

WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR MONDAY, APRIL 9, 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, April 9, 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
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7

City Officials in Attendance:

Rick Stead	Police Captain
Travis L. Blosser	City Manager
Matt Burskey	Interim Code Official
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
A.D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Kathy Mrvos	City Clerk
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Coty Shingle	Park Board Executive Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance Director

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 Connell

March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting

The motion passed 7/0

Mayors Awards and Proclamations:

National Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2018: Rhonda Stubbs, Executive Director of A Child’s Place CASA, accepted the Proclamation, Child abuse and neglect continues to plague our communities, state, and nation. In 2017 over two hundred and thirty children in Weirton and neighboring cities were subject to abuse and neglect cases. Children, our most valuable resource for a stronger future, deserve to live a life free from threats and danger. The month of April will be dedicated to raising awareness of child abuse and neglect in the City of Weirton, with hope that one day the cycle of abuse and neglect will be broken. The City of Weirton proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages residents, community agencies, faith groups, health facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to support the individuals and organizations who work tirelessly in the fight to stop abuse and neglect against the innocent children of our world.

Veteran’s Proclamation: Mike Gramatikos, Mike enlisted in the United States Army in September of 1951. After basic training at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, the home of the 101st Airborne Division, he was selected to enroll in a leadership class and earned the permanent rank of Private First Class (PFC) upon completion. Mike was given orders for the Far East Command and assigned to the 461st Infantry Battalion Heavy Mortar. He was wounded in action at Finger Ridge in North Korea and quickly attained the rank of Sergeant due to the many injuries and casualties. Mike received many awards for his service: Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Commendation from the 8th Division Republic of Korea General Son Yo Chan, and Commendation from the 11th Division Republic of Korea General Lim Bootaek. The City of Weirton wants to recognize veteran Mike Gramatikos for his dedicated military service to our country.

Citizens Remarks:

George Ramage – Upcoming Town Hall

Good evening everyone, Mayor, and Councilmembers and all the residents here present. I would like to take this opportunity, if I may, for a few minutes to invite all of you here to a Town Hall Meeting which will be set for this coming Wednesday, April 11, at 6:30 pm, at the Millsop Center in the Weirton Room. Tom Willis, who is running for U.S. Senate, is a candidate for the U.S. Senate will be there for a Town Hall Meeting. He would like for as many people as possible to attend, and hear what he has to say. He is a very good man. I spoke to him for a little bit on the phone. He is from the Eastern Panhandle, the other Panhandle from the state. He is a business guy. He also was in the military, and served in

the Special Forces for several years. He has a lot of good qualities, and just would like for you, if you have the opportunity, to come with an open mind and see what he has to say. Thank You.

Patrick Ford – BDC- “Thank You”

Good Evening, I am Pat Ford, resident of the City of Weirton, and Executive Director of the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle. Gentlemen and ladies, I have been fortunate the past couple of months to work with a number of people who can affect change in this community. However, what I have learned in the years or decades as I have been in this business, one person cannot affect change. It takes a team or a village, and what I have come to learn, and it is a word that is becoming quite common in the vernacular of our community, “collaborators”. Our Mayor, Mayor Miller, used that word collaborator when we met our federal partners in Washington a few months ago, and most recently when welcoming U.S. Senator Capito, and U.S. Representative McKinley to the City of Weirton. Our Senator and Congressman used the word Collaboration when announcing over \$4,000,000 of grants and investments in projects in the Northern Panhandle. Our friends in the U.S. EDA, U.S. EPA, and West Virginia Department of Commerce have also said, when talking about recent announcements in Weirton, and yes, they are going to be saying it in anticipation of future announcements in the City of Weirton. I have also come to learn in this business that economic development is a contact sport. Collectively or collaboratively, if that is word, we have the power of David when competing against the Goliath’s of the world for a highly sought after funding for grants from federal agencies, or new businesses and industries looking for a new home.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the BDC, and our most recent development partners, whom I will recognize in a minute, I am thanking the Mayor, and the City Council of Weirton, each one of you, for your tireless, selfless efforts and collaboration on our most recent projects. Thank you for assisting the West Virginia EDA, the West Virginia Development Office, the U.S. EPA, the Brooke County Commission, and the BDC with closing the deal to make it possible for Pietro Fiorentini to build their first U.S. manufacturing facility in Weirton. Your involvement has leveraged \$8,000,000 of investments in the City of Weirton and a projected 155 jobs. Thank You Mayor, and City Council for assisting the West Virginia EDA, the development office, the EPA again, and the Hancock County Commission, this time, for closing the deal with Bidell, to build their first U.S. manufacturing facility in the City of Weirton. Those efforts from you all have leveraged an additional \$5,000,000 of investment in the City of Weirton and a projected 240 jobs. Thank You again Mayor and City Council for assisting the frontier group of companies, and the BDC with being awarded a \$300,000 grant to prepare a reuse plant for the surplus land of Arcelormittal recently purchased by Frontier. If it were not for you, we would of not have received this grant. If it were not for you, we would not have the potential to realize what the amount will be on our most conservative estimates a \$1 billion dollar investment on this 1300 acres and 2,500 jobs.

Lastly, we want to thank you, and I stress we want to thank you, for your recent announced investment in the Three Springs Business Park in general and the Park Drive

property in particular. What the city, region, and state will see in the development of these 72 acres in the City of Weirton will be the result of a text book definition of collaboration. I am joined tonight with our Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Bill Dalesio, also, our partners in this project that we are calling the Park Drive Development and Three Springs Business Park, they are Mr. Eric Frankovitch, Mr. Jason Backel, Mr. Mike Simon is going to be late, and Mr. J.J. Bernabei cannot be here tonight. These gentlemen, Mr. Frankovitch, Mr. Simon, Mr. Bernabei and Mr. Backel, have held this property waiting for the right time, the right team, and the right collaborators, to develop one of the largest remaining parcels of real estate in the City of Weirton. That team, and I emphasis team, the U.S. EDA, the BDC, our local businessmen, and investment partners, and I, will also add that all these people here that I mentioned are all residents of the City of Weirton. We are getting our investments from Weirton residents and Weirton businessmen. They could of not have done this, and they would of not taken this step without the decision that you all have made to invest in this property. So the time is now. That approximate \$1.2 million dollar EDA grant for which you applied, and that U.S. Senator Capito announced you were awarded last week has leveraged, based on conservative estimates again, \$50 million dollars of private investments on two acres, and 650 jobs. The BDC, and our investment partners with us tonight, thank you for making it possible for the city to attract more businesses to Weirton, and creating more employment opportunities for residents in the City of Weirton and the Northern Panhandle. I will close with one final comment about collaboration. Collaboration is something you can see, and it is something you can feel. It is what we have, and what we must not lose. Collaboration is also something that you can quantify. If you have been doing the math, as I saw Doug Jackson writing, so I imagine Doug is doing the math, I have just referenced tonight projects that your collaboration will result in \$6.063 billion dollars of investment, and 3,600 jobs in the City of Weirton. If you think about that, your DNA, your legacy, is on each one of those projects in the City of Weirton. Tonight as business people, Board members of the BDC, and residents of the City of Weirton, we are simply here to say thank you. Thank you for your collaboration, thank you for your investments in the City of Weirton, and thank you for your collaboration investments in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. Thank you very much.

Rhonda Stubbs – CASA – April

I just wanted to thank you for all the pin-wheeling. If you haven't noticed around 4 o'clock we were able to go out and pinwheel in front of the City Building. We did the Library on Friday, so they are spinning in the crazy weather we are having. I just wanted to give a shout out and gold star to the city. I was listening to what Pat Ford was saying, and I was thinking that the City of Weirton is just doing so fantastic. We just got the safest city award at Easter. One of the great things is that the City of Weirton is not hyper-focusing in on one thing. They are also focusing on the youngest residents of the city, the young children that we are appointed to across the board in all sorts of areas. It is important we don't stick in one little area. The Mayor last year said to me there are pinwheels at the Library, but why are they not at the City Building. It may only be a half a block, but he wanted to make sure that it was clear that the City was in support of child abuse awareness for this month, and not just the Library. It is an important thing to note that the city for two years in a row has

dressed up all in blue for National Wear Blue Friday to support raising awareness on child abuse. All the city employees, and also the Millsop Community Center, and that is important to shout out, and say they are in support of great childhoods. The community development block grant money that we have been the lucky recipients of for many years, and that investment into our organization, and what we are able to do to help advocate for all the abuse and neglected children that we are appointed to. That really is across the board all the different ways that you are supporting us, and it is really important to us, and important to the city, and important to the children that need our advocacy.

Last, but not least, DeeAnn Pulliam, your city employee, probably has not been bragging about all the great things she has been doing on behalf of CASA because I know she is super humble. I know she takes her commitment to confidentiality very seriously. I can share with you the fact that she is just a stellar example. I am sure she has a fantastic work ethic. Her volunteering is just above reproach. The fact that the city supports her in her ability to have a little flexibility on the days that she has court, and letting her take a lunch break a little different time of day. That is so important that she can be there at those hearings. She is advocating for three (3) families of children right now. One of them, she was the only person working tirelessly to find a family for that little girl she is appointed to. Nobody else was looking for the extended family members. Just last week, after over a year of DeeAnn month, after month, after month saying why do we not have a plan B here, this mom is not getting the drug treatment that she needs to be receiving. Mom is not going into inpatient. Mom is not trying to improve her ability to be a mom. We have no plan B. The Foster Family said she cannot stay with her. DeeAnn kept saying this is not okay, this not okay, this not okay If you ever owed DeeAnn anything she will find you, she will hunt you down and find you, and she did. Now, after a year of her telling people that this is not okay that little girl is going to live with a family member for the first time, and is looking at permanent placement there. That would not have happened if it were not for DeeAnn Pulliam. Thank You.

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. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2034. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 788 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214

of the City of Weirton to Establish a Sign “15 Minute Parking 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, Except Sundays” in front of Sweet Temptations, 3666 Lindberg Way. (Councilman Jackson)

Motion was made to approve by Councilman Jackson, and second by Councilman Connell.

Motion passed 7/0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. An Ordinance Revising, Amending and Re-Enacting Garbage and Refuse Ordinances 16, 74, 106, 130, 146, 210, 752, 876, 984, 1020, 1281, and 1765. (Councilman Ash)

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

Motion passed to Table 7/0

2. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Costs Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties Pursuant to Ordinance 250 (312 Kentucky Street) (\$6,215.50) (City Manager)

A motion was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Weigel.

Motion passed 7/0

3. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Cost Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties Pursuant to Ordinance 250 (3337 Orchard Street) (\$2,876.00) (City Manager)

A motion was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Fracasso.

Motion passed 7/0

4. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Costs Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties Pursuant to Ordinance 250 (3132 Hill Avenue) (\$6,700.00) (City Manager)

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

Motion passed 7/0

5. Resolution by the Common Council of the City of Weirton, West Virginia, Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant from the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration for Three Springs Business Park Infrastructure Improvements (City Manager)

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

APPOINTMENTS:

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department – Captain Stead

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Utilities – Water and Sewer – A.D. Mastrantoni

I did want to advise council that the Weirton Area Water Board is about to begin its project with regard to a radio read meter system. As all of you are aware, we read every 60 days, and bill monthly. The new radio reading equipment will allow us to harvest readings monthly so the actual coincide with an actual usage minimizing the need for any estimates in the future. You will never really eliminate all, but hopefully we truly minimize so we won't have to depend on that. It should help our area customers with their budget by managing the water that they use. We will be informing each neighborhood. Contractors agreed to inform each neighborhood, as the meters will be installed so that we will keep the community aware what is going on at all times. Any of your constituents that call, and have any questions, again refer them to me or Sam Stoneking at the Weirton Area Water Board. Any questions that you might have about where the project activities are going to be at any given month, I would be happy to respond as soon as you guys want to contact me. That is all I have.

Code Department – Matt Burskey

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Fire Department – Chief Shumate

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Public Works – Rod Rosnick

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports. It will be Spring Clean Up week and Public Works will be shut down for 6 days.

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– Diana Smoljanovich, Finance Director

General Fund Cash Report for March, 2018

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$2,307,844.38
Interest on Checking:	\$1,054.79
Deposits:	\$1,559,536.66
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,654,519.20
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$2,213,916.63
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:	\$2,214,716.63

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

Motion to approve by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Weigel.
Motion passed 7/0

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