

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. Town Attorney Mike Carrico welcomed the newly elected officials. Mayor Christopher J. Powers called the meeting to order. Justin Addington led the council in prayer. Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

Attorney Mike Carrico introduced and welcomed the new council to the Town of Weber City.

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor: Christopher J. Powers  
Council Member: Justin M. Addington  
Council Member: V. Eileen  
Deckard  
Council Member: Robert P. Hammonds  
Council Member: Gregory W. Smith  
Council Member: Teresa A. Tilson  
Council Member: Larry W. Wagner  
Town Attorney: Michael Carrico

### **ABSENT:**

None

### **Public Presentations:**

Marti Whitt addressed the board stating that she knows we still have the same concerns with the road issues on Church Street and she is still speaking to VDOT. She also wanted to question if the town was planning to send flowers to the fallen officer from Big Stone Gap. Mayor Chris Powers stated he would follow up with Mr. Carrico to determine how to proceed.

Greg Smith stated he needed a few typographical corrections to the town minutes from the previous month. Basic adjustments not changing the structure of the meaning within the minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to accept the October 19, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Teresa Tilson; Larry Wagner seconded the motion; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY none ABSENT: 1 Abstention.

Motion to accept the October 2021 Financial Report was made by Justin Addington; Teresa Tilson seconded the motion; the motion passed with 5 voting AYES: none voting NAY none ABSENT: 1 Abstention.

### **Old Business:**

**ARPA funds:** Mike Carrico advised he had spoken with Gate City earlier today and they intend to purchase a new trash truck with their funds as well as trash containers. Mr. Carrico stated if the town would do the same it would assist in eliminating physical contact with the can, he advised he would like the Town of Weber City to look into this option as well. Trash collection is the biggest drain on the towns budget. By purchasing equipment, the town could possibly be independent and not outsource this expense. A trash truck should last 15-20 years that could save the town a significant amount of money. Teresa Tilson also stated she has been looking into the ARPA funds as well and had a few suggestions such as: iPad or computers for the police department; update restrooms with automatic flushing; touchless faucets; water fountains; council seating upgrades; sanitizing stations; even a police dog; anything that can assist in eliminating contact as much as possible. Mayor Chris Powers stated he would like to also see

a trash truck purchase and hire a public works crew, stating the town has so many needs at this time. A committee can assist in prioritizing the current needs.

**Building Inspection Fee:** Greg Smith updated the new members to the council explaining the situation with building inspection fees. Stating he did not understand why towns would need to pay something more to the county. His opinion the town should be treated the same as the entire county.

**Snow Plowing:** The current contract is to expire the end of 2021. Mike Carrico stated; the town needs to have a contract ready for the start of 2022. Kelly Williams is willing to extend his current contract with a minimal increase due to fuel price changes. Greg Smith stated Mr. Williams did an outstanding job last year. Mike Carrico stated he would get a contract drafted so that the council can vote on this at the December meeting.

**Street Lighting:** Greg Smith provided the council with an update regarding the AEP streetlight designs; he talked to previous colleagues with AEP out of the Kingsport area and they hope to have a design in the next few weeks.

**Town Hall Renovations:** Mike Carrico discussed the quotes obtained for the repair to the teller window and front door. Upon discussion, Holston Glass Company had the lowest bid. A motion to accept the bid from Holston Glass Company was made by Teresa Tilson; Greg Smith seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES: 0 voting NAY 0 ABSENT.

**Water Cooler:** Motion to table a decision to purchase a cooler was made by Teresa Tilson; Eileen Deckard seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES: 0 voting NAY 0 ABSENT.

**Zoning:** Mike Carrico stated that this time Weber City has no zoning. He Eileen Deckard and Greg Smith have been looking into this for a while now. The decision is very tough due to mixed properties together. He would suggest the whole area of US Hwy 23 be zoned as commercial. The property down towards the warehouses and down near food city will be a commercial area. Current residential areas would-be grandfathered in. He would like place an announcement in the paper around the first of the year and invite citizens in to the meeting for feedback as to what is preferred. Eileen Deckard suggested Mr. Carrico provide the council a summary of the desired changes. Robert Hammonds questioned if the town is having complaints with the lack of zoning. Eileen Deckard advised the town would need zoning prior to any future incorporations to the town. Justin Addington stated the zoning should also help with closed businesses creating eyesores to the town. Teresa Tilson suggested even sidewalks are in need of improvement.

### **New Business:**

**Bank Signees:** Mike Carrico stated the town would need to provide a resolution to change the previous interim mayor to the current mayor for the bank signatures. Our requirements are two signatures for checks written.

A motion to replace Greg Smith as a bank signee and replace the name with Christopher Powers was made by Greg Smith seconded by Larry Wagner; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY 0 ABSENT.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Bruce Cross addressed the council to see if anyone had follow-up questions for him after last month when he suggested the town move to the fire department building creating a municipal building. Teresa Tilson questioned; what is the projected timeline to get into the new building. Mr. Cross stated show me the money he can't give an exact timeline as he is awaiting grant funding for the project, if he had to give a rough estimate, he believes 2 years. The whole complex on the left side is the property owned by the Fire Department. The plaza currently has one vacant spot and a possible

restaurant is looking at the location. The rentals from the plaza assists with needed revenue to pay the payments on the property. Mr. Cross plans to host a flea market or farmers market in the parking lot on Saturdays next year. He also plans to plant some trees and work on for the building. Mr. Cross is very excited to bring this idea to life for our community.

Justin Addington thanked Mr. Cross for all the work the Fire Department has done for the community at Halloween he thought it had a great turnout. Mr. Cross stated the fire department had handed out over 1700 treat bags. He was running out of candy.

Mr. Cross also wanted to throw out to the residents December 18<sup>th</sup> will have a Christmas event with Santa and food vendors. He would like to welcome local residents and churches to this event they simply just need to reach out to the Fire Department if interested in participating.

**Moccasin Gap Substation:** Greg Smith stated he went to an open house event at the Scott County Vocational School where AEP is planning to rerun the transmission line through town; they will be taking out the transmission line and put it behind Food City going into the Moccasin Gap substation, this station will meet up to the Gate City substation. Taller steel poles are to replace the old wooden poles. This project will give better capacity and reliability to the town as well as the county. Mr. Carrico stated he also attended the meeting.

**Police Department:** Chief of Police Matt Bishop handed out a report to the council and advised the council can review the information. He also stated the amount of fine revenues was on the backside and he plans to start keeping a tally of that information for the board as well.

**Town Hall Rentals:** Town Hall rentals have been closed due to covid. With the continued closure, the town has a refund request for prior paid rentals.

Motion to table a decision regarding the rentals until the January meeting was made by Teresa Tilson; Justin Addington seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY 0 ABSENT.

Motion to make the necessary refund to Daughters of the Revolution was made by Greg Smith seconded by Robert Hammonds; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY none ABSENT.

**December Meeting:** Justin Addington stated meetings near holidays, typically in the past had been cancelled until the next month. After discussion among board members with the meetings lost in the past few months and the December meeting is so close to Christmas the meeting date should be changed.

Motion to change the date of the December meeting to December 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 was made by Teresa Tilson seconded by Eileen Deckard; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY none ABSENT.

Mike Carrico stated the town would need to discuss legal and personnel issues in closed session.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to discuss personnel issues was made by Teresa Tilson; Eileen Deckard seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY.

Motion to go out of CLOSED SESSION and back into regular session was made by Teresa Tilson; Larry Wagner seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES; none voting NAY none ABSENT.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION**

The Mayor, Council members and the Town's Attorney entered closed session.

After returning from closed session, the mayor and council members, hereby certify that only personnel matters for which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Mayor and Council members. Voting "AYE" were Christopher Powers, Justin Addington, Eileen Deckard, Robert Hammonds, Greg Smith, Teresa Tilson, Larry Wagner; and voting "NAY" were: NONE.

**Action from closed session:** A motion to proceed with employee Christmas bonuses as laid out in the town budget was made by Teresa Tilson; Justin Addington seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES: 0 voting NAY none ABSENT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Hammonds; Larry Wagner seconded the motion; the motion passed with 6 voting AYES: none voting NAY none ABSENT.

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Mayor: Christopher J. Powers

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Town Secretary: Rhonda Neeley