



Weston City Council
Minutes

Lewis County Court House
117 Center Avenue
November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards, Councilpersons Sherry Rogers, Steven White, Debbie Gump, Herb Curtis, City Manager Nate Stansberry, City Clerk Judy Piercy, City Attorney Brian Bailey, Finance Director Joe Solberg, Chief Mike Posey, Chief Jimmy Suttle, Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Marty Lewis, Street Commissioner Mike Starett, Sanitary Board Director Dee Evans.

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked everyone for a moment of silence and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors Section, (5 Minute Time Limit): No one signed up to speak.

Presentation: Julie Posey from the Lewis County Community Foundation Update:

Ms. Posey gave a brief presentation on what Lewis County Community Foundation can do and the challenges that the group faces. Ms. Posey introduced Gene Edwards and Ray Smith, who are on the board. Ms. Posey thanked all the community leaders for what they contributed to the community. Ms. Posey would like everyone to share the importance of funding and or partnering with the Lewis County Community Foundation. Ms. Posey provided literature for the council about the foundation.

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the Regular Session Meeting of October 2, 2023 and the Special Session Meeting of October 16, 2023. **Motion carried.**

Receive and File Reports of City Boards, Commissions, and Outside Agencies: Mayor Harrison-Edwards read over the meeting times and dates with a change in the EDA Meeting will be on December 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The Weston Tree Commission submitted an application for Debra Alfred for approval. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** Debra Alfred for the Weston Tree Commission. **Motion carried.**

Robert Weaver, the Chairman for the Weston Tree Commission, passed out an information packet to the council and thought he had a person interested in being on the Tree Commission. Mayor Harrison-Edwards invited everyone to the Weston Planning Commission and went over the Comprehensive Plan and will be holding a town meeting to go over the priorities of the plan.

Known Vacancies to be Filled: Mayor Harrison-Edwards informed the council that the Board of Zoning Appeals has one position available with an alternate making two positions. The Weston Appeals Board has three positions available, and the Weston Tree Commission has two positions available.



Sanitary Board of Director Report: Sanitary Board Director Evans report was in the packet and informed the council of the following:

- City Manager Stansberry, Finance Manger Solberg and Sanitary Board Director Evans went over the Long-Term Control Plan Report with Thrasher and submitted it to DEP for approval.
- Provided the council with a Sanitary Board Budget for the year ending June 30, 2024. Sanitary Board Director Evans explained each of the deposits that were made and the bills that were paid.
- City Manager Stansberry explained that the Long-Term Control Plan Report is the Comprehensive Plan that Thrasher created. Number one was the Sludge Drying Bed Project, Number two was flow and mapping by an engineering firm, which we are trying to do in house and to finalizing paying off debt. City Manager Stansberry agreed that a public meeting is necessary, and we need to show what the public's money is going too.

Department Reports:

Finance Department: Finance Manager Solberg provided council with the Profit & Loss Statement from July 1, 2023 to October 30, 2023, along with the bank statements for Vacant Structures, Coal Severence, Parks and Recreation, K-9 Fund, Holding Account, General Account, Payroll Account, Police Equipment Fund, and the Rainy-Day Fund.

Finance Manager Solberg did not ask the council to move any money from the General Fund to the Vacant Structure Account because no money was paid on Vacant Structures. Mayor Harrison-Edwards would like to see the aging of the fees. City Manager Stansberry has reached out to the 7-11 owners to see if buildings will continue to sit vacant. Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with a report of the City's accounts that he would like to transfer funds to Interest Bearing Accounts. Finance Manager Solberg also provided to the council the rate chart from the Citizens Bank of Weston, Inc., Huntington Bank, and the United Bank. Finance Director Solberg asked to move \$35,000 from Coal Servance Fund, \$300,000 from the General Fund, \$100,000 from Rainy Day Fund, \$15,000 from Vacant Structures Fund and \$400,000 from ARPA Fund.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** to move \$35,000 from Coal Severance Fund, \$300,000 from the General Fund, \$100,000 from Rainy Day Fund, \$15,000 from Vacant Structures Fund and \$400,000 from ARPA Fund. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with a request for revision to approved budget and went over the departments and the increase amount for each. Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the budget adjustment. **Motion carried.**

Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with a copy of the check detail report of every written expenditure check from July 2023 to current. Finance Manager Solberg explained the council is to approve every check per the State Auditor. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** all expenditures. **Motion carried.**

Street Department: The October Report was in the packet. Street Commissioner Starett informed the council of the following:

- Suggested everyone go to look at George Street, they have completed the project.



- Worked with Mr. Brannon to put drains in and the water should drain correctly. Councilwoman Rogers asked if the Street Department will be making curbs. City Manager Stansberry is still looking into the machine. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked about the painting machine and City Manager Stansberry thought they might be doing it at night.
- Discussion on vehicles needed for the Street Department and how it should be managed if a truck was found the street department needed.

Police Department: The October Report was in the packet. Chief Posey informed the council of the following:

- The speed sign was put on Rada Street, and it does collect data and the times vehicle goes by. Chief Posey is trying to print off the data.

Fire Department: The October Report was in the packet. Chief Suttle informed the council that he has nothing else to report on but will answer any questions the council may have. Councilwoman Rogers asked Chief Suttle how they Gun Bash went, and he replied it went well.

Building/Code/Zoning Department: The October Report was in the packet.

Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis informed the council of the following:

- Using a different format for his reports for council, will give more information and revenue made from the permits.

Animal Control Officer: Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis gave an update that Animal Control Officer Goldsmith has been trapping cats on School Drive and Lynn Avenue. A total of eleven cats were trapped with seven being female, with two pending adoptions. People offered Animal Control Officer Goldsmith their traps to use if needed.

City Attorney Report: City Attorney Bailey informed the council of the following:

- We will need to decide on the Codification Meeting for November and will reach out to everyone for a date that works.

City Clerk: The October Report was provided in the packet. The City Clerk thanked Chief Suttle and the Fire Department for getting which of the streetlights were out and completing the form. The City Clerk informed the council we received around ten parade applications this past week and we have not made a decision on the Parade Marshall but will do so this week.

City Manager Report: City Manager Stansberry provided council with an update of this report, and informed the council of the following:

- City Attorney Bailey and City Manager Stansberry worked on who controlled the property behind Buns and how to get the trust property into the City of Weston.
- City Manager Stansberry stated that money will need to exchange hands and the need to revisit the Land Reuse Agency.
- Apartments will be built on that site, and they will annex into the city, we will give the location our services.
- Cat Control - trying to keep the cost as low as possible for spading and neutering with the hopes that people will want to adopt the cats. Councilman Curtis asked if additional



money and City Manager stated it could be a possibility but will keep the council apprised.

- Mayor Harrison-Edwards and City Manager Stansberry attended the Hubcap meeting at Hawks Nest State Park about grant writing. The city's project funded by HubCap was for the Halloween decorations around town. The next grant will be technical advice for a project in the amount of \$20,000.
- The survey that was passed out to the public, the City of Weston came in second place.
- City Manager Stansberry talked with the West Virginia American Water about the dam and its surrounding property. Councilwoman Rogers spoke about the responsibility of taking care of the dam and the expense, plus the value of the citizens property if taken out along with the muddy mess it would leave. Councilwoman Rogers thought we need to put the citizens mind at ease. Councilman Curtis asked how does owning the dam benefit the City of Weston. City Manager Stansberry thought owning the surrounding properties would be nice for the Riverfront Project. City Manager Stansberry explained that this was only being talked about, nothing had been decided.
- Annexation – City Manager Stansberry has some interested parties talking to him about the annexation and we should have a public meeting soon to talk about the municipal fees and taxes for the properties. City Manager Stansberry thought of sending out letters asking for feedback in the next couple of months.
- City Manager Stansberry thought of asking the DOH for a traffic route study when the bridge is completed and a study for the downtown area to see if it is feasible for Main Street to be a two-way street. Councilman Curtis asked about the lighting on the new bridge. City Manager Stansberry stated he was told no lighting for the new bridge, contractor is not willing to put in an order for the lighting, and it was not in the original bid. Councilman Curtis thought a study should have been done for the bridge being dark and it will be hazardous. Councilwoman Gump asked if the rods could be put into place and then the City work on getting lights later. City Manager Stansberry reminded the council that this bridge is not ours and there would be a need for a maintenance contract.
- City Manager Stansberry thanked the Police Department for investigating the thefts of the pumpkins and the Street Department for getting the decorations for Halloween Town up. City Manager Stansberry also thanked the Street Department for the George Street Project and what an excellent job they did.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** all department reports. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Ordinance 2023-17 Ordinance of the City of Weston Prohibiting Parking on Portions of West Seventh Street (Second Reading) (Action Requested): City Manager Stansberry requested to have Ordinance 2023-17 tabled.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **table** Ordinance 2023-17 Ordinance of the City of Weston Prohibiting Parking on Portions of West Seventh Street. **Motion carried.**



Ordinance 2023-19 Ordinance to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks (Second Reading) (Action Requested): Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** to have the second reading of Ordinance 2023-19 Ordinance to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks by title only.

Motion carried.

The City Clerk read the second reading of Ordinance 2023-19 Ordinance to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks by title only.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the second reading Ordinance 2023-19 Ordinance to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks by title only. **Motion carried.** The first reading by title only of Ordinance 2023-19 Ordinance to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks was read on October 16, 2023. The approval of the second reading enacts Ordinance 2023-19 to Amend Section 25-19 of the Weston City Code in Order to Enhance the Ability of Citizens to Repair Sidewalks as of November 6, 2023.

Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on State Street (Second Reading) (Action Requested): Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to have the second reading of Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on State Street by title only. **Motion carried.**

The City Clerk read the second reading of Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on State Street by title only.

Councilman Curtis made a motion to seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the second reading of Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed limit on South River by title only. **Motion carried.** The first reading of Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on State Street was read on October 16, 2023 by title only. The approval of the second reading enacts Ordinance 2023-20 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on State Street as of November 6, 2023.

Ordinance 2023-21 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on South River (Second Reading) (Action Requested): Councilwoman Rogers made a motion second by Councilman White to have the second reading of Ordinance 2023-21 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on South River by title only.

The City Clerk read the second reading of Ordinance 2023-21 of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on South River by title only.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the second reading of Ordinance 2023-21 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on South River by title only. **Motion carried.** The first reading of Ordinance 2023-21 Ordinance of the City Of Weston Creating 15 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit on South River was on October 16, 2023. The approval of the second reading enacts Ordinance 2023-21 Ordinance of the City of Weston Creating 15 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit on South River as November 6, 2023.

New Business

Veterans Day Parade November 11, 2023 Starting at 10:30 a.m. (Action Requested): Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** the Veterans Day Parade November 11, 2023 starting at 10:30 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Ordinance 2023-22 Amend the September 5, 2006 Feline Control Ordinance by Adding in Registration Process and Registration Fees: City Attorney Bailey stated that in the Ordinance in 2006 they did not have registration process or fees and we will need to keep track of the cats. City Manager Stansberry discussed the tagging of the cats with making a log and taking pictures, because without a tag we would have no way to identify. City Manager Stansberry also wanted to know if the cat was trapped and was spaded or neutered, do we charge the owner for the service when they pick up the cat. City Manager Stansberry will look more into the process and will provide the council with additional information. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **table** Ordinance 2023-22 Amend the September 5, 2006 Feline Control Ordinance by Adding in Registration Process and Registration Fees. **Motion carried.**

Cruiser Policy/Police Mileage Policy (Action Requested): City Manager Stansberry discussed the rate based on mileage for the Police Officers to take a vehicle home. Two out of the six employed for the City of Weston live over the 25-mile limit. City Manager Stansberry requested to finish out the agenda and then go into executive session at the end for discussion of personnel. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to finish out the agenda and go into executive session for discussion of personnel. **Motion carried.**

Sidewalk Program (Action Requested): City Manager Stansberry requested the Sidewalk Program to be tabled. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **table** the Sidewalk Program. **Motion carried.**

Reports of City Council

Mayor Harrison-Edwards provided a copy of her report and informed the council of the following:

- City Manager Stansberry is in the process of naming the alley.
- At the Cemetery Board Meeting it was discussed that family members set up a trust fund for the Machpelah Cemetery, but nothing has been set up for the Arnold Cemetery and was not sure if the families are known at the Arnold Cemetery. Mayor Harrison-Edwards



would like to set something up in the budget for the cemetery since we have volunteers that are trying to take care of it.

- Mayor Harrison-Edwards received an email from On Trac they will be doing an on-sight survey and will be in Weston, but the date will be December 4th, up to December 13th. Mayor Harrison-Edwards would like to have a team to greet them.

Ward I Councilwoman Rogers informed the council of the following:

- Thought it was a huge success for Halloween Town.
- Thanked the Fire Department for the many pumpkin drops they had.
- Thanked the Street Department for all their help with the set up for Halloween.
- Councilwoman Rogers is now geared up for Christmas.

Ward II Councilman White informed the council of the following:

- Thanked the Street Department and the Sanitary Department for the project on George Street, looks nice. Councilman White thanked the Police Department for all their recent work and suggested putting the speed sign on North River.

Ward III Councilwoman Gump informed the council of the following:

- Reminded everyone of the annual Christmas Parade on November 24, 2023 and thanked everyone for working together. Reminded everyone of the Miracle on Main on November 25, 2023, and they will be making a memorial tree if anyone wants to make an ornament and put it on the tree. Councilwoman Gump discussed the Veterans Parade having the least attendance, and it should be the parade with the most attendance.

- Councilwoman Gump read the following poem by Joanna Fuchs (Poemsource.com)

While we were here at home,
They traveled land and sea,
To make sure we stayed safe,
To protect and keep us free.

Words are not enough;
To give them what they're due.
On Veteran's Day please thank them
For their service, to me and you.

Ward IV Councilman Curtis informed the council of the following:

- Thanked the City Staff for their hard work, and the City Manager for all his work.
- Thanked City Manager for getting the Animal Control Program up and running.

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers at 7:59 p.m. to **enter** executive session. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **exit** executive session. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **adjourn** at 8:38 p.m. No action was taken. **Motion carried.**



Attest

Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards

Judy Piercy, City Clerk