

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, September 10, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of the Weirton Municipal Building.

**Councilmembers in Attendance:**

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

**City Officials in Attendance:**

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Matt Burskey	Interim Code Official
Joe DiBartolomeo	City Manager
Donna Gialluco	Transit Director
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Butch Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Mark Miller	Planning & Development Director
Kathy Mrvos	City Clerk
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Coty Shingle	Park Board Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance 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 August 13, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Adams.

The motion passed 6/0

## **Mayors Awards and Proclamations:**

### **National Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day**

On June 23, 1936, the United States Congress designated the last Sunday of September as Gold Star Mother's Day, which was proclaimed as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day in 2009. This annual commemoration honors women and families who have been forever changed through the ultimate sacrifice of their sons and daughters. During World War I, Americans displayed service flags bearing a blue star for each military member and stitched a gold star over the blue one to honor those members who died in the United States Armed Forces. This day serves to remind us to respect and preserve the memory and legacy of our fallen heroes and patriots, and to pay tribute to their mothers and families. We recognize September 30, 2018, as National Gold Star Mother's and Father's Day in our community. We are urging our citizens to observe this day and display the flag to express their respect and sympathy for our Gold Star Mothers and Families, and to keep them in our prayers.

### **National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2018**

#### **Councilman Connell introduced Guy Ceraolo 99 Years Old to accept this Proclamation**

The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. This annual observation honors our missing service members and their families and has become increasingly important as many of those who experienced imprisonment in past wars are no longer around to share their memories, what are part of our history. This observation highlights the government's continued commitment to account fully as possible for prisoners of the war and the more than 83,000 who remain missing in action. This is a day of recognition along with the POW/MIA flag remind us of the sacrifices made to defend our country. We recognize September 21, 2018 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in our community, urging our citizens to observe this day to demonstrate their gratitude of those service members who have defended our land and liberties, but have not returned home to us.

### **International Literacy Day, National Literacy Month, Library Card Sign-Up Month**

#### **Pam and Rik from the Mary H. Weir Library to accept Proclamation**

September has been designated as National Literacy Month and Library Card Sign-Up Month. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially proclaimed September 8 as International Literacy Day, and this year, the theme is Literacy and Skills Development. The Mary H. Weir Public Library is an excellent facility where dedicated volunteers and the Weirton Area Literacy Council serve people of every age, income level, gender, ethnicity, and physical ability with information and resources to live as self-sufficient individuals in our community. We do hereby recognize the month of

September as Literacy Month, and urge our community members to visit the Mary W. Weir Public Library and acquaint themselves with the many services available.

### **Citizens Remarks:**

#### **Alecia Ford – Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival**

Alecia had pamphlets to pass out to the Council Members. I wanted to come down and talk about the Festival that we are working on in conjunction with Renaissance Weirton. City Manager, Joseph DiBartolomeo has been terrific in taking it up, and the Mayor is the reason why we are calling it the Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival because he was talking about Gate 5 and trying to beautify it, and put together a Gate 5 committee. We thought it sounded so cool and cryptic. We ended up calling it the Gate 5 Industrial Art Festival. The festival is meant as a heritage festival for the City of Weirton. It will honor metal, plate and glass, and the skills of cutting, slitting, molding and blowing glass who still work throughout the industrial area, and today is still a manufacturing area. That is our heritage. We do not make pumpkin pies. We do not have an apple grove. We have great things going on that day. One of things that I want to talk about is that Frontier has been a great partner to us. They actually allowed some of the artist onto the site today and was allowed to take as much scrap off as they wanted. We will be making a metal sculpture that will be a piece of art that the City of Weirton from the scrap that was pulled from the BOP and the former Weirton Steel site.

We are having a Fiestaware mosaic. Fiestaware has given us 450 plates that we are hoping to break it at the River Feast. So, if you have some pent up anger come up to the River Fest and pay a \$1.00, and break some Fiestaware. We are going to build down at Cove Commons a 3 ½' by 40' floor mosaic wall of Fiestaware. As far as I know, it will be only one of two sanctioned Fiestaware mosaics in the country. The other one is at Disney World. The public will be able to participate in that. We will have artist on site and you will be able to put pieces of the fiestaware mosaic on if you visit with your kids. We will have people there to do that.

One of our city members is here Bob Whalen from Escape Works. He has created a family friendly city wide puzzle called the Great Gate 5 Puzzle Hunt. It is literally a competition but it won't be a race until 3:00 pm, where families can come they will get map and go all around the downtown and solve puzzle pieces. Mike has a Doctorate in Education and a Masters in Criminal Justice and he has a brilliant mind. The pieces that he has come up with are just fascinating how this works. At 3:00 pm we turn this into a puzzle race.

Couple more things, we have a Kiss Tribute Band coming called Strutter. For the end of the festival the headliner band is Strutter but we will have bands all day. We are kicking off the morning with a Tin Man 5K Run/Walk which begins at 8:00 am.

The good news is Frankovitch, Anetakis is the first Weirite Sponsor giving us a \$1,000.00 to make the run happen. We have had some other sponsors come in which are local businesses Gus's Goodies. There is a facebook page, and if you would be so kind to tell people about it, and that we are looking for volunteers. Thank You.

## **Tom Goff – Feral Cats**

Thank you for giving me the time to speak to you. My name is Tom Goff. I am with the Hancock County Humane Foundation formally the Hancock County Animal Shelter Foundation. You may have seen on the news recently, we are in a new location here in Weirton, 3416 Pennsylvania Avenue. I am here to talk about feral cats, and also some of the services that we provide. I am sure all of your council members wards have issue with feral cats that we want to address and help the community. We have been around for over 20 years. We ran the Hancock County Animal Shelter and our foundation is still intact, even though our name is a little different now. Primarily what we do is we go out into areas such as behind groceries stores, restaurants, homes, where there are colonies of cats. We trap the cats, and we fix them, and then return them. It is much more humane than going in removing them and euthanizing them. We find that to be more effective as people continue to feed cats. I am here to talk to you about some of the services we provide. We are all volunteer based we rely on donations. No one gets paid. We operate also low cost spayed clinics. We just had one yesterday and fixed 52 cats. A huge, huge commitment to the community to provide them at a low cost service so they can get there animal fixed. We have at least six (6) clinics a year, and to date we have fixed 1,500 cats. It is pretty impressive. We go out and help people manage some of their colonies. We help people who have need and issues with cats, whether it be the cat at home, or cat outside. Primarily we are focused on feline or cats. When we ran the shelter we had the space for dogs, but we do not have the space right now. We wanted you to know who we were, and that we are in the community so we can go out and work with everyone within the community and city. We really do not have any boundaries. We want to let you know some of the services we provide. We have an extensive facebook page. We have over 12,000 people that follow us. We have a website now. You can go out on the website you can get information on how to set traps take care of cats, and work within the community to help. Also, there is a volunteer form and we just love anyone to come and help us volunteer because it is pretty much a 24 hour operation. We currently have cats in our facility right now that we have rescued out of those areas that are adoptable and for a small fee we relocate them back in new homes.

I know a lot of you have had issues that have come up with colonies of cats in the area. We want to let you know who we are, so we can work with the City to help solve a lot of those issues out there. I know there are quite a few. Thank You.

## **Sharon Breedlove – Speeding on Wells Street**

Hi, I have talked to Councilman George Ash. First we had the speed limit put in last summer so they took down the 15 mph since they took the school out. This year we are having trouble with speeders. I have tried Councilman Ash again, I tried the police to come and patrol the road more often. We have a family that lives on the corner by the church and blocks the driveway because they park half way in the road. I afraid one of the

children is going to get hit. They are not going 25 mph they are going 35 to 40 mph through there. I do have video of cars speeding.

Councilman Ash, Mayor, she did speak with me about it. She wants speed bumps, and I am not going to put speed bumps.

Sharon Breedlove, even a stop sign?

Councilman Ash, stop sign will go to Traffic Commission probably this week and we can have couple stop signs put in the alley we are talking about. There is nothing else we can do other than have a Police Officer sit there for 24 hours a day which is not going to happen.

City Manager, Joe DiBartolomeo, I wasn't there when you came to my office, but the girls told me what you said. I am kind of familiar with that area, so I drove down there, and drove around the old school of Edgewood and down the alley. The 30 minutes that I was riding around watching and there was not a lot of traffic. That could have been the wrong time. We ran radar, and the Chief went down there.

Police Chief Alexander, for four days we sat down there at various times which was daylight, afternoon and night turn. During those four days there was nothing. I am not saying they are not there.

City Manager, Joe DiBartolomeo, we are going to take it to the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Ash, thank you Sharon.

### **Ron Reed – New Business on Main Street**

I was inquiring about opening up Fujiyama's as a family restaurant downtown. I wanted to know if there was any complications with the building that you may know of?

Mayor Miller, it is privately owned. You would have to talk to the owner.

Ron Reed, I did not know what my first step would be. I figured this was a good first place to start.

Mayor Miller, our Inspections Department can give you a list of requirements that you would have to inspect that building. First, I would sit down with the owner. I know this from experience if you are not changing the type of business, and a lot of things would be grandfathered in. It is the condition of the building you would have to start with. There might be a phone number on the sign or on the building.

Ron Reed, I have to start somewhere I figured I would start here.

Mayor Miller, we have a good business relationship group development and inspections. They will work with you on it.

Ron Reed, thank you.

### **Brenda Mull – Christmas Light Storage**

Mayor, City Manager, Council it is only September but we need to talk about Christmas. As you know the Chamber owned all the Christmas lights that we put up through town. The City has always been gracious enough to put them up for us and Councilman Marsh has been gracious enough to store them for us for several years. He is at a point now that he wants to get rid of the building that they are in. We need some space to store the lights. We talked to a couple of the businesses to see if they could help us. The main problem is the big display the old Weirton Steel Display which comes in three sections. They are 11 feet high 12' feet long. We need a minimum of 2,000 square feet but 2,500 would even be better. Because of the dimensions of that particular piece some of the prospects that we have had we can't manipulate the stairs, cannot fit in an elevator. We also needed it to be an area that the 25 year club can always work on them, and the leadership group does as well. We need to have a place that they can come in the summertime or fall, and make sure they are ready to go up. We want to make sure they are going to go up each year so we are wondering if you have any suggestions that we could possibly store them that they can be worked so that the Chamber and the City can work together to get the lights up year after year. Thank you Fred for all the years that you have let us use the building. I just thought I would bring it to your attention I have talked with the City Manager.

City Manager, Joe DiBartolomeo, when I spoke to the Chamber that night I put it out on the Department Heads and we are looking. I sent you one possibility downtown but again I know who owns it but I don't know what they have in it. We are looking and we will continue to look at least it gives you a little more exposure, and I don't know somebody at Frontier or Arcelor that might have something.

Brenda Mull, we talked with Starvaggi before we tried that a year and half ago but they wanted to be in a place that they feel comfortable with us going in and out of. A lot of their facilities are older now. I know depending on where it would be they could look at it as a liability if we had people going in and out of it. So I know that comes into play as well. But we do need to know that we are still putting up Christmas lights because the community will want to see lights up. So I thought if I brought it to your attention maybe together we can figure something out that may work. Thank you so much.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**NONE**

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

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilman Connell, second by Councilman Fracasso.  
Motion passed 6/0

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Marsh.  
Motion passed 6/0

Vince Gurrera, City Attorney, Discussion consisted of having another Workshop concerning Residency. Council Personnel being able to go to all Departments and encouraged Department Head Meetings, and starting again full background checks on future employees.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2043. An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Weirton Adopting the City of Weirton Planning Commissions Rules of Order and Procedure Approved and Amended by Said Planning Commission on July 18, 2018. (City Manager)**

A motion to approve by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Weigel

Councilman Ash, Mayor, I would like to make an amendment. I have talked to Mr. Miller about this and he has asked me, and I agree with him it is the same as Council does. On 2.10 Quorum - paragraph 2.10.3 – A commission member may participate via conference call only if medically unable to attend the meeting.

A motion was made to approve that amendment by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Marsh.  
Motion passed for the amendment 6/0

Councilman Ash, now that this was a major amendment you have to revert that back to the first reading. We are going to have a Workshop in 10 days or so, when we do that, we are going to have a Special Council Meeting, and we will have the second reading.

A motion to accept it with the amendment was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Weigel.  
Motion passed 6/0

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. An Ordinance Modifying Ordinance #1313, As Amended, Establishing New Minimum and Maximum Salary Levels of Specific Non-Union Municipal Employees with Specific Departments of the City of Weirton General Fund and Adding/Eliminating Specific Positions. (City of Weirton)**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Marsh  
Motion passed 6/0

Councilman Ash, I would like to put it on the record that this is a discussion that Council has had in the past, and we are willing to negotiate this figure based on individual comments. This is for this City Manager, Joseph DiBartolomeo, did not accept the health insurance from us. This is saving us money approximately \$1,400 - \$1,500 a month. So he is saving us money by not accepting the health care I have no objection to his salary, and I think it is reasonable for him. I want to make it a public record that it is for this City Manager only. Come July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 if he is not here, it is going to revert back to the original Ordinance.

**2. Resolution authorizing the Filing of Applications with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an Operating Administration of the United States Department of Transportation, for Federal Transportation Assistance Authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23 United States Code and Other Federal Statutes Administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) (City Manager)**

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

**3. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 796 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No. 214 of the City of Weirton to Establish a Dedicated Residential Disability Parking Space at 200 Elmer Street (for Aurdis Fazi) (Councilman Ash) (Emergency Reading)**

Motion was made to approve by Councilman Ash, second by Councilman Weigel.  
Motion passed 6/0

Councilman Ash, it did go through Traffic Commission and they did approve it.

Councilman Marsh, just for manner of clarity one reading only for Handicap Parking Space.

Kathy Mrvos, City Clerk, correct there is an Ordinance in place that reads one reading.

#### **4. Resolution Authorizing the City of Weirton to Serve as Co-Sponsor for the 2018 Renaissance Weirton – Gate 5 Industrial Arts Festival. (City Manager)**

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

Councilman Marsh asked if there was cost with this?

Mayor Miller, similar what we did with the July Festival and the Police Officers and Fire.

Joseph DiBartolomeo, City Manager, can we as a City give money.

Mayor Miller, I don't think we can, that is why we filter some donations through the Renaissance Committee. A lot of the sponsorship that comes through the Renaissance Festival we donate to the community the Senior Center or Salvation Army. Renaissance does donate a lot of money back to the community.

#### **5. An Ordinance Revising, Amending and Re-Enacting 109.06 Compensation for Election Officials (Councilman Ash)**

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

Councilman Ash, this is the Ordinance we have talked about in the past. This was back when we first got elected. The salaries will be the same as Hancock Counties officials.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

##### **Sanitary Board**

Robert Gribbin                      7/01/2018 - 6/30/2021

Motion was made to approve by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Weigel.  
Motion passed 6/0

##### **Weirton Fire Prevention Board**

Councilman Fred Marsh            9/12/2018 - 6/30/2019

Councilman Marsh abstained from voting

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

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

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

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

### **Utilities – Water and Sewer – Butch Mastrantoni**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

Councilman Ash, I would like to say something about Water Department, correct me if I am wrong. I read the minutes of the last minutes of the Water Department Meeting I want Council to know it was 1.9 deficiencies (1.9% loss) and that is good – 102% is good. I want you to know that the Water Board is doing really good.

### **Fire Department – Chief Shumate**

Watching the water and the creek beds.

Mayor Miller, couple weeks ago we had the fire on Paul Avenue which was in my neighborhood, and I want to thank you and your men. They lost three citizens there, and they assumed the young baby was there, and they worked their tails off. They found out that she was with her father that weekend. They did a heck of a job. Of course the Police was doing a fine job keeping the traffic flowing getting through Seneca and back around Lincoln to Paul Avenue. I appreciate that.

### **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**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Transit – Donna Gialluco**

Nothing additional to add to the submitted reports.

**Library – Rik Rekowski**

Thank you for the Proclamation.

Joseph DiBartolomeo, stated that we are working with Craig Howell thinking we can have a City Page once a week, once a month. We will come up with something with one of the Departments. The City of Weirton has 18,000 to 20,000 people you have 40 police in the Police Department – skills set. People are going to complain but the people need to know exactly how the city is structured, and who serves them. There is actually very few people out on the street doing the work for a city this size. We are grateful for the people we have, and we should educate them. We will try to work with the newspaper put that out.

Councilman Ash, Rod did we hire the new employees for the garbage trucks yet?

Rod Rosnick, Public Works Director, no we have not.

Councilman Ash, is there a reason why not?

Rod Rosnick, Public Works Director, yes there is. It is a personnel question, and I rather not talk about it here. There is some in the process of being hired.

Councilman Ash, you have a process started?

Rod Rosnick, Public Works Director, yes

Vince Gurrera, City Attorney, before we close I would like to say thank you to the Chief I was there that morning on Paul Avenue it was quite a scene and an eye opener. The job you guys do and did it is a difficult thing. Police was there also, just can't thank you enough and it was very educational. You guys did a great job. It was a very difficult situation.

Chief Shumate, Fire, thank you sir. I would like to add to the Police Department I did not realize the work that goes hand and hand. I appreciate everything the Police Department does to support us and work with us in a time like this.

**Finances – Diana Smoljanovich, Finance Director**

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

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$1,893,223.77
Interest on Checking:	\$1,075.73
Deposits:	\$1,747,056.90
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$1,847,970.84
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$1,793,385.56
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:	\$1,794,185.56

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

Motion to approve made by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Ash  
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 Ash, and second by Councilman Marsh  
Motion passed 6/0