



Weston City Council
Minutes

Lewis County Council House
117 Center Avenue
April 7th, 2025

Present: Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards, Councilpersons Sherry Rogers, Steven White, 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 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: Kimley Horn Presentation of “Riverfront Project”

Ms. Tristian Cleveland Landscape Architect from Kimley Horn provided the council and staff with printouts of the project. Ms. Cleveland went over the intention of the masterplan was to create a vision for the downtown area at large focusing on the Riverfront to guide the city with steps of completion using the HUD Grant. This process was started with the input from the public and stakeholder meetings. Ms. Cleveland went on to give some ideas that the public wanted to, such as use of the dam/waterfall, trails, boulders along the river, a relaxing riverfront, series of spaces, Kayak Launch, and for the Riverfront to have a charming small-town feel. Ms. Cleveland provided a slide show and discussed various parts of the projects. Ms. Cleveland was open to any questions or discussions.

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the March 3rd, 2025 Regular Session Meeting, March 24th, 2025 Work Session Meeting, and the March 24th, 2025 Special Session Meeting. **Motion carried.**

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

Report. Mayor Harrison-Edwards read aloud the various meetings times and dates, and the vacancies that needed to be filled with two corrections that needed to be made. Weston Planning Commission will meet April 24th, 2025 at West Hall at the City Meeting, and the Tree Commission will meet April 16th, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the City Building. Spring Hull, the Culture Center Director, gave a brief update on the Culture

Center which is still on a holding pattern waiting to match funding grants to start on the foundation. The Culture Center put in or the State Historical Grant and when the grant is ready Ms. Hull will have more updates. Ms. Hull, a member of the board of the Arts Council, gave an update to the various activities that were going on. The Arts Council continues to grow and supports small businesses by cohosting events and marketing together. The Art Council are continually inquiring about new art partnerships. The Arts Council program going on now is social gatherings promoting hobbies. If the Arts Council cannot meet at West Hall they will meet at Sweet Espresso or the Heart House, bouncing around keeps these spaces active. Sweet Espresso created Rising Star, which is a poetry night, and it is growing, and as of April 1st, 2025 it will be held every third Saturday with different artist attending plus our local talents. Ms. Hull gave her email address, springdhull@gmail.com if anyone has any questions. Councilwoman Gump asked Ms. Hull if she had contacted the teachers at the high school for poetry and art, and Ms. Hull replied that yes, we have, and it is a matter of scheduling. Councilwoman Gump discussed the naming of the Culture Center and thinks the name should include “Community” in the name of the center and has expressed this since conception. Councilwoman Gump felt that it would make the community feel more involved.

Sanitary Board of Director Report:

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

- It was a busy month for the Sanitary Board.
- Received resignations from the electrician and pump employee and our plant operator.
- Assisted with interviews of employees working for both the Sanitary Board and for the City of Weston.
- Engaged Thrasher Engineering to do our permit application (NPDES) is almost completed and will be submitted at the end of this week or the beginning of next week. Assisted in the response to the PBA for our biannual report that was submitted last Friday.
- March Collections were \$248,686.31 and the rate increase is in line with collections.
- Advertised for a Class 3 Treatment Plant Operator.

Department Reports

Finance Report:

Finance Manager Solberg provided the council with a copy of all bank statements, Check Detail List for March 2025, and Vacant Structure List for March 2025.

- **Consideration of Transfer to Vacant Structures**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** to move \$1650.00 from the General Fund to Vacant Structure Fund. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Approval of the Expense Check Detail Report for March 2025**

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Expense Check Detail Report for March 2025. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Repairs to Jetter Vac Truck**

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the repairs of the Jetter Vac Truck for \$9019.56. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Pay Request From Stormwater**

Interim City Manager informed the council that his recommendation is to table Consideration of Pay Request From Stormwater because Sanitary Director Evans spoke with Steptoe and Johnson today and this relates to not wanting to become a MS4 Municipality, and they are sorting this matter out.

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to approve to **table** the Consideration of Pay Request From Stormwater. **Motion carried.**

Street Department Report the March Report was in the packet and Street Commissioner Starett informed the council of the following:

- It was a busy month getting ready for the storm.
- Montgomery Road stormwater drains were completed.
- Jetter Truck will be taken to Charleston in another week.

Councilwoman Rogers asked about the Spring Cleanup and Street Commissioner Starett thought it was the same as last year.

The Police Department Report was in the packet and Chief Posey would answer any question. Councilwoman Gump asked in Lindsey was safe transporting people to various places and Chief Posey commented that she has a unit number with the 911 Center.

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

- It was a busy month for the Fire Department.
- Chief Suttle is still dealing with the house bill and still has no word.

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

- Out of the ten demos, four are completely down with the rain it has not helped but six more to go. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis informed the council that he received notification that the archway for the Arnold Cemetery is completed.

Councilwoman Gump asked how bad a house must be before it is condemned. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis responded that if the house does not have utilities, it can be condemned, another issue we run into is some are on limited income and if they are displaced where are they to go. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis stated if it is a safety issue or a health hazard they will need to move out.

Cat Report was in the packet.

City Attorney Report: City Attorney Bailey stated he has been busy handling legal issues and commented on the Municipal Court going well. City Attorney Bailey has been providing guidance on various issues.

City Clerk Report was in the packet.

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

- Has been providing emails to the council working on Public Works.
- Representative from Congress Riley Moore stopped by to talk about the congressional spending process. Congress has not reached the point in its budget to start negotiations but anticipates might reach that point soon. When this opens it will be a seven-day window, and the city will have to act fast.
- Interim City Manager Solberg went over some ideas to request such as Phase II of the Riverfront, for the Sanitary Board improvements on the sewer system. Also, improvements to infrastructure that we have neglected for several years.
- Sent an email to the council over the weekend and Interim City Manager Solberg has been holding Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis from assigning any corrective order for the issue downtown. The City of Weston was giving the owner until the weekend to show good faith effort, but none has been shown, and Interim City Manager Solberg will be meeting with Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis to get the corrective order started.

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

Old Business

- **Consideration Handbook Policy Update Conflict of Interest**



Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council after he and City Attorney Bailey spoke with Susan Deniker and the response was to move forward with the Ethnic Commission. Interim City Manager Solberg asked the council to table so the city could weigh in on the Ethnic Commission. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **table** until talking to the Ethnic Commission. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works**

Interim City Manager explained that the hiring of future employees will be subject to follow the City of Weston Employee Handbook. Sanitary Director Evans will sit in with interviews and choose who they want to work. Interim City Manager Solberg provided the council with a draft copy along with the job descriptions. Interim City Manager Solberg recommendation was for the council to approve Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works. Sanitary Director Evans also agreed that it needs to be done to move into a positive manner and appreciates being part of the conversations. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** to have **the first reading** of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works by title only. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

City Clerk Judy Piercy read the first reading of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works by title only.

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the **first reading** of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works by title only. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Comprehensive Plan**

Mayor Harrison-Edwards informed the council that the changes to the Comprehensive Plan were made from the last Special Session Meeting. City Attorney Bailey commented that even though the plan does not require a list of the Boards and Commissions, the Zoning Appeals Board was not included. City Attorney Bailey provided the council with a proposed amendment. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the reading of the Comprehensive Plan with the Proposed Amendment. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

City Clerk Judy Piercy read the first reading of the Comprehensive Plan with the Proposed Amendment.



Councilman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** the reading of the Comprehensive Plan with the Proposed Amendment. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes) Motion carried.**

New Business

- **Consideration of Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 24th, 2025 at Noon.** Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Memorial Day Parade, Saturday, May 24th, 2025 at noon. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of \$1000 Donation to Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc.** Councilwoman Rogers explained to the council that the Hacker's Creek Library was a huge help for the Historic Landmarks Commission and others. The Hacker's Creek Library needed some financial assistance to help keep the doors open. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** \$1000 Donation to the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of Keeping Name of Carbon Street**
Interim City Manager Solberg explained to the council that the 911 Center wanted to keep the name of Carbon Street, no one has lived on this street, but now that new apartments are built, they would like to keep the name of Carbon Street. Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** a resolution to keep the name of Carbon Street. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of SHPO Grant for Columbia Club**
Interim City Manager Solberg explained to the council that the Culture Center applied for the SHPO Grant, and it does have a match requirement because of state funding can use the federal funding from the earmark we have as a grant match and vice versa. If awarded this grant we can use it as the match towards the Columbia Club. Spring Hull applied for this grant that needed to be submitted by March 31st, 2025 and she did get the grant submitted. The request was for \$200,000 and if awarded the entire amount and if allowed to use the money that has already been spent as part of the match, we will almost completely cover the match required on the earmark money. Interim City Manager Solberg stated that this is good news for the Columbia Club. Councilwoman Rogers recused herself because Spring Hull is representing the Historic Landmarks Commission, which Councilwoman Rogers is apart of.
Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** applying for the SHPO Grant for the Columbia Club. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of CET Grant for Tree Commission**

Chairman Robert Weaver had a meeting with Interim City Manager Solberg and City Attorney Bailey, and the grant is fully funded, no match and the total is \$26,681. Chairman Robert Weaver informed the council of what the grant will go towards for instances the poplar tree at Arnold Cemetery and for planting trees

- **Consideration of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Ambulance Services**

Interim City Manager Solberg explained to the council that this type of service is within the capacity of the Fire Department. The barrier that Interim City Manager and City Attorney Bailey had was if this is run through the Fire Department, state codes can control and dictate rolls for the Fire Department including that all full-time personnel in all paid Fire Departments will be civil service. This creates limits on who we can hire and for financial reasons the overtime for civil service is through the roof compared to civilian employees. Interim City Manager Solberg spoke about around the state we see people being hired who are not civil service. City Attorney Bailey and Susan Deniker could not figure out how it was done, so there was no clear answer. The safest way to create this ambulance service is to put it in its own department which will require other legal requirements and codes.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** to have the first reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Ambulance Services by title only. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

City Clerk Judy Piercy read the first reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating A New City Department to Provide Ambulance Services by title only.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis to **approve** the first reading by title only of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Ambulance Services. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers, Councilman White, Councilwoman Gump, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.**

Mayor, Kim Harrison-Edwards reminded everyone about the City Meeting on April 24th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at West Hall. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 911 Center will be Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. On Tuesday, April 22nd, at 1:00 p.m. Ray Smith will be doing Phase I of Water Protection located at 35 Arnold Road in Walkersville, WV.



Ward I, Sherry Rogers, thanked all the employees and Drew Strader from the AmeriCorps for attending the meeting. Councilwoman Rogers thanked all the Boards, and Commission for volunteering their time. Councilwoman Rogers talked about the Façade Grant and urged everyone to pick up an application and the deadline is April 30th, 2025 to be turned in. Councilwoman Rogers told that the Façade Grant helps our community and if anyone needs help completing the application she will be happy to help. Councilwoman Rogers invited everyone to help with planting downtown flowers, Teresa Angotti and Reggie Hawver along with the FFA will be helping plant.

Ward II, Steven White thanked everybody at the city for all they do. Councilman White appreciated Chief Posey and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer for all the work they have been doing in his ward and thanked the Street Commissioner Starett for fixing the potholes.

Ward III, Debbie Gump urged everyone to take advantage of the Spring Cleanup, and it cost nothing to have this service, and it will help get our community cleaned. Councilwoman Gump wanted her ward to take advantage of the Façade Grant if they wanted to paint there house or power wash the house you can pick the application up at the City Building. Councilwoman will not be at that the City Meeting on April 24th, she will be taking her students ton Charleston.

Ward IV, Herb Curtis, thanked all city employees and Building/Code/Zoning Officer Marty Lewis for the demolitions and the results are looking nice. Councilman Curits thanked Street Commissioner Starett for filling potholes.

Adjournment

Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **adjourn** at 8:02 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Attest

Mayor, Kim Harrison-Edwards

City Clerk, Judy Piercy