

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 9, 2021

Present: Mayor David Velegol, City Attorney Mike Gaudio, City Manager Jack McIntosh and City Clerk Dave Kurcina

Council: Tammy Johnson, Charles McCoy, Nick Cekinovich,
Alexis Russell, Wendy DeAngelis and John Casinelli

Also: Police Chief Larry Rea, Deputy Chief Danny Casto and Public Works Director Steve Meca

Place: Council Chamber

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

The Mayor and Council observed a Moment of Silence for Clearance Virtue, former Educator and Principal, Mark Moser, former Water Board Member, Perry West, former Brooke Football and Baseball Coach and Stanley Kins, a long-time Volunteer Fireman and former Police Chief for the City of Wellsburg.

9/11 Service

The 9/11 Memorial Service will be held on Saturday September 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the City Park.

Special Council Meeting

There will be a Special Council Meeting on Monday August 16th at 5:30 p.m. at the Follansbee Community House. The City Plaza will be the topic for this Special Meeting.

Public Request

Paul Boniey Jr. – He Thanked Council for the Parking Lot at the 200 Block of Main Street. The City purchased the property and tore down the structure turning the land into a Parking Lot. This is designed to get more cars off of Main Street.

Rudy Cipriani – In 2018, the Water Department borrowed \$193,000.00 from the City's UDAG Interest, which was approved by City Council to be paid back in 1 year. Part of it was paid backed; however, the entire balance has not been paid and according to his records the Water Department still owes \$133,000.00. The Mayor noted that the intent is to still pay back the Loan. The Water Department was not in a good financial situation for a period of 6 months to pay off this Loan. There was a discussion about the lack of Water Rate increase and Mayor stated that leaks were detected and repaired and the overtime has been reduced. John stated that this will be discussed at the Water Board Meeting. The Mayor also noted that The Army Corp of Engineers has taken over the

Water Project. With ground breaking to take place by September 30th, Phase I of the project should take 18 months to complete with Phase II and Phase III taking another 4 years.

Rudy also wanted to know how many Part-Time Police Officers does the City have on its Roster. Deputy Chief Danny Casto stated that the City has 14 Part-Time Police Officers. When Council was working on the City Budget for 2019, Chief Rea presented a proposal that would eliminate all Part-Time Police Officers, have 12 hour shift for the Full-Time Officers and make sure that all of the hours would be covered the same as the previous year. At that time, Rudy informed the Chief that he is showing that 1,000 hours will not be covered.

Skip Cutrone – He was at the meeting to discuss the Street Lights. The Mayor noted that there was \$100,000.00 in last year's Budget and \$100,000.00 in this Year's Budget for the Lights. Brian May, the Engineer for the project stated that 3 blocks would be able to be replaced for that amount of money. He noted that in the past, the City has used UDAG Interest money for various reasons. Some of which was paid back. He is asking if Council would consider using the UDAG Interest Money to replace all the Street Lights from Allegheny Street south. The lack of lighting in the South End of the City is a safety concern. The City has received \$500,000.00 from the American Rescue Act. The second half (another \$500,000.00) will be received next year. The Mayor noted that this money can be used for the additional lighting as a Phase I and Phase II.

Rick Roach – Issues with Stop Signs on Parkview. Speeding problem. Danny Casto stated that there will be more patrols in that area to help reduce the speeding.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Charles McCoy to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous

Motion by Nick Cekinovich / 2nd by Tammy Johnson to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021 Special Council Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous

Motion by Charles McCoy/ 2nd by Nick Cekinovich to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Committee As A Whole Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous

Police Department Report

Motion by Charles McCoy/ 2nd by Alexis Russell to approve the Police Department Report which was handed out at last week's Committee As A Whole Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimous

Dan stated that he has sent out several letters for grass complaints. He also handed out his suggestions for Handicap Parking Spots.

Fire Department Report

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Charles McCoy to approve the Fire Department Report.

Motion Carried Unanimous

Alexis noted that the Fire Department is delinquent on Filing their Report to the State.

Financial Data

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Tammy Johnson to approve the Financial Data. Motion Carried Unanimous

Jack informed Council that our Financial Software Company CSSI will no longer be able to provide support after October 31st.

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Charles McCoy to advertise for a Financial Software Company. Motion Carried Unanimous

Bills of Account

Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by Charles McCoy to approve the Bills of Account. Motion Carried Unanimous

UDAG Bills

There were No UDAG Bills.

New Business

- a. **5th Ward Playground** – Wendy would like to have a Rock Climbing Wall approved for the 5th Ward Playground if feasible and hold off on the Monkey Bars until 2022. The cost is \$10,127.00 which includes shipping and installation. Nick wanted to know if this item was included in the Budget. Jack replied that the money for this piece of equipment is not included in this year’s budget. John noted that the City is receiving more Sales Tax Money than what was in the Budget. He is suggesting to move some of that money into the Recreational Budget for Parks and Recreation, which can pay for the Rock Climbing Wall.

Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Wendy DeAngelis to approve the purchase of a Rock Climbing Wall for the 5th Ward Playground based on the amount of Sales Tax money the City receives. Motion Carried Unanimous

- b. **Rockers for Playground** – It was discussed to purchase 2 for each Playground at a cost of \$559.00 each. This item will be on the Agenda for the September Meeting.

- c. **Dog Day at the Park** – Jack stated that he has been in contact with the City of Weirton on their Rules and Procedures for the Event that they had. The Pool will be drained to a low level and the event will last for 2 hours.

Motion by John Casinelli/2nd by Nick Cekinovich to have “Dog Day at the Park” at the City Pool on Saturday August 28th at noon. Motion Carried Unanimous

- d. **Clearing area of Slip at the Park** – Jack said that he received a quote of \$23,000.00 to run piping to the catch basin. This item will be on the Agenda for the September Meeting.
- e. **1st Ward Handicap Parking** –
Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Tammy Johnson to approve a Handicap Parking Space on the 700 Block of Clifton Street based on the approval of the Police Chief. Motion Carried Unanimous
- Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Nick Cekinovich to approve a Handicap Parking Space on the 802 Block of Virginia Avenue. Motion Carried Unanimous**
- f. **Yellow curb (Gilbert Ave & Chapman Street)** – Nothing needs to be approved by Council because it is approved by the State. The Public Works Department will paint the curb.
- g. **Stop Sign (Oak Street & Gilbert Avenue)** – After some discussion, this “Stop Sign” will remain Seasonal.
- h. **Stop/ Slow Sign (Mark Avenue)** – There was a discussion as to whether to keep the Stop sign as Seasonal or make it a permanent Stop Sign.
Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by Nick Cekinovich to make the Stop Sign at Mark Avenue be permanent instead of Seasonal.
After some discussion, Alexis and Nick withdrew their Motion.
Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by Nick Cekinovich to have the “Stop Sign” on Mark Avenue in place from April 1st to November 30th and to have it as a “Slow Sign” in place from December 1st thru March 31st and to have a Flashing Light placed on the “Stop Sign”. Motion Carried Unanimous
- i. **Fire/ Police Training Area** – This item will be on the Agenda for the September Meeting.
- j. **Handicap Parking Spot** –
Motion by Nick Cekinovich/ 2nd by Wendy DeAngelis to remove the Handicap Parking Spot at 833 Gilbert Avenue. Motion Carried Unanimous

Ordinance

Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by John Casinelli to dispense of the Reading of the Ordinance. Motion Carried Unanimous

Motion by Alexis Russell/2nd by John Casinelli to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to purchase the Larry Jones property at 244 Main Street.

Motion Carried Unanimous

Motion by Alexis Russell/ 2nd by Nick Cekinovoch to adjourn 7:33 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimous.

David P. Kurcina, City Clerk