

# **WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017, 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, March 13, 2017, 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
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
Bob Hinchee	Fire Captain
Ken Fletcher	Chief Code Official
A.D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director

**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 Connell to approve the minutes of the:

### **February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting**

The motion passed, 6/0

(Councilman George Ash abstained)

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

**February 24, 2017 Special Meeting**

The motion passed, 6/0

(Councilman George Ash abstained)

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

**February 24, 2017 Workshop Meeting**

The motion passed, 6/0

(Councilman George Ash abstained)

**Mayors Awards and Proclamations:**

**Veteran's Proclamation**

Staff Sergeant Larry Keith Utt, Jr. – Veteran of the United States Army for his dedicated military service to our country. He is currently an Honor Guard for The American Legion and a Color Guard for the VFW.

**Proclamation**

Caleb Rea – To acknowledge the academic and athletic achievements of a Weir High School student in the City of Weirton.

**Citizens Remarks:**

Patrick Ford – BDC

I have had the good fortune over my years in this business to work with a number of municipal governments. What I have found in working with government employees is that the easiest word for a government employee to say is "No". The hardest word for a government employee to say is "When" and "How". No requires no work, "When" and "How" requires work. The words "When" and "How" is like oxygen to a business person. When a business person needs something, they need to hear those words. I worked closely with Travis Blosser, Mark Miller, Vince Gurrera, Chief Alexander, and also Debbie and DeeAnn from Mr. Blosser's office, basically your front line. I worked with them particularly closely on our past two transactions in attracting Pietro Fiorentini and Bidell Gas Compression, two international companies that have chosen Weirton, West Virginia to have their first United States Manufacturing Operation. Not one time when I talked to your team Mayor and Council did we ever hear the word "No" in how to close these deals. Now we all know Mr. Blosser, he probably had a couple other words for me to hear, some of those I probably deserved? But, not once did I hear the word "No" from Mr. Blosser. When we needed a gap to close to pay for the extension of Park Drive and Three

Springs Business Park to close the Fiorentini deal, Blosser said "When" and he asked his team "How". When we needed to address a number of complex sub-division plan issues, utilities easement, and access issues for Fiorentini, Blosser again said "When" and he asked his team "How". When we needed a location and a venue to ink the transaction between Fiorentini, City of Weirton, Brooke County, and the BDC, Blosser again said "When" and asked his team "How".

With regard to the closing of the BDC purchase of the former Accelor-Mittal Central Machine Shop from Frontier, and the public does not know this but actual purchase of Frontier from Accelor-Mittal actually only occurred five days prior to our closing of the transaction with Frontier. That left the BDC in a position where we needed a number of administrative reviews, and approvals from the City Administration prior to closing in five days. When I told Blosser that Bidell needed to know what the City would require for building permits, access permits, utility needs, Mr. Blosser said "When". Blosser had his team on site immediately working with the contractors and Bidell to assess and advise on the situation. When I told Blosser that Bidell was concerned about how the road rights of way transact of much needed yards, that Bidell will need to operate in Weirton, Blosser again, said "When". Blosser assembled his team immediately, and chartered a plan with the Vice President of Bidell Gas Compression to address their needs in an expeditious, thorough, and a professional manner. When I asked Mr. Blosser for help with a permit approval prior to the closing, actually one day before closing, Blosser again said "When" and then he called Mr. Mark Miller, and of course asked him to carry the weight, and asked him "How". Mark got it done in an afternoon. We closed on time.

When I received word that Secretary of Commerce, Woody Thrasher wanted to make the announcement in Weirton on site in 48 hours, I called Mr. Blosser once again, and as always he said "When" he called his assistants Debbie and DeeAnn, and asked them "How". When I received notice that the Secretary of Commerce was flying into the Ohio County Airport because of weather conditions, and he had to be transported to and from the airport immediately before, and after the event last Friday. Mr. Blosser figured that we only had 20 minutes to get him from the airport to the event, and 20 minutes to get him back. Again, Mr. Blosser asked "When" and he needed the Chief of Police on this one, figured it out, and got it done.

What was not asked of Mr. Blosser, nor my assistant Amber was the little things. Those things were taken care of by Debbie and DeeAnn of Mr. Blosser's Office, and Amber and Alexa of my office. While all of us, the people in this room, were celebrating the announcement of the new investment jobs, guess what Bidell, the staff of Bidell, and the Governor's office, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Executive Director of the West Virginia EDA were not talking about the jobs, those gentlemen were talking about the little things. The flags, including flags from Canada, U.S., West Virginia and Weirton were proudly, prominently, and meticulously displayed. The arrangement of the chairs for our guests and partners were all perfect. The refreshment for our guests and partners were perfect. The sound system and podium to make the announcement was perfect. The parking for our guest and partners was perfect. The Mayor and Council that was one classy event. It was professional, it made us proud, and it was exciting. The event was first

class. Some of the folks from Canada and Charleston said they had never received that kind of treatment in their professional careers. That is a quote from a couple high ranking officials. That was not Travis or me. That was Debbie, DeeAnn, Amber and Alexa. We should thank these women. Make no mistake Bidell is going to be telling this story to their partners, and also their suppliers who are going to want to place new business. West Virginia Secretary of Commerce, Woody Thrasher is going to be telling this story to his boss, and we know who his boss is. I assure you because of the display of our pride, the attention to detail, that the Governor or Secretary of Commerce are faced with a decision to make an announcement somewhere in the State of West Virginia, in the future, and they have to choose between Martinsburg, Huntington, Charleston or Parkersburg, it will be hard for them to say "No" to Weirton. We made their job a heck of a lot easier because as Travis would say "When" and "How". Right Mr. Blosser? Thank You.

**COMMUNICATIONS:  
NONE**

**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:  
NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Public Hearing for consideration of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year General Fund and Coal Severance Fund Budgets (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Fracasso, and second by Councilman Marsh.  
Motion passed 7/0

**2. Resolution to Approve the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year General Fund and Coal Severance Fund Budgets (City Manager)**

Motion was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Fracasso.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilman George Ash	<u>NO</u>
Councilman Terry Weigel	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Fred Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Matt Provenzano	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Enzo Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Douglas Jackson	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Tim Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 6/1

**3. Ordinance No. 2018 Part V. General Offenses Code/Chapter 1: General Offenses/Article 509.15: Charge of Appearing in a Public Place or Automobile in a Non Alcohol Intoxicated or Drug Induced Condition (City Manager) (Emergency Reading)**

Vince Gurrera, City Attorney – Stated that a change has been made removing the Non-Alcohol Intoxicated to have the Ordinance read as follows:

**Ordinance No. 2018 Part V. General Offenses Code/Chapter 1: General Offenses/Article 509.15: Charge of Appearing in a Public Place or Automobile in a Drug Induced Condition**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilman George Ash	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Terry Weigel	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Fred Marsh	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Matt Provenzano	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Enzo Fracasso	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Douglas Jackson	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Tim Connell	<u>YES</u>

Motion passed 7/0

Vince Gurrera, City Attorney – City of Weirton is the first city to adopt that Ordinance. Thank You.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

### **Hall of Fame Committee**

Mayor Miller – We are going to pull Noreen Saxon’s name from the committee. As I mentioned in the pre-meeting, we have three nominations for the Hall of Fame Committee.

Charlotte Vargo  
4/1/2017 – 3/31/2020

Fritz Frohnapfel  
4/1/2017 – 3/31/2020

Tim Connell  
4/1/2017 – 3/31/2020

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

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

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

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Mayor I just wanted to say thanks for the Ordinance. When we call Vince, and things pop up, and we see periods that we need to target. I call him, and he answers, and we are right on it. Thanks Vince.

Vince Gurrera, City Attorney – Thank you, seriously you, and your detectives have really done a great job.

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

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

### **Code Department – Ken Fletcher**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Fire Department – Captain Hinchee**

The breathing apparatus that we purchased through the fire fighter grant that we were awarded has been received, and they have been training for the last few days. All the guys have been trained in them. They have been placed on service for all the apparatus.

Secondly, our nineteen year old fire truck has been broke down for about a week, has just been put in service with a pretty extensive bill. It is going to be out of service again this Friday to get springs on its rear end, but hopefully after that it will run fine.

## **Library – Rik Rekowski** Absent.

## **Public Works – Rod Rosnick** Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Transit – Marke Henne** Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Planning & Development – Mark Miller** Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

## **Park Board – Terry Weigel** Just the Festival of Nations is coming up on Saturday. It is a wonderful event. If you have not attended, I encourage everybody to attend it. It is really something special, and brings people in from the whole area.

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

### **General Fund Cash Report for January 2017**

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$2,624,266.92
Interest on Checking:	\$647.66
Deposits:	\$1,040,060.45
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,376,651.14
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00

Ending Cash Balance:	\$2,288,323.89
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:	\$2,289,123.89

Motion was made to approve the bills, accept the financial report and all departmental reports by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Weigel.  
Motion passed 7/0

Councilman Tim Connell – Mr. Mayor may I make a comment? I do not know if everyone has read in the paper. This Friday our Theatre will be opening up in the Plaza, and it is a big deal, because all of us has been going either to Steubenville, or to Robinson to see a movie. It has been a long time since our hometown theatre has been opened up. I have seen pictures of it. It is nothing but top quality. I give a lot of credit to Councilman Jackson for being right out front with that to make sure it will be opening up, and we will have a theatre.

Mayor Miller – It is incredible, I had an opportunity a couple weeks ago to take a quick tour. Councilman Jackson has been working over there, and it is a first class operation, and I want to commend him on getting it opened.

I do want to say one other thing, and I appreciate Pat Ford's comments. He is not alone with his comments coming back to the Mayor's Office for a number of reasons. Do you remember when the museum was going to expand? When I was at the Weir High Gymnasium the dedication of Fritz Williams Gymnasium, Dennis from the museum, said Mayor I have to tell you something. We wanted to expand the upstairs and we were doing some work, and I went down to see Inspections and Building. He expected to get a six week delay before he got an answer. The two gentlemen Mark Miller and Ken Fletcher jumped out of their chairs, and got their jackets on, and went immediately up to the building. They inspected it, and gave their answers in a matter of hours. That is the kind of response that is out in the market place with businesses, and why Weirton has a pro-business attitude now. We are seeing the results of that because of some minor changes you would not even recognize that we made internally and procedures. I want to congratulate the staff, and Travis, and Council for supporting some of the things that went out there to move the city forward in a hurry. I appreciate it and thank you very much.

**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, and second by Councilman Jackson.

Motion passed 7/0