

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Public Hearing on the FY25-26 Budget
 Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 6:30 PM
 Weber City Town Hall – Assembly Room

Call to Order

The Town Council of Weber City convened for a Special Called Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. **Vice Mayor, Wendell Tipton** called the meeting to order at **6:31 pm** and opened the floor to Public Comment. The purpose of the meeting was the **Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2025-2026 Budget**.

Roll Call

PRESENT:

- Vice Mayor Wendell Tipton
- Town Attorney Michael Carrico
- Council Members Eileen Deckard, Teresa Tilson, Keltie Kerney, Zackary Salyer

ABSENT:

- Mayor Justin Addington
- Council Member Jeff Flanary
- Public Works Frank Tittle

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Rhonda Neeley – Treasurer
- Penney Capps – Clerk
- Donald Harding, III – Police Chief

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Tommy Johnson** – Lieutenant of the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department
 Presented the 2025 call report and referenced a news article about a fire station closure due to lack of certified staffing. He praised local emergency departments (WCVFD, Gate City FD, Duffield FD, and Weber City PD) for their assistance in a structure fire in Weber City this week. Johnson advocated for WCVFD funding in the FY25-26 budget, suggesting an allocation of 2.3% of the total Town of Weber City FY25-26 Budget, equaling \$22,601, referencing a similar percentage used in our neighboring town, Gate City.
- 2. Bruce Cross** – Chief of the Weber City Volunteer Fire Department
 Chief Cross voiced disappointment with the lack of budgeted support for the Fire Department. Emphasized the need for funding support for ongoing projects and training of firefighters. Noted the possibility of Scott County officials enacting a Fire Tax for direct department funding.
- 3. Suzanne Kerney Quillen** – Resident
 Urged the Council to review the budget carefully, ensuring compliance with the Town Charter and financial accountability. Encouraged the Council to only allocate funds currently in hand and reiterated support for WCVFD inclusion in the FY2025-26 Budget.

4. Mike Kerney – Resident

A 29-year Weber City resident, Kerney highlighted the Town Charter's requirement for a fire department. Criticized the minimal street repair funding and dependence on grant money. Expressed concerns about diminished services (e.g., lack of trash pickup and 24/7 police coverage) and suggested operational reforms including a salaried Police Chief.

5. Keltie Kerney – Council Member, speaking as a resident/citizen

Commended WCVFD efforts and expressed agreement with prior speakers. Suggested addressing emergency vehicle obstruction on Fox Run Avenue. Recommended allocating at least 2.3% of the FY2025-26 Budget to the fire department and cutting wasteful spending. Expressed concern over economic impacts on revenue and lack of full 24/7 police coverage.

6. Zackary Salyer – Council Member, speaking as a resident/citizen

As a member of WCVFD, Salyer expressed support for the department. Though unable to vote on related items, he spoke in favor of increased fire department funding in the FY2025-26 Budget and praised departmental leadership.

7. Bruce Cross – Business owner – Enterprise Nursery

Criticized the lack of town progress and ineffective response to transient activity following the West Side Inn closure in Kingsport. He shared experiences of business break-ins, stolen items, and lack of sufficient security for night shift employees and suggested the Scott County Sheriff's Department could provide more cost-effective policing.

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC HEARING (00:31:00)

Public comments concluded at 7:02 pm, at which time Vice Mayor Tipton declared the public hearing portion of the meeting closed. A brief recess was called before the commencement of the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: did not adjourn

Vice Mayor – Wendell Tipton

Town Clerk – Penney Capps