

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

City Officials in Attendance:

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
A.D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Bruce Lamp	Public Works Superintendent
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 April 9, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Weigel

April 9, 2018, Regular Meeting

The motion passed 6/0

A motion to approve the April 17, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell

April 17, 2018 Special Meeting

The motion passed 6/0

Mayors Awards and Proclamations:

Relay for Life Days – Paint the Town Purple – May 15 – June 5, 2018: **Steve Lauck, co-chair of the event, accepted the Proclamation,** the American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer; and, one in three women and one in two men in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime; Relay for Life is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight against cancer; money raised during Relay for Life of Brooke/Hancock Counties supports the American Cancer Society's efforts to help save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays – as they help people stay well, get well, find cures for cancer, and hold fast to the mission; Relay for Life helps fund groundbreaking research, crucial patient care programs, education, and prevention information – all critical in this "fight." The City of Weirton does hereby proclaim May 15 – June 5, 2018, as ***RELAY FOR LIFE DAYS – PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE***, and encourages all residents to celebrate survivorship, remember loved ones lost to the disease, honor caregivers, and support Relay for Life's fight against cancer.

Veteran's Proclamation: Lisa M. Burk, Lisa Burk's current military assignment in the United States Army Reserve is First Sergeant in the 336th Engineer Company. After completing Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in 1992, she has served her country while moving up the ranks from SPC to SFC. SFC Burk received many awards, and the long list of awards – to name just a few – includes the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Lisa also serves as a Special Education Teacher at Weir Middle School. We would like to recognize veteran Lisa M. Burk for her dedicated military service to our country.

Citizens Remarks:

Patricia Evano – Benefits for BOT Workers

Mayor Miller, City Manager, who is not here, Councilmen, City Attorney Gurrera, Finance Director Smoljanovich. I am Patricia Evano, and I am here to discuss the plight of the back-of-the-truck sanitation and recycle workers. All of us with yellow arm bands stand in solidarity. First, I want to clarify something. I was misquoted at your April Council Meeting and subsequently in the Daily Times. At that time, I did not have 1,000 signatures on the petition. But my committee's goal was 1,000. I have been told that some of you have been telling Weirton residents that all of the back-of-the-truck workers have been offered full time positions over the years; and all have refused. What you have failed to add, is that the full time position, at that time, required a Commercial Driver's License. Not all of those workers could or would choose to qualify for that license. I do not want to believe that you spread this information in an effort to discourage residents from signing this petition.

In a perfect world, they would step up in their positions where they are classified as part-time even though they work full-time hours to a valid classification as full-time with benefits. Their positions would not be posted. And they would not have to reapply for a job that many have been working for several years, some 24, 19, and 16. They would not have to obtain a Commercial Driver's License. They may be invited to join the union. City Government, you can make this happen. If not now, when, ever, never. I have in my hand a petition that reads: "this is to certify that I am a resident of Weirton, WV, and that I firmly believe that the Sanitation – Recycling (back-of-the-truck) workers should be classified as full-time employees with all the benefits thereof. I am willing to pay an extra \$4.00 on my monthly City Utilities bill to accomplish this right and just action.

I have 1,288 signatures. City Administration, I beg you, go forward, do the right thing, God Bless You.

Gene Matey – Against Benefits

To me, many of you are strangers, as I am a stranger to you. I came up here and I see these yellow armbands. I do not have any armbands, so I am not going to win any popularity contests. However, you want to know who I am. I am not here to give an autobiography, but I want you to know who I am and about me. I am old school and know what bad times are. I was born when Herbert Hoover was president. I served during World War II. After World War II, I made the mistake signing up for the reserves. Then the Korean War broke out, and I was called back in to serve the Korean. Thank the good Lord I am still here. And I worked for 40 years at Weirton Steel.

Now, to talk about this raise. I am in the working class that is obvious. And when you do retire, you collect social security. In the past three years, those who are on social security know what I am talking about. Three years went by, and gas and food costs went up, everything went up, except social security benefits. After three years of no raises, finally this year we got a raise. A \$3.00 dollar a month raise we gained. I see people that work on the sanitation truck. Not all of us can get a top job offering top benefits. As I said, I worked

for the Steel Mill; you start at the bottom and work your way up. Or, you can go through vocational school, trade school, or college to get a better job. The reason I signed up for the reserves, and signed up for the Army being a 17 year old going to World War II, was to get the GI Bill of Rights so I could go to school and go to college. My parents did not have the money. During 1928, when I was born, people were unemployed, they lost their jobs, and they lost their savings after the banks fell. They were committing suicide. I went through that ear. You want to know why I am here, is nothing against the workers. I say once again, if you have a job, and you are not making big bucks, then get a trade. Go to trade school, vocational school, or college. Don't ask the people, the thousands of senior citizens, here in Weirton, to pay for a handful of people to work on a back of a garbage truck. Go to school or gain a trade. City Manager Travis Blosser and Mayor Harold Miller, are saying we do not have enough money in the kitty to give this raise Ms. Evano wants to give them, so that would mean a raise that would cost us \$4.00 a month. And in the meantime it took me and the rest of us drawing social security three years to get a total of \$3.00, here we waited 3 years for \$3.00, and they are asking for \$4.00. I do not think that is right either. That is why I am not supporting the raise for the sanitation workers. I hope you can understand where I am coming from.

Rose Mark – Yellow Line needed

Good evening Mayor and council members and thank you for allowing me to speak on a subject of concern. My name and most you , if not all of you, know me I think, is Rose Mark, and I reside at 3540 Bright Way. Please forgive me for reading, because I would forget all this otherwise. I think Brightway is the longest street on Marland Heights; correct me if I am wrong, and it does get the most traffic. I am here to address problem at the intersection of Bright Way and Rothrock, which is a four-way stop. The issue is the yellow line in front of 36, I do not know north, south, east, and west, so we have to follow this by addresses. The issue is the yellow line in front of 3652 Brightway, and it is right on the corner where you to turn from Rothrock to Brightway to the right. My neighbor and I have called and spoken to someone from the traffic department, and I have also spoken to my councilman, Doug Jackson, and to my knowledge, it has not been addressed.

I would like to request this yellow line to be extended to as long as the one across the street. The reason is that due to the parked cars on Brightway, it is difficult for drivers that are stopped at the stop sign on Rothrock turning right onto Brightway to see cars approaching the stop sign on Brightway, as well as the drivers turning left from Brightway to Rothrock. Does that make any sense at all? Anybody get that? I have come very close to being hit head on four times in the past year by drivers who that don't, first of all, stop at the sign at all, which I know you cannot do anything about that unless you are sitting there. And second, they do not have the room to turn onto Brightway. Therefore, they turn into the oncoming lane. There is an increasing amount of cars being parked up to the existing yellow line and blocking the vision. Also, there needs to be sign to indicate "no parking" here at the corner. This past winter, with the accumulation of leaves and snow in the gutter, it was not even possible to see the existing yellow line. And with cars then being parked on both sides of the street was double the problem. I would be happy to meet with you at the corner at any time necessary, if necessary, for further discussion. Again, I thank

you for hearing me and I hope you take this into consideration. I am surprised there has not been accident there yet. As far as I know, the last accident of that particular corner is when my husband had it when I was in high school. With summer approaching, the traffic has increased, and hopefully this will solve the problem before an accident, which I am surprised there has not been one. Thank you.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – Rose did you say you took this to the traffic commission?

Rose Mark – I spoke to the street department I think a few times, and I spoke to Doug when he was first elected. I emailed him for about a couple issues. I know my neighbor Diane Johnson said she spoke with the traffic commission. And I think she spoke to them mainly about, and you may remember this, mainly about the big green pickup truck that was parking right at the corner at the end of the yellow line, which totally blocked the street. In the winter, you can see lights coming up Brightway. In the summer, you can't because it is light until 9 o'clock. Now with the increasing cars, kids are home from school, there is more traffic on that street. The school bus stops there. People park there to pick up their kids and drop them off. That only lasts 15 to 20 minutes, and you can handle that. But you know with the increase traffic, and lack of vision on that corner, it is a bad situation. I have almost been hit head on by my own neighbors. I would hate to see that happen to someone or maybe you know kid crossing that would happen to.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – in all fairness to Councilman Jackson since he is not here, we will contact him, and follow up on this and see how far it has gone in the traffic commission.

Rose Mark – yeah, yeah like I said. That was right after the election when he was elected, so I do not know if that was ever brought up, and not to my knowledge, I have never heard from anyone or was approached about it.

Chet Seplinski – Worker Benefits

My name is Chet Seplinski, and I have been a lifetime, long resident of Weirton. And until recently, I did not have much interest, I guess, in what the City was doing, and what was going on, especially with the garbage sanitation workers and their salaries and things of this sort. I think everyone is entitled to a fair and decent wage. I understand that I do not really know the ins and out of this because I am just starting to be aware of everything. But I understand there are temp agencies that are hired. Are they hired to pick up the garbage for a period of time? You did say they were offered a full-time job and then you dropped the statement. I do not want what you offer. You can offer me a full-time job. But unless you can tell me what the benefits are going to be, what the salary is going to be, and what I can look forward to for in retirement, I have no idea what you are referring to. So that may be a general statement you just made. I guess I could understand that.

What I would like to say is that I am on social security right now. And one thing I taught my family, well not my wife, but my children, I tried to teach them that you do not live on what you bring home. I mean you live on what you bring on; you do not live on what people take out of you. As far as social security is concerned, I am in the same boat as this gentleman is. And I understand his feeling, but I compensated myself through the years to

have that extra four bucks or three bucks or whatever is. That is not a life threatening amount of money, and I do have retirement. So maybe if he is only working with the social security, I can understand the complaint. But the one thing I do want to say is you know that every morning these guys get up on the five days they are working, and they work from the time they get up until the time they park that truck at night. Then they are on their own. Now, the only other people, well a lot of people do that, but the police do it. But there are a lot of times where you see a policemen on the side of the road reading a paper. I am sure he is reading to find out to see if the City has arrested, and what do you call it.

And prosecuted the people they have arrested and turned in. I love to watch cops in a sense at the end. "The charges may have been dropped, and they may have thrown it out in for one reason or another." I have seen in years past, and we used to have a councilman that used to get into everyone's business, by going around and checking to see what our City employees are doing. And I did not see anything wrong with that because if we are paying somebody and giving him or her benefits on top of it, you deserve to be working all the time. And one more thing just slipped my mind. Another thing, you guys are all here in great positions, I appreciate everything you do in this community. But when you said, we made them an offer. Sometimes you have to tell the people what the offer is and why it would benefit them. Instead of just saying they would not do it. So, anyway, thank you for all your time and effort, and the three and a half minutes I took.

Blaze Hogan – Worker Benefits

Obviously, my name is Blaze Hogan. I am not wearing an armband not because I am not supporting the garbage men. Obviously, anybody who that has read my articles that I have been doing for several years. I am doing it because I do not think it is necessary to raise the rates by four dollars. Also, I do not believe that it is unfair. I think paying sixteen dollars; I mean fourteen dollars and adding four more is a good deal, so I have no problem with that. I just do not think it is necessary. And the reason I do not think it is necessary is the City has made \$616,254 in the last five years off these guys backs. Now, you could have figured a way, not for it to come to a head like this. But you could have figured a way how to compensate them, a way to make them happier than what they are. And I think what we are doing isn't going to be that beneficial. Because my understanding is, the four dollar raise is going to come to approximately \$380,000 because each benefit, for each person, it is I believe \$43,000 in benefits, and this is on top of their wages. That is what I have been told. Now, they make \$21,800, is that correct, something like that a year. Is that about your average salary, \$21,800? A response was given from an attendee stating let's try a little bit right over thirteen. A year, \$13,000 a year?

Councilman George Ash – who told you they made \$43,000 in benefits?

Blaze Hogan – I do not know. No, no I am not saying they are making it. I am saying for these benefits. To make this \$4.00 raise to get these gentleman benefits it is on an average of \$43,000. Over half of that is the medical. My understating is the employees would get \$25,000 for a family medical. That is what it would cost the City.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – you are close; twenty two and some change, \$22,000 a year just to cover medical.

Blaze Hogan – And this for a family. If you are individual, about \$15,000.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – each one is based on the situation. If they are single, it will not cost them as much.

Blaze Hogan - But is \$15,000 reasonable.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – yeah, keep in mind too, back it up a little bit, the city made a few hundred thousand dollars from the revenue, and this is a utility. Just like water is and sewage. It is a utility, but a lot of it goes back into equipment necessary for continued operations. But I am not going to argue with details. You are correct so far, but you have to keep in mind that insurance plans today cost us the average of \$2,100 per employee a month. It is like that with my own insurance.

Blaze Hogan– I understand it is out of the roof. Okay, and you are going to help me make this point. I do not think they can afford it because they have 8 percent copay on the premium. They have to come up with the 8 percent to get that, correct? You are not giving them a full 100 percent ride.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – they have the choice of the Cadillac program or not.

Blaze Hogan – or just a regular program. It is going to cost them approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year out of the money, and he said he only made \$13,000. If that is correct. So, if they have to come up with that \$2,000 out of that is ten percent of their pay, now they have a deductible, right, there is another \$2,000 deductible. You guys I am told do a health plan and kind of match that, but basically the way I understand it, they have to take \$3,000 out of their hide first before they get a benefit. That is not a benefit really. Right now, they qualify for Medicaid. They can get it free. So what I think is if you take last year's profits of \$89,000 from the sanitation and the \$80,000 you pay the temp agency for six months that is approximately \$170,000. You could take \$17,000 per person, and give it to them, and give them a raise. They can make \$38,000 a year. They can act responsible and can invest it anything they want. Their retirement, whatever health plan they want, and they can go home happy. You got no raise, you make this gentleman happy, and the City has no legacy cost because you paying as you play, right. End of story.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – not quite, we represent the entire community. Whether I am personally for or against it does not make any difference. These councilmen have constituents that they have to contact and answer to. And we would need more information, more positive feedback from the community because we are here to serve the community. If you want these councilmen and this mayor to support this program, show us more. 1,300 signatures is not the entire community. There a lot people in the community who are barely making ends meet, and they are not here to talk about and they have not signed the petition, so it is no different from running for office. We have 19,000 people. We knock on almost every door trying to be elected. And I think the councilmen will tell you.

How many have they heard from in their wards? That is important. If they came in with lists from their wards, and say mayor we need to sit down with the City manager and do this. We are not against it. We just need to sit down and prove it is supported throughout the community.

Blaze Hogan – I understand that Mr. Mayor, what I am saying is that I do not think that, as a community, you need to kick in \$4.00 more dollars. I am saying you got the money here to give each one of these guys, each one of them \$17,000.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – We need to sit down and have another meeting. And when I took over as Mayor, they did not have a heck of a lot of money. Now we are paying into pension plans and we're getting current with pension plans, and these things cost money, Big money. Millions of dollars of contributions so we do not have to take from the fund to put into the pension plans. We have the money now with the sales tax and the things we are doing. We are getting there. And it is more of an open conversation than we ever have about in this community about this situation. I have felt the same way. When I campaigned, I went to Public Works and sat down with these guys. I did not understand why we have so many temporaries who have been here for twenty years. But when you see the numbers, and some of them have had opportunities to do other things within Public Works. We need to get more of the community to endorse this. Most of the councilmen will tell you that there is a lot of times people complain about something they are alone. You are not alone; I am not saying you are alone here. You get one phone call; you cannot say you are going to pave the street. We budget properly to satisfy the most people in the community you can at one time. And I think that is where we are. What we are going to do is have the councilmen do some more conversations with citizens. We have done that with a street name. Do you remember that fellows? Someone wanted to change the name of a street. It was tabled, so they could go out and pole all the citizens on the street to make sure they all agreed.

Blaze Hogan – I will give you my phone number Mr. Mayor, and I would like to have that call about these figures.

Paul Stunda – Worker Benefits

My name is Paul Stunda, and I tell you this is pretty sad. I tell you the reason why I am here, is for Ms. Evano and all of her hard work. I am here for another man, Kenny Lee, Jerry Bonecutter, and myself. Seventeen years, what do I have from the City, right here every day to do this job. No hospitalization, no insurance, no clothing allowance, no vacation, no nothing. What do I have \$10.50 an hour? I work with all nine of these guys, they do not have the years like me, Kenny, and Jerry have. We are not better than anybody else. We made a career out of this job. I do not know what the City of Weirton is so low on sanitation. You can go down to Follansbee. Those guys make more money than we make. Sure, they are little bit smaller, and hire the guys. We are doing the same job. We pick up 18 ton a day. Fill that truck with 12 ton, not even another bag in it. Sure, they have a long ride down to Pennsylvania that is where they have been dumping for years. We started dumping in Brooke County. They have been up there for years. Climb out of that truck you

are stiff as a board. I tell you it is sad. And you have to get more. The routes are getting bigger, and Weirton is growing. I do not care what anybody says. Down at Starvaggi Drive, all those big homes.

You know what is sad; we have picked those totters up by hand, flip those lids, those 96 and 64 totters I could do it myself. But some of these guys you have to flip the lid and double up just to handle it. They are completely filled with grass or kitty litter. There is no bag limit in this City. Right downtown on Tuesday morning, the length of downtown, let us just take a look. 20, 40, 40 piles. I am too old to walk anymore, so I just stand there and throw it. I can still do this job like a 19 year old, but my days are numbered. I do not look at years any more. I get up every morning and pray to God that he gives me strong back and body. I am not the biggest but I can move a lot weight. Thank God I can do this. I cannot even take a vacation because I live paycheck to paycheck. I cannot even rest my body after picking up something heavy. I have to get up and go do it. I made a life out of this. Sanitation is very important in this City. It is very important. Being clean, keeping the city cleaned up. You know I had an opportunity with waste management many years ago before I got in with the City. I wish to God I had taken them because they would have taken care of me. Sanitation is a money maker. Those die hard backs. You have these young guys coming in. I am here for them. Those who only have two or three years. And I want you to look at me. I can still go do that job. Maybe two or more three good years left in me, I hope. I do not know, I hate it day by day. You know, they do not enforce cans. There is a 30-gallon can, go ahead and take it, just take it. I want the same thing that everybody has. I want to have insurance. I want to be able to go to the hospital. I am 52 years old, and have never been to a doctor a day in my life. I have never taken a prescription drug in my life. I drink plenty of water and I work hard. I have been blessed. You know this is something that is way overdue. I know probably over half or 75 percent of the residents in this City, and everything we do for them on weekly basis. It is every day, Monday through Friday. It is 40 hours. Let some else's mother, daughter, brother, or sister go out and do that job.

I am very good with the public. I treat them very well, but you do not walk on me. Carry yourself well, do your job, and treat the people good. And I have been doing that all my years. You got a couch? Let's throw it in the truck, let's go get it. They're older, they cannot walk, carry those cans back up to the front porch for them. We do a lot in this City. And it is very important. I understand this gentleman here with his situation. I understand it. But there has to be more they can do. I do not know what I am going to do if I cannot do this anymore. I am in my 50s, and I have given 17 years to this city. My other buddy gave 24 years, and the other day he was saying "Stunda, wouldn't it be nice for me to sit on this front porch and look at the woods. Just to rest his body. I said Kenny, it sure would be nice. Far as I am concerned, I know my job and I do it well, and I respect people. It would be nice to have the same back thing in return. You all need to look at that. You need to be mentally and physically, I am talking strong. I do not care if it is raining or snowing. Quarter till seven; once you get those trucks ready to go in the morning, you are getting wet and you are getting cold. You better have two pairs of socks on because if you get your feet wet you are done. We are out there for hours. People do not see the danger of being out on these streets. I will be honest; I had a buddy I labored with that got killed on a garbage truck. I worked with the man. That guy lost his life. Who is going to take care of

his wife and children? I just really want you to think about this. It is just very important, and I do not care how you got to do it. I am here for the young guys because my days are numbered. How long can I keep working at that pace. I am still strong, and can out work anybody. But how much more do I want to put myself through that. I thank you for your time.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – we certainly know how the residents feel. They tell us what a great job you do. From the older ladies that cannot get their garbage out and you go in their backyard to get the garbage for them and pull it out to the curb. They brag about you guys all the time. We know what you do. From the beginning of me being elected as Mayor, we have talked about your department on a regular basis. And it has always been this particular stumbling block. It is up to City Council to find a way. We appreciate your comments. This is a subject that should have been addressed years ago. It is an issue. There has to be more discussion, and the councilmen in the various wards need to have more conversations with the residents in their wards about this issue.

Paul Stunda – I am sorry to interrupt, but if the City of Weirton contracted this out, ok, I am sure they are going to be paying out a lot more money now if they brought someone in like Waste Management or Republic in. They are going to pay more than \$14.04.

Councilman Tim Connell – Mr. Mayor I would like to say something in front of councilmen, and I want to say something to the public. There is a small group here in favor of this. The City is large. We represent a lot of people in our wards. If I heard from one, or two, or three people to tell me to vote yay or nay, I have to vote what they want because they elected me to just do just that. So, I am recommending that the people get ahold of their councilmen and let them know how you feel about this raise, because if you don't, it will go through. Then do not complain about the raise in your bill then. That is all I ask. Everyone that does have their garbage collected should have their voice in it. If you say nothing, then do not complain on what you get. If you let one or two speak for you, then that will happen. I am just suggesting that people in each ward get a hold of their councilman and tell them how they feel. We are elected to listen to you, and vote the way you want us to.

Blaze Hogan – she got over 1,200 signatures. You have less than 8,000 paying customers. That has got to be what 15 percent.

Councilman Tim Connell – there is 15 percent that signed the petition. If you wanted to get something passed in legislature, 15 percent is going to do nothing.

Blaze Hogan – how many signatures are needed to put that on a ballot?

Councilman Tim Connell – the last ballot I was with is with the Transit, and you had to have 60 percent to pass. I am just asking the citizens of Weirton to get ahold of your councilmen and tell them know how you feel. I have talked to 4 to 5 people in ward, and they said no. I have more than 4 or 5 people in my ward.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – this is an interesting dilemma that somebody put us in years ago. We are going to take a good hard look at this. Probably leave this on the table and on the

agenda before we take any action on this. It will not change overnight. It will take more information gathering to know we did the right thing. Thank you very much for your comments.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilman George Ash – Yes, Mayor, I have a couple. First thing is I kept hearing over the last two weeks that the individuals would have to have a CDL. They do not need to have a CDL now to work on the back of those trucks, so there is no reason for them to have to have one if this was to get approved. If they chose to go out and get a CDL, that is different. There should be no requirement for it. And I hope the City understands. Why put a special requirement in here just because you do not want something. If want it, that is fine. But do not put a CDL on it; that is not right. They do not have one now. They do not need one if this gets passed.

Second thing I want to talk about, is a couple of months ago, I talked about land banks. I was told I would be called about it, but I haven't heard a thing about land banks at all. And I would like to know what is going on with that.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – as I have said before, Huntington is the City who started that program. They have finally gotten that approved. When we have the Municipal League Board Meeting, we expect to hear where it stands. It is a trial case in Huntington, and from what I understand, we will hear an update from Mayor Steve Williams from Huntington in June.

In fact, it is one of the communication things I wanted to tell everyone. It is the first time ever that the West Virginia Municipal League has had a meeting in Weirton, WV. It will be held June 5 and 6, here in Weirton. These are city representatives across West Virginia, mayors, city managers, and councilmen. We will be able get a clear understanding from mayor Steve Williams from Huntington on where the land banking stands. It is a good program.

Councilman George Ash – I have two other things Mayor. Lee Avenue Bridge, I was told months ago that there was a grant or something to get that completed. What has happened with that?

Mayor Harold E. Miller – the federal government has what you call off-highway bridge money. Off-highway is not Route 22 or something. It is an off-the-highway bridge, you apply for it through the state of West Virginia, and the kicker is you have to have 20 percent of the money. We are fortunate we have the 20 percent. We met about a year and a half ago with the Department of Highways in West Virginia. They have already done a drawing on the Lee Avenue Bridge. We are still waiting on our approval of being a recipient of that grant. Every time we go to Charleston or Washington, we ask about that George. To me, it is has been a safety issue in our City since they closed that bridge. That is where it is. We are on the upper thresholds of the groups who have applied for that grant because we have the 20 percent.

Councilman George Ash – one more thing. I think it was November or December I asked about Drones. Here it is May, and I have not heard anything.

Mayor Harold E. Miller –We have a drone but have not tested it yet. Training is coming up. There again, safety first; that is my priority. We are coming along with both of those projects.

Councilman George Ash – thanked Patty Evano for everything she has done. And I hope you come back every month until we get this done, which will happen one way or another.

Patty Evano – I would like to challenge you councilmen to canvas your areas. Do not just wait for someone to come and tell you they do not want to do this. I am very positive this will have a wonderful outcome, and I will help you anyway I can. If you want me to canvas your district, I will certainly do that just give me where your boundaries are, and I will be there.

Mayor Harold E. Miller – I have one more thing under communications. Tomorrow is the election, and it is important for us to get out in the community and support the levy for the library. The City of Weirton contributes about \$360,000 to the operation of the library, and the rest is funded by the levy. Our library is probably in the top 5 of the whole state. It is being used in all kinds of areas. I encourage everybody to get out and support the levy.

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. 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) TABLED 4/9/18

Motion to remove from the Table by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.

A Roll Call was requested:

Roll Call:	Councilman Ash	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Weigel	<u>NO</u>
	Councilman Marsh	<u>NO</u>
	Councilman Provenzano	<u>YES</u>
	Councilman Fracasso	<u>NO</u>

Councilman Jackson ABSENT
Councilman Connell YES

Vote was 3 – 3, Mayor Miller voted for it to remain on the table until more information was gathered.

Councilman Terry Weigel – requested that staff give all the councilmen copies of the petition.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution to Enter Into a Contract for the Purchase of Eleven (11) Protective Firefighting Coats, Pants, and Leather Boots for Structural Firefighting (\$33,000.00) (City Manager)

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

2. Resolution to Enter Into a Contract for Fireworks Display for the City of Weirton's 2018 Fourth of July Observance (\$14,750.00) (City Manager)

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

3. Resolution to Enter Into a Contract for the Purchase of One (1) Bizhub C-458 Digital Multifunction Imaging System for the Finance Department (\$8,056.02) (City Manager)

A motion was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Fracasso. Motion passed 6/0

4. A Resolution to Enter Into a Contract for the Purchase of New Fueling System at the Public Works Facility (\$325,554.48) (City Manager)

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

5. Resolution to Sign a Lease Agreement with the State of West Virginia for the Brooke-Hancock County Veterans Park, Inc. (\$1.00) (City Manager)

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

6. Ordinance No. 2036. An Ordinance Amendment No. 789 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish Dedicated Residential Disability Parking Space at 126 Elmer Avenue (Eleanor Olenick) (Councilman Ash)

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

7. An Ordinance Amendment No. 790 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish a Yellow Curb 3 Feet North and South of Driveway at 4225 Brooke Street (Councilman Ash)

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

8. An Ordinance Amendment No. 791 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance 214 of the City of Weirton to Extend the Yellow Curb turning left off of Beech Road onto Pikeview Road another 12 Feet which would be on the same side of 101 Pikeview Road (Councilman Fracasso)

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

9. An Ordinance Amendment No. 792 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish a Yellow Curb around the Cul-De-Sac of Denese Drive and also Yellow

around the outer Curb extending 10 Feet from end of Cul-De-Sac up on both sides of the Street (Councilman Weigel)

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

APPOINTMENTS:

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Joseph Price
6/1/2018 – 5/30/2023

Motion to approve appointment by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell. Motion passed 6/0

WATER BOARD

Nat Marino
6/1/2018 – 5/30/2023

Motion to approve appointment by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Marsh. Motion passed 6/0

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department – Chief Alexander
Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Utilities – Water and Sewer – A.D. Mastrantoni
Nothing to report.

Fire Department – Chief Shumate
Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Public Works – Bruce Lamp
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.

Library – Rik Rekowski

Reminded everyone the poles open tomorrow at 6:30 and close at 7:30. And everyone was thanked for putting up signs and supporting the Library Levy. Please vote and contribute to the purchase of books.

Finances – Diana Smoljanovich, Finance Director

General Fund Cash Report for March, 2018

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$ 2,250,460.23
Interest on Checking:	\$ 968.55
Deposits:	\$ 2,284,173.53
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$ 1,287,209.80
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$3,248,392.51
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:	\$3,249,192.51

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

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

Motion passed 6/0

Tim Connell – Mr. Mayor, can I say something before we adjourn. I would like to be on record to have our Budget Committee and our Finance Department to get together and to see what possibly can be done for the garbage collectors. I want to go on record for that.

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 Marsh.
Motion passed 6/0