

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR
MONDAY, JULY 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, July 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	ABSENT

City Officials in Attendance:

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis L. Blosser	City Manager
Matt Burskey	Interim Code Official
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Kathy Mrvos	City Clerk
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance Director
Sam Stoneking	Assistant Utilities Director

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

Councilman Connell recited the opening prayer.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion to approve the June 11, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Jackson.

June 11, 2018, Regular Meeting

The motion passed 6/0

A motion to approve the June 22, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Jackson

June 22, 2018, Special Meeting

The motion passed 6/0

Mayors Awards and Proclamations:

Veteran's Proclamation: Clarence P. "Junior" Warrick, enlisted in the United States Army on January 3, 1966, and was discharged on December 15, 1967. Junior was originally stationed in Fort Jackson, North Carolina, for basic training and completed Advance Individual Training (AIT) in Fort Lee, Virginia. Upon completion of AIT, he was immediately transferred to Camp Alpha, Ton Son Nhut, Republic of Vietnam as a Cargo Handler and Supply Technician. Clarence was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 device, the Good Conduct Medal and the Expert Badge M-14 Rifle. The City of Weirton wants to recognize veteran Clarence P. "Junior" Warrick for his dedicated military service to our country.

Veteran's Proclamation: Rob Stock, earned a mechanical engineering degree from Kent State University and then worked for Arcelor-Mittal during 2003-2004. When duty called he decided to undergo the grueling, United States Navy BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/Seal Training), from which he emerged as an Honor Graduate of Class 263 and ultimately a member of the elite Seal Team 2. His deployment consisted of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Africa, with his last command being Naval Special Warfare Development Group, Tactical Assault Squadron Silver, Lead Sniper/RECCE Team Leader. Rob suffered a devastating injury on October 4, 2010, in Afghanistan, which required a long rehabilitation process. Rob received a long list of awards – to name a few – Bronze Star with Valor Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and Combat Action Ribbon. Rob uses his experiences and the knowledge gained to help other injured veterans for those who needed to undergo similar rehabilitation. The City of Weirton wants to recognize veteran Rob Stock for his dedicated military service to our country.

Citizens Remarks:

Patricia Evano – Benefits for BOT Workers

Mayor Miller, City Manager, Blosser, Councilmen, City Attorney, Gurrera, Finance Director Smoljanovich and City Clerk, Kathy Mrvos, as you know by now, I am Patricia Evano. All of us with yellow armbands ... stand in solidarity.

We again represent the plight of the Back of the Truck Workers, in their effort to become full time employees of the City of Weirton with all the benefits thereof.

We cannot find the proper words to express the relief, joy, happiness, and total satisfaction for what you are about to do tonight.

Over the years, there have been many, many letters to the Editor. Many requests by the Back of the Truck Workers asking their Manager/Supervisors to be considered full time employees with full benefits..... as the workers had before them about 25 years ago.

Many prior Mayors, City Managers, and Councilmen have just thought about it or have brought the issue before Council, to no avail.

But, you, this Council are making this happen!!!!

We understand that the current workers will have to reapply for their same positions. The jobs will be posted and advertised. They will go through an application process which includes background screening and drug testing. With God's help and guidance they will all be rehired.

We know it will be a cumbersome process for administration to implement this change. And we thank you with all our hearts for taking on this difficult project.

We respectfully bow to you with gratefulness.

I believe that this campaign has led the citizens of Weirton to more fully honor, respect, and appreciate these workers!!!!

All that is left is for us to celebrate.

Go forward, thank you, and God Bless you.

Councilman Ash, many times you have called to ask about the job description, so I am going to ask the City Manager and Mayor, the people that now work the back of the truck they are not required to have a CDL?

Mayor Miller, not to work the back of the truck.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, there are two different pay scales. There is a different pay scale for anyone that does have a CDL. We pay at a higher rate to be on the back of the truck. That gives us a secondary alternate if we are short a driver for that person to be able to fill in, and have additional opportunities for advancement. It is a different pay scale if they do not have a CDL. That is because of the Union Contract in current form.

Councilman Ash, the lower scale that you are talking about, no requirements for a CDL?

Travis Blosser, City Manager, I don't believe so off the top of my head at the moment.

Patricia Evano, but yet they could get full benefits at a lower pay scale is that correct?

Travis Blosser, City Manager, the benefits are available for any full time employee.

Councilman Ash, the other question you asked me Patricia was about joining the Union. I don't know why anybody wouldn't want to join the Union. However, the Supreme Court recently ruled that you do not have to join.

Councilman Jackson, how many of you standing are workers on the back of the truck? Can you raise your hand? Have you guys adequately vetted your application process for the benefit package and looked to see what it would cost for your deductible?

Current Back of the Truck Workers stated I have not seen anything.

Patricia Evano, that has not been presented to them. Is that correct?

Current Back of the Truck Workers, that is correct.

Councilman Jackson, that is all I wanted to know. Thank you.

Patrick Ford - Weirton Reuse Plan

Mayor, and Council, we are going to be showing up monthly to give you an update on the Weirton Reuse Plan which was made possible by the investment of the City of Weirton and the USEDA. That plan is underway, fortunately for you all, the people who will be making that presentation will be the West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center. They are also a collaborator on this project, and the Brownfield Assistance Center has their DNA on all the Brownfield projects in the Northern Panhandle. Anna Withrow is with us tonight. She will be preparing news letters that will be distributed to the Council, and the public every month. She will keep everybody informed, including the public, on what we are doing to plan for the reuse of the surplus lands of ArcelorMittal that were purchased by Frontier, and also 200 acres of Half Moon Industrial Park. With that, I would like to introduce Ms. Withrow.

Ms. Anna Withrow, as Pat said, I am here on behalf of the Northern WV Brownfield Assistance Center. The front page of the handout that I just sent around is what Pat just ran through. If you flip to the back you could see the timeline of the project. Right now, there is a Real Estate Market Analysis underway, and then we have Conceptual Schematic Planning, followed by Strategic Planning, and then the Final Plan in January of next year. As of now, with the onboarding of my group, as well as, Thrasher Group was hired as a Consultant to do the planning. They have created a map, and compiled a lot of facial and market data. They are going through that data and looking at a flood plain, site contamination, and so forth. At the bottom of the page, you can see my contact information. If any folks have questions about the project they can get in touch with me.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

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

Councilman Ash stated he would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session and second by Councilman Jackson

Motion passed 6/0

A motion was made by Councilman Ash to come out of Executive Session, and second by Councilman Marsh

Motion passed 6/0

City Attorney, Vince Gurrera, we discussed possible Ordinance and whether or not we need any amendments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2035. An Ordinance Revising, Amending and Re-Enacting Garbage and Refuse Ordinances 16, 74, 106, 130, 146, 210, 752, 876, 894, 1020, 1281, and 1765. (Councilman Ash)

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

Motion passed 5/1 (Councilman Fracasso Opposed)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing for Submission of an Application to the State of West Virginia Development Office Regarding Approval and Implementation of a Tax Increment Financing Project Plan No. 2 – Park Drive Development Within The City of Weirton Three Springs Drive Tax Increment Financing District No. 1 and Issuance of Tax Increment Financing Obligations.

Mayor Harold Miller announced this item was a Public Hearing for the approval or not in favor of this item.

Two citizens, Mr. David Cline and Mr. John Barone, spoke out wanting to know the finer details of the financing obligations. They were in favor but wanted more information. Is there funds available right now, or is it future funds collected?

Mayor Miller, TIF funding has been set aside for years for infrastructure and development in the City of Weirton. We have a great opportunity to use those funds to enhance the development of the project on Weirton Heights. It was enacted in 2004. West Virginia was the 48th State to go into TIF financing and it is located in Brooke County. The money has been there for years, and we used it to entice the closing of Pietro Fiorentini. We almost lost it, so we committed to the infrastructure and lighting.

Travis Blosser, City Manager informed them that TIF District was placed in the paper with the details. It is also available on the City of Weirton website.

Mayor Miller explained that this is not a question and answer forum. Mayor Miller again stated it is a Public Hearing so that residents can state if they are for or against the Project, not to answer questions.

Hal Martin from Howard Hanna Real Estate Services spoke strongly in favor that this item was very important for the growth of the city with the location of the city. We will be involved to attract business into this potential development. Having this kind of funding arrangement for the infrastructure in place, I believe it is going to provide the opportunity to open up conversation regarding who and what may want to come here to West Virginia. Without this it would be a setback toward the eventual attraction of development in a very, very well placed area thanks to some of the interstate projects that have occurred on the other side of the border over on the Pennsylvania side, and this would be very important to hopefully get it accomplished.

Patrick Ford, BDC, the BDC is the owner of the 72 acres of property in Three Springs Business Park of which this TIF stands to benefit. Also with me today are the investors in this project, Mr. Mike Simon, Mr. Jason Backel, and Mr. J.J. Bernabei. These local businessmen have substantially invested in this property and they also have made the commitment to invest more into this property also. The importance of this project has its roots and collaboration between the BDC and the City of Weirton. This is just one more example of the success that we have had working together. The first with Pietro Fiorentini, who is in this park and has benefited from the funds from this TIF District, because of our collaboration because of that TIF leveraged a 9 million dollar investment that will start out with 40 jobs at the end of the year, and will be up to 110 jobs. The collaboration between the City of Weirton and the BDC brought a company from Canada, which was a 5 million dollar investment and currently employs 75 jobs, and they will be employing 200 people. The collaboration of the City of Weirton and the BDC in repurposing 1300 acres of land in the former ArcleorMittal site will stand to bring half a billion dollar investment and up to 500 jobs in the city of

Weirton. Collectively, our collaboration to date, will bring 64 million dollars and 1200 jobs. What we are here tonight for is to support your application to amend the TIF District. Right now, as we all know, it is in the application and we appreciate you disclosing and sharing that with us on-line that tree of collaboration that we have between the BDC, City of Weirton, and the private business people in this community stand to bear more fruit. In fact, an amendment to this TIF District that you all have in your application, that you are going to forward to the State of West Virginia, will leverage an additional 27 million dollars in the City of Weirton, in the Three Springs Business Park area in general, and the Park Drive project in particular, and in addition will bring another 250 jobs in the City of Weirton. We can't thank you enough for the collaboration and vision that you all have and the time you have committed, Mayor, Council, City Manager in creating these economic development opportunities. Economic development is a tough business as Mr. Martin eluded to in the background we are competing regionally, and nationally to bring business not only in the northern panhandle but into the City of Weirton in particular because of this collaboration that we have this success. On behalf of our investors, who are with me tonight, the only one that is not with me is the fourth investor who is Mr. Eric Frankovitch. We request your support, and also I have statistics to not only document the investments that our investors have made to date, but also the investments you will see the illustrations of the investments that we stand to make in the foreseeable future. Mayor, Council, thank you very much.

Councilman Ash, Pat Ford, I am reading this TIF plan and I don't like not answering people questions. The conference and event center is 5.4 million and other expenses for a total of 8.2 million. Councilman Ash then broke down the 8.2 million. How much money is in the TIF fund?

Travis Blosser, City Manager, TIF fund money is around 2.3 million.

Councilman Ash, the rest will be later on.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, plus there is about 1.2 million in grant funding on top of that. So that funds your infrastructure portion and the rest of that in relations to the bond issuance side is a separate matter that takes separate council action for the construction of the Conference Center which will require bond issuances and current TIF dollars that are coming into the District every year which would pay back with that bond debt essentially. Mr. Blosser also stated that there will be over 12 million in private investments.

Councilman Ash, I am glad that we got an answer. I have no problem with the resolution.

Mayor Miller closed the Public Hearing.

2. Resolution to Authorize the Submission of an Application to the State of West Virginia Development Office Regarding Approval and Implementation of a Tax Increment Financing Project Plan No. 2 – Park Drive Development Within The City of Weirton Three Springs Drive Tax Increment Financing District No. 1 and Issuance of Tax Increment Financing Obligations (City Manager)

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

3. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Costs Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties to Ordinance 250 (135 Elmer Avenue) (\$6,396.00) (City Manager)

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

4. Resolution to Place Liens Against Real Properties for Costs Incurred in Demolition of Unsafe Properties to Ordinance 250 (4120 Freedom Way) (\$14,732.00) (City Manager)

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

5. Resolution to Enter into Agreement for OM & R Cost Share Program for Harmon Creek Watershed Structure (\$10,000.00) (City Manager)

Motion was made by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Jackson.
Motion passed 6/0

6. An Ordinance of the Council for the City of Weirton, Amending and Supplementing Ordinance No. 814, More Particularly, Part XV, Chapter 1 Fire Prevention Code, Article 1501, of the Weirton Code of Ordinances (City Manager)

Councilman Provenzano asked that this be tabled for further discussion such as a workshop due to questions posed in the informational meeting that was held before Council.

Motion was made to Table by Councilman Provenzano, and second by Councilman Jackson.

Motion passed 6/0 to Table

7. An Ordinance Amendment No. 793 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Extend the Yellow Curb Past the Guardrail on Oak Street at Mercer by Approximately 30 Feet in order for the yellow curb to extend past the driveway on the other side of the street (Councilman Connell)

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

Motion passed 6/0

8. Resolution B-18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (City Manager)

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

Motion passed 5/1 (Councilman Marsh Opposed)

Councilman Marsh, sorry I was not here for this how did the process go? We funded all of our internal request and then took them away?

Councilman Connell, yes

Councilman Marsh, do we have any backup documentation for the outside request?

Councilman Ash, yes there was all kind of documentation given to us.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, yes documentation that was provided in the meeting.

Councilman Marsh, I am not going to vote for it. If we cannot fund our own needs there is no use doing it.

Councilman Ash, what isn't that we did not fund?

Councilman Marsh, did you not take away \$50,000 from demolition.

Travis Blosser, City Manager, that was not demolition. That was for the Inspections Department, and it was essentially a pass through. We just reimbursed ourselves for something we are already paying for, and they were more stringent, and more requirements that just kicked into your street paving allotment. You were essentially funding additionally capital improvements, and I think the discussion at the meeting was the final outcome was to keep it in the street paving so that took it up to \$239,000. We generally have been running roughly \$150,000 to maybe \$180,000.

9. Resolution to Enter into Contract with Kelly Paving Inc. for Milling and Paving of CDBG Eligible Streets (\$190,600.00) (City Manager)

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

10. Resolution to Enter into Contract with Kelly Paving Inc. for City Wide Milling and Paving of Various City Streets (\$1,138,331.25) (City Manager)

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

APPOINTMENTS:

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department – Chief Alexander

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Utilities – Water and Sewer – Sam Stoneking

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Fire Department – Chief Shumate

The West Virginia Office of the Emergency Medical Services Audit came back which we scored a 92%. Fire Marshall Audit of West Virginia we scored a perfect.

Public Works – Rod Rosnick

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Inspections – Matt Burskey

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Planning & Development – Mark Miller

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Park Board – Coty Shingle (ABSENT)

Transit – Donna Gialluco (ABSENT)

Library – Rik Rekowski

It is going to be a busy month at the library. This is the Teddy Bear Tea to expect perhaps over 120 children on July 25th with the help of the Weirton Woman’s Club. This is an annual event that has been going for 10 years. Every child gets a teddy bear and they are looking forward to it.

We are also blessed with volunteers for our book sale from 11 – 4 on the Thursdays and Saturdays of this week and for the next three weeks. We have a book sale on the floor of the library. People do come in and buy a lot of these books. We will be having the book sale in the garage opening the doors on Walnut Street. People are donating for that event, and we have a lot of people that buy these books, and they really get some really great titles.

Also would like to say on Friday and Saturday, July 21, Black Panther is going to be at the library at 2 o’clock in the afternoon and it is free. We also have the Reading Club. This is a Reading Club of adult readers. We have one just about every month that is Saturday, July 14th. This is the No Greater Glory by Dan Kurzman regarding the chaplains who lost their lives in World War II on a navy ship the community is reading that book. This is all happening in the month of July, and we say thank you, and please continue to use the library.

Finances – Diana Smoljanovich, Finance Director

General Fund Cash Report for June, 2018

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$2,685,516.11
Interest on Checking:	\$1,029.21
Deposits:	\$317,777.26
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,261,331.38
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$1,742,991.20
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:	\$1,743,791.20

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

Motion to approve by Councilman Jackson, and second by Councilman Marsh
 Motion passed 6/0

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 Fracasso
 Motion passed 6/0