

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEBER CITY, VIRGINIA

The Town Council of the Town of Weber City met in a Regular Meeting Session at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024**. The meeting was held in the assembly room of the Weber City Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by **Mayor Justin Addington**, and opened with Prayer by **Eileen Deckard, Council Member**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: **Mike Carrico, Town Attorney**, and joined by all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Mayor:	Justin M. Addington
Town Attorney:	Michael Carrico
Council Member:	Eileen Deckard
Council Member:	Jeff Flanary
Council Member:	Zackary Salyer (out of town – joined by Mike’s iphone)
Council Member:	Teresa Tilson
Council Member:	Wendell Tipton
Others:	Donald Harding, III - Police Chief, Penney Capps – Clerk, Frank Tittle – Public Works

ABSENT:

Council Member:	Derek Percy (resigned tonight)
Treasurer	Rhonda Neeley (medical leave)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion to accept the **April 16, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes** was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Eileen Deckard**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Motion to accept the **April 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes** was made by **Teresa Tilson**; seconded by **Zackary Salyer**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Motion to accept the **April 2024 Financial Report**, was made by **Zackary Salyer**, seconded by **Wendell Tipton**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Mayor Report and Comments:

The Mayor, Justin Addington, stated that he was not sure if what he had to address needed to be addressed under the category “Mayor’s Report”, since he did not think it was as much business as something else. A Council member asked if it was a Closed Session item. The Town Attorney asked if it was a legal or personnel issue. Mayor Addington proceeded to comment on the new Verizon GPS System that was installed on Town vehicles Thursday, May 9, 2024. Mayor Addington took the day off that day

from his full-time job so that he could be present to ensure the installation of the GPS system went smoothly, and that the system was set up with access permission for the Mayor (in charge of day-to-day operations) and Chief Harding (in charge of Police Department operations). This was done correctly by the end of that day. Now, he and the Police Chief are unable to access the system at all, because the access has been changed. The Town Attorney suggested the Council revisit the minutes from the day it was approved to clarify the terms. The Mayor then commented that he has seen and worked with the new system on the date of installation, and thinks the system does not function for what the Town wanted it for. The system is only activated when certain driving problems are done (i.e. speeding, hard braking, hard turns, pulling out too fast, basically everything a police officer does just doing their job.) It is not a live system, with live feed cameras, so when a person accesses the location information, the vehicle would no longer be in that spot. It does nothing for the safety of the driver. He considers it a waste of town money, and stated that Life 360 may have even been a better product. A council member asked if it was too late to reverse that action. Another Council member suggested researching it further to see if Verizon was doing something wrong. The Mayor stated that the system is functioning properly, it is just the type of system it is that is incorrect for the purpose. And also, that the system has been changed from the original set up by someone. Town Attorney suggested asking other towns what systems they use to see if they were happy with them. Gate City uses a GPS system and seems to be satisfied with it. Perhaps reach out to the Town Managers and County offices to see what everyone is using. A council member asked if these systems were on the vehicles only. Council member asked if dash cameras and Life 360 would be a better solution. Another Council member suggested it be researched further, and asked to clarify if the Police Chief and Town Clerk were part of the initial zoom meeting sales presentation of the product. The Chief stated that they are currently applying for a grant to purchase new and improved dashcams to replace the ones they currently have. A Council member asked if the Town is under contract with Verizon. The Mayor stated that no one has seen the contract except for one person. It is possible that the Town will be billed an early cancellation fee. Chief Harding thought there may be a 30 day trial period, to cancel the account since a GPS system already exists in the installed car radios. A council member asked who has access to that GPS system. The answer is, dispatch, monitored 24 hours a day. The Mayor said, it makes sense for dispatch to know the locations of each officer, because they would be the ones to save an officer, not one of us. The Town Attorney stated that the Council voted together to install a GPS system in the town vehicles. It has been installed for a week now. All cars except for 2, since the proper hardware was not sent for installation. A council member stated that Verizon has a 30-day satisfaction guaranteed policy, so the decision must be made before that time is up. Those 30 days will be before the next Council meeting, so a decision to cancel would likely need to be made tonight. There was some discussion who was authorized to have access to oversee the system, and access to view locations of the vehicles. It was suggested to review the recording from the original vote. The Town Attorney suggested that a motion be made to go to Closed Session so that this item could be discussed further.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter INTO Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel issues was made by **Eileen Deckard**, Council member. Seconded by **Zackary Salyer**, Council member.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

A motion to go OUT of Closed Session and back into Regular Session was made by **Jeff Flanary**, and seconded by **Teresa Tilson**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor, Council Members, and the Town's Attorney entered into Closed Session. A motion to certify that only lawfully exempt matters, for which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Mayor and Council members, was made by **Teresa Tilson**, Council member, seconded by **Jeff Flanary**, Council member, and roll call vote made with these **5** members voting "AYE" were:

Jeff Flanary, Wendell Tipton, Teresa Tilson, Eileen Deckard, Zackary Salyer
Voting "NAY" were: **0** with **1** Absent (Derek Pearcy)

ACTION FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

NONE

There were no motions from Closed Session.

Being none, he proceeded directly into Regular Meeting Session beginning with Old Business.

Old Business:

None

Jeff Flanary asked if the Town had been able to determine the property line for the upcoming paving job of the parking lot. Carl Reed, a retired surveyor, came out to determine the boundary line for the Town.

NEW BUSINESS:

VACORP FY25 Renewal

A motion was made by **Teresa Tilson**, seconded by **Eileen Deckard** to accept the VACORP FY2024-25 Annual Renewal as presented, in the amount of **\$16,976.00**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY, **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Resignation of Derek Pearcy

A motion was made by Zackary Salyer, seconded by Eileen Deckard to accept the resignation of Council member, Derek Pearcy, due to residing outside of Town of Weber City town limits. The Council will need to appoint a person to the vacancy within 45 days, until the Special Election in November. Mike Carrico will notify Mike Edwards, of the Scott County Registrar's Office of the vacancy.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Police Department Renovations

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Wendell Tipton to begin the Police Department renovations, using up to **\$100,000.00** in ARPA funds to complete the task. The first step will be to create a "Scope of Work" for the contractor.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Police Radio Purchase

A motion was made by Teresa Tilson, seconded by Eileen Deckard to purchase 2 new police radios, in the amount of **\$5,738.02**, using ARPA funds, like the ones previously purchased through the County for the 2 new police cars that have been purchased since. This will be 2 portables and 1 in the car.

Motion passed with 5 voting AYE, 0 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

A motion was made by Jeff Flanary, seconded by Wendell Tipton, to terminate the Verizon Connect account consisting of GPS tracking hardware and Interior and Exterior cameras for all Town vehicles, effective as of this vote, to avoid any additional charges on the account.

Motion passed with 4 voting AYE, 1 voting NAY, 1 ABSENT, 0 Abstentions

Legal Affairs – by Attorney Mike Carrico

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico, had no new information to share with the Council.

Committee Reports:

ARPA Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Zackary Salyer

Stated that they would like to begin the renovations for the Police Department that have been in discussions for over a year. Would like the Police Department to create a "Scope of Work" for a contractor and begin the process. Several council members asked questions regarding the plans, and if mold remediation had been done yet. Chief Harding stated that plans have been drawn up by Officer Jones through a program he found for that purpose, and no mold remediation has begun.

Finance Committee Report: Teresa Tilson and Wendell Tipton

Stated that they are waiting for some additional figures before being ready to present the FY2024-25 Budget Proposal.

Maintenance Committee Report: Jeff Flanary

Welcomed Frank Tittle aboard as our new Public Works employee.

He made a motion to approve purchases needed by the Public Works department. As long as the purchases are under \$500, they can be approved by the Mayor under day to day operations. So the motion was withdrawn.

Personnel Committee Report: Eileen Deckard

Items discussed in Closed Session.

Planning Committee Report: Eileen Deckard and Zackary Salyer

Met briefly and plan to meet soon for further development.

Street Committee Report: Jeff Flanary and Wendell Tipton

Wendell Tipton, thanked Frank for all the work he has done getting town potholes repaired around town. Jeff Flanary reported that they have submitted a list of street lights that need to be repaired by AEP.

Police Department Report:

Chief Harding gave the report. The Police Department is currently purchasing all of the items that will be reimbursed through the **\$151,000** ARPA Law Enforcement Grant.

After claims are made to the Reimbursement Grant, **\$55,272.13** will be added back to the Police Department budget, to a positive number. He requested that a General Ledger line item be created for "Grant Reimbursement Expenses". Informed the Council of a grant awarded for purchasing new Axon body cameras and tasers in the amount of **\$71,250** (requiring a 25% match from the Town - **\$17,813.97**) and the LOLE grant in the amount of **\$1550**.

He then shared comments regarding the Verizon Connect GPS and dash camera systems installed in the vehicles. A GPS system already exists in the new digital radio systems that were purchased through the County last year, carried by the officers and installed in the cars. A Council member asked if Chief Harding knew what GPS system Gate City Police Department uses. It is strictly a GPS system, no cameras, for \$18/month that only the Town Manager and Chief of Police have access to view. Now that the new radios have the same capability, they are looking into using only the radios as well and doing away with the additional GPS system.

The two new officers in the Academy are doing great. We will be ready for them after graduation. The department is still short staffed, but is outperforming last year's stats. Chief Harding suggested that the dash camera in the Public Works truck be hooked back up to the amber lights, so it will begin recording when Frank turns the lights on, as a safety feature. Council thought it was in the form of a motion, but a motion was not necessary, since our contracted IT company, Matt Bright, would be able to do it.

Fire Department Report:

No report at this time.

Public Comment: Opened and Closed by the Mayor with no one present for comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by **Zackary Salyer**, seconded by **Teresa Tilson**.

Motion passed with **5** voting AYE, **0** voting NAY **1** ABSENT, **0** Abstentions

Mayor: Justin Addington

Town Clerk: Penney C. Capps