



Weston City Council
Minutes

Weston Volunteer Fire Department
321 Center Street
January 9th, 2025

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 Manager Joe Solberg, Chief Mike Posey, Chief Jimmy Suttle, Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Marty Lewis, Street Commissioner Mike Street and Sanitary Director Dee Evans.

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked for a Moment of Silence and called the meeting to order at 6:03 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: No presentations given.

Approval of Minutes:

Receive and File Reports of City Board, Commissions, and Outside Agencies

Report: Mayor Harrison-Edwards read aloud the dates and times for the various meetings, along with the different vacancies that needed to be filled. The Historic Landmarks Commission meeting was scheduled for the 9th of January, City Clerk explained waiting on a rescheduled date from the president of Historic Landmarks Commission. The Weston Land Reuse Agency correct meeting date will be January 27th at 6:00 pm. at the Municipal Building. The Weston Tree Commission submitted an application for Robert Darling and Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **table** the application. **Motion carried.** Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked City Manager Stansberry if someone needed to be appointed to the Lewis/Gilmer Solid Waste Authority in his absence. City Manager Stansberry replied as a resident of Weston he is willing to serve as it meets quarterly, but he will miss this quarter.

Sanitary Board of Director Report was in the packet and stated she would answer any questions. The Sanitary Director Evans gave the billing for \$168,681.44 and collections for the same period time were \$173,348.87.



Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked when the Sanitary Department will move into the Municipal Building. City Manager Stansberry explained someone was hired to finish the office and should not take long.

Department Reports

Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with all bank statements, Profit and Loss Statement from July through December 2024, Vacant Structure Fund and Check Detail List for December 2024. Finance Manager Solberg gave a general update on the Municipal Fees since the due date was changed and in the month of December collections were \$85,120.52 and in January collections as of today are \$7,514.02. Since the beginning of December, we have collected over \$20,000 past due collections, and 50 were online payments. The transfer of bank accounts is halfway complete, the funds that were moved to the United Bank have been moved but we have not been set up with online banking. Finance Manager Solberg stated as an administrative note he will be ordering the check for all the different funds. Finance Manager Solberg gave an update of the gross pay totals of W2'S for all employees.

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to transfer from General Fund \$5,850.00 to Vacant Structures Fund. **Motion carried.**

Finance Manager Solberg explained to the council that the demolition on High Street council voted to pay half of that from Vacant Structure and now we have the price of \$15,701.05. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to move \$15,701.05 from Vacant Structures to the General Fund. **Motion carried.**

Councilman Curtis asked if the council could be provided a list of the Vacant Structures and Councilwoman Rogers agreed it would be nice. Discussion of the Vacant Structures with the new grant from the DEP and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer stated we are using the priority list that was made in the beginning.

Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the Check Detail Report for December 2024. **Motion carried.**

Finance Manager Solberg went over the Revenues and the Expenditures on the budget with the different increases and decreases. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the General Fund Budget Revision. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

The Street Department report was in the packet and would answer any questions the council may have. Councilman Curtis commented that he realizes that the Street Department is focusing on removing snow but wondered if anyone was thinking about mowing in the Spring. Street Commissioner Starett stated for paving the roads we are still under contract with JF Allen. City Manager Stansberry the council that we have the mowing bids brought to the council in March.

The Police Department report was in the packet along with the Pier Liaison and would answer any questions the council may have. Councilwoman Rogers commented the Pier Liaison has been reaching out to people, addressing the homeless on the streets, and providing resources. Councilman Curtis asked if we were going by the ordinance for no public camping. City Manager Stansberry commented that it has been the policy of the department by telling the person you cannot be here and if they do not gather their belongings and leave the person can be cited for Public Camping. City Manager Stansberry stated for the most part they are moving out of the city limits.

The Fire Department report was in the packet and Chief Suttle informed the council it was a busy month and had around 35 calls alone on Friday. Chief Suttle stated the Fire Department had one structure fire at Twelfth Street.

The Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Report was in the packet and included yearend figures, and revenue from building permits. Councilman Curtis asked if a list of vacant structures for tear down with the new grant could be made available for the council. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis said it is done by the priority list that we made and updated when necessary. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis explained to the council that he was waiting on the DEP to advertise for bids. City Manager Stansberry stated that on West Second Street we have two houses that are side by side and he would like to see them come down first. Councilman Curtis asked if any commercial structures were being condemned, and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer replied no commercial structures were on the list. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked about the vulture issues and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis told he thought since it was cold they have moved on, and the USDA is thinking of moving the trap.

Cat Program Progress Report was in the packet.

City Attorney Bailey reported to the council that most of his stuff is tied to our Old/New Business. City Attorney Bailey is not making headway with the American Legal being distracted with other tasks such as learning trying to stay ahead of the law regarding the First Due Fire.

City Clerk Report was in the packet.

City Manager Stansberry informed the council of the following:

- had multiple conversations about the First Due Fire in the last month with our delegate representatives Adam Burkhammer and Patrick Martin. City Manager Stansberry said that he finds this frustrating experience going back and forth with the delegation. It is not personally frustrating or towards the delegates but ultimately the City of Weston voices are not being heard. City Manager

Stansberry provided to council a proposed bill and it looked like it was going to punt the issue to the County Commissions and give them the right to raise fees and cut the city's abilities to raise any fees. This will inevitably lead to a conversation to the effect if we cannot be reimbursed for the service, are we going to provide the service which is the natural conclusion. This is a huge question that is not being spoken to by the bill being proposed, and that's where I am coming from when I said it is the frustrating part because I feel that Chief Suttle, City Attorney Bailey, and other people from Buckhannon has done an excellent job explaining the position and explaining the struggles they are seeing. City Manager Stansberry suggested to the council to pay attention to what is coming out of the Legislative Session which will start in March.

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

Old Business

- **Consideration of Ventrac Tractor 4500 Series Rough Cut Mower Final**
Quote: City Manager Stansberry informed the council that for the last three or four years the snow control has been able to manage running off \$15,000 a year and we are already at that mark with more storms are coming. AT this point, we are going to ask to table the Ventrac Tractor and give us another month of winter to see how it goes and take \$20,000 from the equipment fund and put it in snow control. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **table** the Consideration of Ventrac Tractor Series Rough Cut Mower. **Motion carried.**

New Business

- **Consideration of Resolution 2025-001 of the First Due Fire Fee Billing:**
Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked City Attorney Bailey if the resolution needed to be read in its entirety. City Attorney Bailey thought it was not necessary but could if she wanted to. Councilwoman Rogers asked with this timeline if we amend or alter will we qualify to move forward or this addresses when the billing will start. City Attorney Bailey said there is an overture from the Legislature that is to let us work together and see how this session pulls out to see if a rule comes out satisfactory to both parties. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to approve to read the Consideration of Resolution 2025-001 of the First Due Fire Fee Billing. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes).** **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration for Ordinance 2025-01 Assistant City Manager Position:**
Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to approve to have the first reading of Ordinance 2025-01 Assistant City Manager Position by title only. Councilwoman Gump thought the position was going to be

the Administration Assistant. City Manager Stansberry communicated that yes, we did talk about the Administration Assistant, but no motion was made and not to seem adversarial it is being brought to the council for a motion. City Manager Stansberry stated that you need to make an Ordinance for the Assistant City Manager Position. City Attorney Bailey recapped that the Administration Assistant has been in the budget. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked the council if they were sure they wanted to do this when this position when part of the duties could be to attend regulatory meetings in lieu of the City Manager. Councilman Curtis asked if there was a difference in the position of being an officer or not being an officer. City Manager Stansberry informed the council that this position is not a salary position, but an hourly position and the council will not appoint the position. Councilwoman Gump believed there would be a lot of fallbacks. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked Councilwoman Rogers if she would like to resend her motion and Councilwoman Rogers replied yes. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **table** the Consideration for Ordinance 2025-01 Assistant City Manager Position. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Handbook Policy Revision Regarding Conflict of Interest:** City Manager Stansberry pointed trying to be made is that the city does not have situations with a supervisor and employees have any financial interest outside of work that introduces any kind of potential conflict to any operations of the city. As with any conflict-of-interest, somethings at times are very apparent and sometimes just the appearance is a conflict of interest is enough to cause a problem. City Manager Stansberry felt that appearance is very tough to police in regard to, as a supervisor having an employee work on the side and this needs to be spoken to in the handbook. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked City Manager Stansberry if he reviewed the 2020 Conflict of Interest Policy she provided. City Manager Stansberry asked where the information came from and asked the council if they passed this policy. Mayor Harrison-Edwards replied that yes, the council did pass the 2020 Conflict of Interest Policy. City Manager Stansberry asked the council to table the revision and to review for consideration in the future. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **table** Consideration of Handbook Policy Revision Regarding Conflict of Interest. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of Partnership with CVB for Video Spotlight:** City Manager Stansberry informed the council that he received a call about the possibility of appearing at the end of the show on public television that Dennis Quad produces. Ray Smith came to the meeting but shortly we realized that it was a sales call for a monetary contribution to be apart of the program. City Manager Stansberry provided in the packet for the council details of the program and expressed the City of Weston interest would be a partnership. The amount of

\$25,000 would be the contributing amount to be a part of the program and we would market ourselves in the end of the extended commercials.

City Manager Stansberry brought this to the council to see if there was any interest in this program along with the CVB to see if there was interest.

Councilwoman Rogers suggested to open the opportunity to Lewis County and the CVB could find a way to pay the \$25,000 because that is what they do. City Manager Stansberry will call back and explain the City of Weston does not have the funding and introduce them to the CVB. Mayor Harrison-Edwards thought the CVB had some hesitancy because the show is public broadcasting, and it is dealing with tax dollars but is willing to work with us if we wanted to move forward after consulting with their attorney. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis **no interest** in the monetary contribution from the council and recommends City Manager Stansberry to refer this to the CVB.

Motion carried.

- **Consideration of the Appointment of Jeffrey Petry and Dora Pratt to the Weston Housing Authority and Acceptance of Resignation Letters for Joyce Lamb, Robert King, and Kathy Evans:** The council was provided with letters of resignation for Joyce Lamb, Robert King, and Kathy Evans.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** the resignation letter for Joyce Land, Robert King, and Kathy Evans.
Motion carried.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to appoint Jeffery Petry as the Tenant representative for Robert King with the term expiring September 30, 2026. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** Dora Pratt to serve the remaining term of Joyce Lamb with the term ending September 30, 2025. **Motion carried.**

City Manager Stansberry stated that the council will need to appoint someone to the Weston Housing Authority.

- **Consideration of Administrative Staffing Changes:**

City Manager Stansberry informed the council as of Friday, January 10th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. he would be resigning as the city manager and will make himself available to serve in other capacities. City Manager Stansberry said that it has been fantastic being here and conflicting but there is a human element that requires his services in the Marshal Islands. City Manager Stansberry considers Weston to be there home and as far as he can see, into the future he will try to be a part of the organization in whatever capacity the council sees fit. City Manager Stansberry asked the council to accept his resignation. Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to accept the resignation of City Manager Stansberry on Friday, January 10th, 2025. **Motion carried.**



Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to appoint Nate Stansberry as engineer for the City of Weston. **Motion carried.**

City Attorney Bailey informed the council at this time they could appoint an Interim City Manager. Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to appoint Joe Solberg as the Interim City Manager of the City of Weston. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Interim City Manager Joe Solberg to have the same authority as the as a City Manager. **Motion carried.**

Reports of City Council

Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards informed the council that at the meeting with Walmart today it was a great reminder of the changes that have taken place in the city government in the four to five years. The city has talented capable people on staff who are compassionate and put together a team of good qualified capable council. We are hopeful of the relationship developed with other agencies and departments, county partnerships and other organizations. Today was a very hopeful meeting and we were all on the same page with so many opportunities due to the fact everyone is working together for a common vision that has not been seen for many years. Mayor Harrison-Edwards could not tell how sad she is with Nate's departure. Nate is the kind of guy that likes to throw things against the wall to see how many are going to stick. If anything does stick, he will follow through to make sure we will get to where we are going. The city has quite a few accomplishments thanks to Nates leadership and the ability to manage the team at the City Building, Fire Department, and Street Department. Mayor Harrison-Edwards hopes that when his work in done at the Marshal Island he will consider how much we love him, how much he has done for us, and how much we can use his help.

Ward I Councilwoman Sherry Rogers thanked everyone for being at the meeting tonight. Councilwoman Rogers stated that 2025 started out with a bang for all the departments and it has been challenging, but everyone is doing a wonderful job, and it is appreciated. Councilwoman Rogers also commented on the professionalism everyone does when dealing with the public and it is appreciated. Councilwoman Rogers told Nate that she appreciates everything he has done, all we have accomplished and moved forward a lot under his administration. Councilwoman Rogers commented that the city has met so many goals and have a lot of goals to meet. Councilwoman Rogers wished Nate the best.

Ward II Councilman Steven White thanked the Police Department for his ward being quite, and Street Commissioner Starett and the Street Department for cleaning our



streets. As a city, Councilman White stated that we are doing great and hopes to see an improvement for the First Due Fire Fee. Councilman White expressed with Nates hardheadedness which motivated us, and everyone around us you will be missed.

Ward III Councilwoman Debbie Gump told everyone Happy New Year and we were met with a glare with lots of snow. Councilwoman Gump said no one likes bad weather, but it will help with the drought we had this summer. Sometimes we need to look at things as a blessing even though you do not like it. Councilwoman Gump told Nate that he has been a blessing for our Community, City of Weston and previously told him she did not want him to go but realizes why he is going. Councilwoman Gump thanked Nated for helping the city gain a lot of projects and still some to finish, which is why you must come back. Councilwoman Gump wished Nate all the best.

Ward IV Councilman Herb Curtis thanked Street Commission Starett and the Street Department for plowing the streets with all the snow we received. Councilman Curtis reiterated what Mayor Harrison-Edwards said, we have come along way, and it takes many personalities, thought processes working together to accomplish the goals to make it work. Since this council has been in office we have come along way. Councilman Curtis thanked Nate for all he has done and wished him good luck and hoped to see him soon. Councilman Curtis thanked Chief Posey for all his help with the issues he had and for the quick responding time. Councilman Curtis hoped that the First Due Fire would be resolved soon so we can be on common ground for Chief Suttle. Councilman Curtis thanked Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis for all the work and time he put into the grant we received for demolition of houses.

Adjournment

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **adjourn** at 7:58 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Attest:

Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards

City Clerk, Judy Piercy



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