



Weston City Council  
Minutes

Lewis County Court House  
117 Center Avenue  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence:** Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked for a moment of silence and called the meeting 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)**

James Connor from First Energy came to the council meeting to introduce himself to everyone. Mr. Connor is the external affairs which he said meant if it is related to electricity, he is our go to. City Engineer Stansberry was provided with a map with the pole numbers which should make it easier to find. Mr. Connor discussed the wattage of the lights at the intersection, and it could be either 90 or 130. The vehicle will be equipped with one or the other, but if you decide on different wages at the intersections that will be fine as well, up to the city. Mr. Connor said to call him with any problems or questions.

**Presentation:**

Matt Davis/West Virginia American Water: Mr. Davis was not able to attend the meeting.

Fred Potter/Lewis County First: Mr. Potter thanked the council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Mr. Potter reminded everyone of the golf carts that were bought for Lewis County High School and how helpful it is getting people to the top of the hill for the game. Lewis County Emergency Squad approached Mr. Potter needing a cart for the side lines if a player should get hurt to take them down the hill. The cart they are using now is old and it will cost too much to repair it. Mr. Potter explained that the cart can be used on the new hiking trails at the lake, parks that a vehicle could not get to and could use on track meets. Finance Manager Solberg informed the council that the council does have a budget and could make a donation if they wish. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** to donate \$1000 towards golf carts. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 and the Special Session Meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. **Motion carried.**

**Receive and File Reports of City Boards, Commissions and Outside Agencies:** Mayor Harrison-Edwards read aloud the dates and times of the various meetings along with the vacancies that needed to be filled.

**Sanitary Board of Director Report:**

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

- have not received any complaints about the rate increase
- nothing negative about the move to the City Building
- thanked everyone for helping the Sanitary Department with their move and the phones should be hooked up this week
- invited the council to the Sanitary Board meeting on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

**Department of Reports**

**Finance Report:**

Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with a copy of all the bank statements, but the bank was late with the statements, and they were not reconciled. Profit and Loss Statement from July 2024 to February 2025, the Check Detail List for February 2025, Vacant Structure List for February 2025. The Municipal Fees are on track, and it was a good month for past due accounts.

- Consideration of Transfer to Vacant Structures  
Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** to move \$8,450 from General Fund to Vacant Structure Fund. **Motion carried.**
- Consideration of Approval of the Expense Check Detail Report for February 2025  
Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the Expense Check Detail Report for February 2025. **Motion carried.**
- Consideration Setting Date to Set Levy  
Finance Manager Solberg discussed having a Work Session to talk about the Public Works Department and other budget items, then having a Special Session afterward to set the levy. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** to have a Work Session on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. and a Special Session meeting at 5:30 p.m. **Motion carried.**



**Street Department:** The February Report was in the packet and Street Commissioner Starett informed the council of the following:

- hopes that mother nature quits with the snow
- going to be working on potholes this week will be getting hot patch out of Shinnston.

Councilman Curtis asked for an update on the water meter at Third Street at Go Mart. Street Commissioner Starett will make a call and get an update for Councilman Curtis. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked Street Commissioner Starett about the medal plate on Court Street. Street Commissioner Starett had a white line painted around the grate, but this manhole cover is completely different than the others.

**Police Department:** The February Report was in the packet and Chief Posey informed the council if they had any questions, he would be happy to answer them. Mayor Harrison-Edwards thanked Chief Posey for taking late night calls.

**Fire Department:** The February Report was in the packet and Chief Suttle informed the council of the following:

- spent two days in Charleston at the Legislative Conference and the First Due Fire bill has not gone anywhere, but we have until March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mayor Kim-Harrison asked if it went out of committee, and Chief Suttle said no. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked about the bill for increased funding for the Fire Department. Chief Suttle did not think that the bill was going anywhere, but it was for state money, and we will have to go through a new check book system. Councilwoman Rogers asked if it was a new way of tracking, Chief Suttle answered that it was.

**Building/Code/Zoning Report:** The February Report was in the packet and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis informed the council of the following:

- he has two out of the three contracts back from the contractors
- waiting on the DEP should be able to start in two or three weeks

Councilwoman Rogers thanked Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis for posting when and where they will be taking houses down. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked about the cat report, and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis explained that she could not trap in the freezing weather because any animal could get in the trap and freeze, he, and Interim City Manager Solberg and will be discussing the cats further.

Councilwoman Gump asked how many citizens are not paying the vacant fee, and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis said he thought around 25 or 30. Interim City Manager Solberg stated we could take them to Magistrate Court, but it takes too much time and depending on the mood they were in. Councilman Curtis asked about the old United Bank Building on Main and Interim City Manager Solberg thought it was still under TALA. Councilwoman Rogers said she has never seen it opened.



**City Attorney:** City Attorney Bailey informed the council that he has been working on several legal issues for the city. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked if we have gotten any further with the codification and City Attorney Bailey responded that he has not but will try to start working on it.

**City Clerk:** The February Report was in the packet.

**Interim City Manager Report:** Interim City Manager informed the council of the following:

- This month we have worked on getting the Sanitary Board wrapped up moving over to the city building and the biggest part is done, and still have the building rented for another month to get everything out.
- The Riverfront Project, we will be receiving an environmental review from Kimley Horn. At the end of the summer if everyone agrees with Phase I the project can start.
- For the last couple of years Hubcap has had a City Meeting, and the date will be April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Interim City Manager Solberg asked if Councilwoman Rogers to get West Hall and she said that she would.
- Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council that he was excited about Senate Bill 234 for municipalities. This bill changes the threshold for property dispensation for municipalities. In the mid 1960's the threshold has been \$1000, so if anything was worth \$1000 it needed to be auctioned off. This has now changed slightly for municipalities to choose to create a small auction pool of only adjacent landowners to bid.
- Interim City Manager Solberg was excited for Senate Bill 244 from our own delegate which will allow a municipality to exit PEIA Insurance and they can come back within five years, giving a chance for municipalities to explore other insurances.

Councilwoman Gump asked for any updates on the Columbia Club and Interim City Manager Solberg did not except that the HLC appointed Spring Hull as the contact person for the Columbia Club. Interim City Manager Solberg would like to set up a meeting with Mayor Harrison-Edwards, Spring Hull, Anna Cardelli, and himself to figure out what needs to be done and the next steps. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked for the meeting to be set up soon

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

## Old Business

### A. Consideration Handbook Policy Update Conflict of Interest:

Interim City Manager Solberg explained to the council that he has not yet spoken with Susan Deniker about the Conflict of Interest and recommends to table until



such time. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **table** the Consideration Handbook Policy Update Conflict of Interest. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

**A. Consideration of Purchase of an Ambulance for Non-Emergency Pickups:**

Chief Suttle provided the council with a copy of the Country Roads Leasing LLC Proposal for Financing and a pricing quote.

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to approve Purchase of an Ambulance for Non-Emergency Pickups from Country Road Leasing with the acquisition cost of \$70,328.00 for a five-year term with an interest rate of 6.29% and a monthly payment of \$1,417.27. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

**B. Consideration of Purchasing Fireworks in the Amount of \$10,000 for 4<sup>th</sup> of July:**

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** the Purchase of Fireworks for up to \$10,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. **Motion carried.**

**C. Consideration of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works:**

Interim City Manager Solberg explained to the council that the ordinance is not ready and we will need to hire another street laborer and move that employee to foreman for Public Works. Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked if this position is in the budget and Interim City Manager Solberg said that it was but will be reimbursed by the Sanitary Department. The Street Commissioner will pull the employees where needed and this will wash out in the end.

Interim City Manager Solberg recommends Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works be **tabled**.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **table** Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works. **Motion carried.**

**D. Discussion of Paving Streets in Different Wards:**

Street Commissioner Starett provided to the council a list of streets that were to be paved this spring. Street Commissioner Starett said that some streets are in horrible conditions down to the mud. JF Allen and Street Commissioner Starett went around and looked at the streets and it is going to be expensive to take care of these problems. Street Commissioner Starett asked for the council's feedback of what streets they wanted him to start working on first. An estimate of over \$325,000 was given to fix all eleven streets, but some of the streets can be fixed in house.

### **Reports of City Council:**



**Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards** encouraged everyone to follow the WV Legislature page to see what bills are coming up or passed. Mayor Harrison-Edwards spoke with Walmart and the corporate office has some questions for the city to answer. The Comprehensive Plan will go back to the Planning Commission with some new additions and changes at their next meeting for review and will be returned to the council for approval.

**Ward I, Sherry Rogers**, thanked everyone for all they do and waking up every day wanting to make our town better and felt that the city has a good team. Councilwoman Rogers reminded everyone that on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at West Hall they will be holding a barn dance, adults will be \$10, Children, Students and Veterans will be free. They will be serving light refreshments and do not worry if you do not know how to square dance, they will be calling out the moves. Councilwoman Rogers invited everyone to attend, it will be fun.

**Ward III, Debbie Gump**, thanked the city staff and hoped everyone was well and over the flu along with the citizens. Councilwoman Gump thanked Mr. Potter for his help for the community, and Mr. Connor from First Energy for the using the LED lights for the streetlights. Councilwoman Gump thanked everyone for attending the fundraiser at the Glass Museum they made around \$6,000 to help the museum keep its doors open. Councilwoman Gump told moving forward with spring having out spring cleanup we can let the citizens know this is a way to get rid of their debris without cost. Councilwoman Gump also encouraged everyone to watch what is happening in Charleston with the Legislature and thanked Chief Suttle for going down for those two days for the First Due Fire Fee.

**Ward IV, Herb Curtis**, thanked the guests for coming to the Regular Session Meeting and thanked the city staff for all they do.

**Adjournment:**

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **adjourn** at 7:23 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Attest

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Mayor, Kim Harrison-Edwards

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City Clerk, Judy Piercy