forms because of the tax law changing. Thank You.

## **Public Works – Rod Rosnick**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Transit – Donna Gialluco**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Planning & Development – Mark Miller**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Park Board – Coty Shingle**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Finances– Travis L. Blosser, City Manager**

**General Fund Cash Report for January, 2018**

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$3,066,831.53
Interest on Checking:	\$1,178.25
Deposits:	\$1,931,658.15
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$2,498,481.91
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$2,501,186.02
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:	\$2,501,986.02

Additionally we do not have any outstanding invoices due at this time.

Motion to approve by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Ash.  
Motion passed 5/0

**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 Ash, and second by Councilman Marsh.

Motion passed 5/0