



Weston City Council
Minutes

Lewis County Court House
117 Center Avenue
June 2nd, 2025

Present: Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards, Councilpersons Sherry Rogers, Debbie Gump, Interim City Manager/Finance Manager Joe Solberg, City Clerk Judy Piercy, Chief Mike Posey, Chief Jimmy Suttle, Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Marty Lewis, Public Works Director Mike Starett, and Sanitary Director Dee Evans.

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked for a moment of silence and then 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)

Dave and Cindi Pickens from 490 Berlin Road, Weston, WV filled out a citizen's concern form about the parking at Peterson Central School along with pictures showing how traffic backs up and the residents across the school cannot get into their own driveways.

Presentations: No presentations scheduled.

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the Regular Session Meeting held on May 7th, 2025 and the Special Session Meeting held on May 20th, 2025. **Motion carried.**

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

Report: Mayor Harrison-Edwards informed the council that they have a listing of all the meetings and times scheduled for the month.

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

- UV Bulbs were changed at the plant which had not been changed for some time and the amount for the bulbs is around \$16,000, but they had some on hand.
- The new employees are working hard with the operators and making sure that samples are done correctly.
The Sanitary Department has had several spills and is working closely with the DEP to fix the issue.
- The finances for May were \$188,923.55 and the Storm Water was \$2,611.73.



- WSB Director Evans invited the council to the meeting on Monday, June 9th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Harrison-Edwards asked what percentage collections were coming in and WSB Director Evans thought it was between 89% and 90%. Councilwoman Gump asked was the budget on track and the answer was yes.

Department Reports

Finance Report: Interim City Manager/Finance Manager Solberg informed the council that it was a strong ending for May. Also, he is thinking strongly about changing the third party (ADP) pay and he would like to continue with a third party but enter a new contract with another company.

Consideration of Transfer to Vacant Structures

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** to transfer \$7050 from General Fund to Vacant Structure. **Motion carried.**

Consideration of Approval of the Expense Check Detail Report For May 2025

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

Street Department May Report was in the packet, and he would be happy to answer any questions the council may have. Councilwoman Rogers thanked the Street Department for cleanup after the storms. Councilwoman Gump asked the status on Bank Alley and Public Works Director Starett explained they will be putting dye down the toilets at the post office and see if it runs into the drain in Bank Alley. Public Works Councilwoman Gump asked about the weed eating and mowing stating that she expressed her concern with the merger between the City of Weston and Sanitary Board not being able to keep up with the patching and the weed eating and mowing. Director Starett explained that he has been working on sewer lines getting some issues handled but still maintain the streets.

Police Department May Report the report was in the packet. Chief Posey informed the council that the Police Department was still in the hiring process of two vacancies. Councilwoman Rogers thanked Lindsey Ables (Peer Liaison for the Police Department) for working with the Recovery Center. Councilwoman Gump and Mayor Harrison-Edwards appreciated all the work that Ms. Ables was doing.

Fire Department May Report was in the packet and Chief Suttle informed the council that the fireworks will start at 10:15 p.m. for the July 4th celebration. The Public Work Director Starett asked about vendors, and he was referred to Becca Young. Chief Suttle explained that several bad wrecks have happened out towards the Market Place and asked Chief Posy if his officers could patrol that area more.

Building/Code/Zoning May Report the report was in the packet and would be happy to answer any questions the council may have. Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Lewis informed the council that the light poles at Garton Plaza were scheduled to be painted. Councilwoman Gump reminded everyone that the city still has streetlights out.

- **Weston Animal Control May Report**

Animal Control has been working in Ward IV mostly but will be moving to Mulberry and Terrance Avenue. Mayor Harrison-Edwards about the vultures and Building/Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer stated 224 vultures have been removed.

City Attorney Bailey Report: No Report in packet.

City Clerk May Report the report was in the packet.

Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council of the following:

- The Americorp position will end around the middle of July and Laura will be finishing things up. Laura Anderson will continue to keep her job becoming the City Clerk Assistant. Councilwoman Gump asked the details of the job description with the City Clerk. Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council that Laura will be working on communication with the businesses and is still working on the new website she created. Councilwoman Gump would like to have meeting with the parties involved and have a discussion when she came back from Ireland.
- Interim City Manager Solberg informed everyone that the Municipal Fee Clerk will have the invoices sent out by July 1st, 2025.
- The First Due Fire Fees will also be sent out in July, and both the Municipal Fee and First Due Fire Fee can be set up on payments.

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

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

New Business

- **Prayer Walk, Tuesday June 17th, 2025 at Holt Park and Main Street (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)** Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **approve** the Prayer Walk on Tuesday June 17th, 2025 at Holt Park and Main Street. **Motion carried.**
- **Neighborhood Watch Picnic Funding Request \$400 at the home of Billy & Betty Brooks.** Councilwoman Rogers informed that the donation request is taken out of the council's account for donations. Councilwoman Gump stated the public is more than welcome to attend the picnic. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **approve** the amount of \$400 for the Neighborhood Watch Picnic. **Motion carried.**
- **Consideration of Business and Occupational Tax Exemption Request** Interim City Manager Solberg informed the council that AJ Burke asked for a letter of support for the Build Act and was not seeking Business and Occupational Tax (B &O). Interim City Manager Solberg and AJ Burk had a discussion, and they are now seeking an ordinance to do away with Business and Occupational Tax (B&O) through the Build Act. Interim City Manager Solberg expressed that it is only for the contractors under the Build Act and other contractors will still be required to pay the Business and Occupational Tax (B&O). Councilwoman Rogers thought it would be a good idea because of the housing he has already built. Councilwoman Gump stated the new housing is taking away the blight in the City of Weston. Mayor Harrison-Edwards explained that the City of Weston does need the revenue, but housing is needed as well. Councilwoman Rogers suggested that we should table to give the other two councilmen an opportunity to discuss how they feel about the exemption. Interim City Manager Solberg agreed and asked the council to table the Consideration of Business and Occupational Tax (B&O) Exemption Request. Councilwoman Gump suggested to do it as soon as possible for further discussion possibility at a Special Session Meeting. Councilwoman Rogers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Gump to **table** the Consideration of Business and Occupational Tax (B & O). **Motion carried.**
- **Discussion of Various Properties in the City of Weston:** Interim City Manager Solberg stated that City Attorney Bailey wanted him to pass along two questions for the council to think about. The property owner of Kitsonville School has indicated he would like to give the property to the City of Weston. Also, City Attorney Bailey has done some research on foreclosures and the courts will enforce personal property to be sold to pay for foreclosure of liens.

Council Reports



Mayor Kim Harrison-Edwards stated that the month was full of meetings, and she attended the WV Land Use at Pipestem. Mayor Harrison-Edwards attended the WV Municipal League Board meeting and received a tool kit that will be helpful for the LRA.

Ward I Councilwoman Rogers thanked everyone for their hard work, the First Responders for dealing with the storms. Councilwoman Rogers congratulated Councilman Curtis on his new business. Councilwoman Rogers informed everyone that the flowers downtown are done and thanked everyone involved planting the flowers. Tables and Chairs are at the Glass Museum encouraged everyone to use them and the Sweet Espresso have bistro sets in front of the shop.

Ward III Councilwoman Gump thanked Lindsey Ables (Peer Liaison for Police Department) for all her work helping to find a betterment for their lives who are homeless and on the street. Councilwoman Gump encouraged citizens to freshening up their homes and announced to the public if anyone was looking for a job, openings in the Police Department and the Street Department. The Farmer's Market is still on Friday Nights at 6:00 p.m. and the mayor will be providing hotdogs for the Neighborhood Picnic.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Gump made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Rogers to **adjourn** at 6:52 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Attest

Mayor, Kim Harrison-Edwards

City Clerk, Judy Piercy