



Weston City Council  
Minutes

Lewis County Court House  
117 Center Avenue  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence:** Mayor Harrison-Edwards 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 to speak.

**Presentation:**

Robert Kuhn from the Tree Commission Board attending a meeting at the City of Weston with the WV Department of Agriculture discussing the Tree of Heaven. Mr. Kuhn went on to talk about the spotted lanternfly that the Tree of Heaven attracts and could harm surrounding trees. Mr. Kuhn explained that the WVDA receives a grant every year to eradicate the Tree of Heaven and they would like to eliminate the tree in Weston. This project is fully funded, no charge to the City of Weston. WVDA will supply mapping and GSI location. Mr. Kuhn explained they will be using a basil spray starting at the bottom around 15" up. Councilwoman Rogers asked about the side effects for flowers and pets. Mr. Kuhn assured us that the pesticide is safe and WVDA is licensed in pesticides.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to change the agenda and do the council reports before the executive session. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** Contract with WV Department of Agriculture. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Regular Session Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and the Special Session on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Motion carried.**

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

**Report:** Mayor Harrison-Edwards commented that everyone has the list of all meetings and times for the month. Mayor Harrison-Edwards would like particular attention paid to the Neighborhood Watch meeting on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Weston Fire Department to make sure we have good representation. We have been lacking representation since they started back up.

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

- She appreciates the extra interest and feedback given to the Sanitary Board with all the meetings that we had.
- Staff changes were made last month, and we are in the process of contracting with RB Energy, they will be our Interim Operators at the Treatment Plant and will be there on site several days a week.
- We have employed a couple of new employees for the plant. WSB Director Evans commented that she believes they are happy to be there and will be learning from RB Energy, she is happy they are there, and it is a positive atmosphere.
- WSB is working closely with Mike Starett and the Street Department on Health Department issues and line issues, finishing a project on North River. WBS Director Evans thought the merger was a good merger together.

**Department Reports**

**Finance Report:**

Interim City Manger Solberg provided to the council in the packet copies of the various bank statements. Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council of the following:

- The City had a record quarter which resulted in a record year for sales tax, \$184,069.46 was the highest making the total \$688,676.93, this is \$73,000 higher than we projected.
- The City received \$15,000 which was related to a Pfizer settlement, state law in West Virginia requires pharmaceutical to make generic brands as soon as possible and Pfizer did not comply with that order which made a settlement with the state.
- State Auditors office stated you will need to make a budget adjustment by receiving the \$15,000. Finance Manager Solberg will bring the budget adjustment to the council in June placing it in contingency to let it roll over.
- **Consideration of Transfer to Vacant Structures**  
No Vacant Structure Fees were paid for the month of April. Finance Manger



Solberg explained that we have players that pay and some that do not. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer does have liens on properties that does not pay.

- **Consideration of Approval of the Expense Check Detail Report for April 2025** Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Check Detail Report for April. **Motion.**

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

- Over the Easter Weekend we babysat Station 7 four days and a few days later we babysat Jackson Mill Station. Street Commissioner Starett stated that the guys working with him are adapting well.

Councilwoman Gump asked when patching of the roads was going to start. Street Commissioner Starett stated that sometime next week, he was getting ready for inspections for the Sanitary Department and working on getting flowers picked up for Councilwoman Rogers.

**The Police Department April Report** was not in the packet for Monday's meeting by error of City Clerk Judy Piercy.

**Peer Liaison April Report** was in the packet and Councilman Curtis commented that Lindsey was doing a wonderful job.

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

- The Fire Department had the regular meeting last Thursday with the volunteer members to discuss the siren issue and the volunteer members are willing to do whatever they need to do to get through.
- Chief Suttle stated they talked about using the siren for structure fires only.

Councilman White appreciates all the help on the siren issues.

Councilwoman Rogers and Councilwoman Gump told Chief Suttle that the ambulance looked good, and Councilwoman Gump asked what the ambulance going to be called and Chief Suttle stated Squad 16.

**Building/Code/Zoning April Report** was in the packet and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis informed the council that he had everything in his report, and he would answer questions if anyone had any.

Councilwoman Gump asked Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis about some are not mowing there lawn. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis



informed the council of the steps he must take starting with the yellow card then moving to a corrective letter and that gives the person ten days to get it mowed. If the lawn is not mowed after ten days, then one of the contract mowers will mow and the individual will be billed.

- **Weston Animal Control** April Report was in the packet.

**City Attorney Bailey** informed the council that he has been providing general information feedback to various departments with issues this last month. The city had Municipal Court this past month about a dog at large.

**City Clerk Report** April Report was in the packet.

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

- The biggest thing about this month is losing the AmeriCorps Program Grant. When this first came out we received communications if we were doing anything out of ordinary, we would be safe, then we received communications about 30% across the board would be cut. By the time those cuts came it was anywhere from 85% to 95% cut, which included our program entirely. Losing the program puts a damper on some of the project and activities we were doing this summer.
- At the end of this month there is a new city website which Laura has been working on. The domain name will remain and in addition we will have the domain name .gov domain name. This addition will be effective for the police obtaining information attainable for search warrant process.
- A lot of work has been done this past month, especially at Arnold Cemetery with the new fencing and the arch. The street light poles have been painted and look nice, the electrician working on relocating electrical services downtown, beautification efforts have been underway, and the city is getting ready for the Farmers Market.
- The Façade Grant wrapped up today and we received several applications.
- The infield development has closed and unfortunately, we did receive any infield applications.
- Interim City Manager Solberg asked the Weston Planning Commission to meet on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. to work with City Attorney Bailey and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Marty Lewis to look at comprehensive changes need to be made to the City of Weston zoning. The City of Weston has had zoning for several years and now we are noticing improvements that need to be made. Also, Interim City Manager Solberg suggested that the city council should attend if possible and he will be asking the Planning Commission to deal with pet-peeve amendments first which are what the council has told him to address.

- One of the changes made by the State Legislature signed by the governor is that all Municipality elections must be Insync with county, state, and federal elections by the year 2032. To do this the charter will need to be changed, which the council can do as long as no one speaks out against at a public hearing. If someone does, then it will have to go to a city-wide vote.

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 provided the council with the update that Susan Dinker provided, and the changes were highlighted.  
Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** to have the second reading of Consideration Handbook Policy Update Conflict of Interest. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works**  
Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded Councilman White to **approve** to have the second 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 second reading of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works by title only.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the second 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.**

This first reading by title only of Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works was read on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The approval of the second reading enacts Ordinance 2025-03 Creating Public Works as of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

- **Consideration of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency Ambulance Services (Second Reading)**  
Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** to have the second reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency 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 second reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency Ambulance Services by title only.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the seconded reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency Ambulance Services by title only. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes). Motion carried.** The first reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency Ambulance Services by title only was read on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The approval of the second reading enacts Ordinance 2025-04 Creating a New City Department to Provide Non-Emergency Ambulance Services by title only.

### **New Business**

- **Consideration for Miller Environmental Incorporated for \$8000.**  
Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council this is related to regulatory compliance down at the street garage where they were gas tanks at one point. Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** \$8000 for Miller Environmental Incorporated. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration for Waste Management for \$17, 415.91**  
Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council this is related to the demolitions that the council preapproved the bids for the tipping fees and we will not know what the dump bills will be. This is one of the bigger bills because we are taking more down at once instead of staggering them out. Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** Waste Management for \$17,415.91 **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration for Neel's Fence Company Commercial Inc. for \$12,416.67.**  
Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council this fencing is for the Arnold Cemetery, for which we have a matching grant and \$10,000 will be reimbursed. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** Neel's Fence Company Commercial Inc. for \$12,416.67. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration for July Fourth Celebration Waiver for Open Container/Closing Water Street**  
This is the request for waving the open container and closing of Water Street for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. City Attorney Bailey stated that the State ABC has allowed us to do this in the past and we might consider a concept called POTA a

code section 8-12-26 allowing the council to designate areas in town to have an open container.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the July Fourth Celebration Waiver for Open Container/Closing Water Street. **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of HAAS Alert at \$2394.00 for Three Units, Per Year after \$1197.00.**

Interim City Manager Solberg wanted to give the council an update on Councilman White request. Chief Suttle explained that this will pop up on your vehicle within a half mile of the accident scene in live responding. Councilwoman Rogers asked if this will also pop up on your cell phone and Chief Suttle replied to it will. Councilman White made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the HAAS Alert at \$2394.00 for three units per year after at \$1197.00. **Motion carried.**

- Consideration of Rate Reduction Related to Ordinance 2025-02 Ordinance of Weston Replacing All Prior Ordinances Related to the Municipal Service Fee and Creating a First Due Fire Fee.

Interim City Manager explained to the council that he would like the council to consider the resolutions separately. Councilwoman Rogers asked if we do lower the rate from 15 cents to 9 cents would we still be good. Chief Jimmy said stated that he felt that the change would be ok and it shows a sign of good faith working with the businesses.

Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **approve** the Rate Reduction for Ordinance 2025-02 Ordinance of Weston Replacing All prior Ordinance Related to the Municipal Service Fee and Creating a First Due Fire Fee changing the rate from 15 cents to 9 cents for the commercial square footage. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White yes, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes).** **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman Curtis approve the second resolution for vacant lots. **(Roll call of votes, Councilwoman Rogers yes, Councilman White no, Councilwoman Gump yes, Councilman Curtis yes).** **Motion carried.**

- **Consideration of Contract with the WV Department of Agriculture.**  
This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting and voted on.

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **amend** the agenda to do the council reports before going into executive session. **Motion carried.**

## Council Reports

**Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards** informed the council that Ray Smith, Agnes Queen, and herself represented the City of Weston and Lewis County at the State of the Corridor last week. It was a great turnout. Mayor Harrison-Edwards thought that the City of Weston shined, and the conversation sparked a meeting for economic development in the near future. Mayor Harrison-Edwards thanked the efforts for the Arnold Cemetery stating the fence and archway are beautiful and she received the email for a ceremony for the cemetery which would be nice.

**Ward I Councilwoman Rogers** informed the council that she is working on the flowers for downtown and thanked Laura Anderson for all her help. Councilwoman Rogers thanked Chief Suttle for storing the dirt and the flowers and for hanging the hanging baskets. The Street Department has worked hard. Teresa Angotti and Barb Millhoff Councilwoman Rogers thanked for all their help. The Lewis County High School FFA Club came down to help again and brought down friends from the Roanoke Elementary School to help as well. The students were fifth graders, and you would never meet a group of nicer students than those.

**Ward II Councilman White** thanked Street Commissioner Starett and Sanitary Director Dee Evans and their crews for the efforts on North River. Councilman White was glad to hear that everything is working out for the Street Department and the Sanitary Board. Councilman White thanked Chief Suttle and the Fire Department for listening to concerns and needs from his ward and enjoyed seeing all the equipment the fire department has. Councilman White thanked the Weston Police Department for all they do, and he knows they need more people hopefully some outreach will help.

**Ward III Councilwoman Gump** reiterated what Councilman White said about North River which some of that was in her ward, and appreciated getting it cleaned up because it has been an ongoing problem. Councilwoman Gump understood that the patching of the streets may have to be cut down some having the Sanitary Board on board with us, but she is not going to let up a whole lot. Councilwoman Gump expressed thanks to the Fire Department for all they do, yesterday was Firemen's Appreciation Day. Councilwoman Gump is glad to see we are getting things off the agenda that has been on there for awhile which shows that we are moving forward, and we need to keep moving forward. Councilwoman Gump reminded everyone to remember their mother on Sunday which is Mother's Day.

**Ward IV Councilman Curtis** thanked Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis for everything he is doing to get the houses taken down, it looks a lot better as we move forward. Councilman Curtis thought the light poles looked good. Councilman Curtis thanked Lindsey Ables for a wonderful job she is doing, and he does not see as many



people out as he did. Councilman Curtis discussed the house on Fourth Street that was being turned into a mission. After speaking with the owner, he apologized to the city for the turmoil. This house will be a single-family residential dwelling, and they have a permit to work on it.

- **Consideration of Executive Session for Personnel and Legal Discussion**  
Councilman Curtis made a motion seconded by Councilman White to **enter** executive session at 7:10 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilman white to **exit** executive session at 7:59 p.m. **Motion carried.**

### **Adjournment**

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **adjourn** at 8:00 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Attest

---

Mayor, Kim Harrison-Edwards

---

City Clerk, Judy Piercy