

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019, 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Weirton, Hancock and Brooke Counties, West Virginia was held on Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of the Weirton Municipal Building.

**Attendance:**

**Mayor and Council Members**

Harold E. Miller	Mayor
Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1
Mike Adams	Councilmember Ward 2
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4
Douglas L. Jackson	Councilmember Ward 5 – <b>Absent</b>
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7

**City Officials**

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Matt Burskey	Interim Chief Code Official
Joseph B. DiBartolomeo	City Manager
Donna Gialluco	Weirton Transit Manager
Jessica Gumm	Planning and Development, Program Manager
Vincent S. Gurrera, Esq.	City Attorney
Butch Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
DeeAnn Pulliam	City Clerk
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director
Coty Shingle	Park Board Director
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief

**Mayor Harold Miller**, called the meeting to order.

**DeeAnn Pulliam, City Clerk**, conducted the roll call.

**Councilman Tim Connell**, recited the opening prayer.

**Mayor Harold Miller**, led everyone in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **THE FINAL ROLL CALL CEREMONY**

**Councilman George Ash**, requested that everyone remain standing for the Final Roll Call Ceremony

**Councilman George Ash**, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the City of Weirton and a grateful nation, we take a moment to honor our deceased veterans. When we call out their names, a bell will ring as a symbol of their honorable and faithful service.

**DeeAnn Pulliam, City Clerk**, read the names of the deceased veterans

**Police Chief Rob Alexander**, rang the bell after each name as a symbol of the veteran's honorable and faithful service

### **Final Roll Call – January 2019 Meeting**

- Richard Barton
- William Blankenship
- Samuel Cekinovich
- Guy Ceraolo
- Terry Chipps
- Leon Delaney
- Joseph Dichauzi
- Ralph Paul Foster
- Edward T. Gilliam
- Glenn Harrington
- Robert Hawkins
- Richard Henderson
- Theodore Anthony Kolanko
- Samuel Lescallete
- George Martich
- Andrew Joseph Mesaros
- Emery Mikula
- William Moore
- Rudolph Nagy
- Frank Olenick
- Paul Pavelka Jr.
- Alfred "Al" T. Posti
- Edward Anthony Ptaszek
- Stanley Sitarz
- Daniel Thomas
- James Tingler
- Henry "Hank" Vierbicky

To end the ceremony, a video of Taps as performed by Pershing's Own at Arlington National Cemetery was played.

**Councilman George Ash**, asked for everyone to please be seated.

## **MAYORS AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

### **VETERAN’S PROCLAMATION – MARK APESOS**

Mark Apesos was born May 26, 1926, and entered in the United States Army in September 1944, at the age of 18 years. Mr. Apesos served in the United States Army until his discharge in September 1946. He served in Fort McClellan Army Base, Alabama, and was an administrator and during the 1940’s; his rank was a TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE and was addressed as “Tech Sergeant”. Technicians addressed as Sergeant possessed specialized skills that were awarded with a higher pay grade. Mr. Apesos held the specialized position as an administrator, governing military records. He was stationed in a replacement unit in Fort Dix, New Jersey and Fort Meade, Maryland and with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division in Camp Hood, Texas, preparing to be assigned overseas; however, the “A” bomb was dropped and the unit did not have to be reassigned. Mark Apesos was one (1) of five (5) brothers that served during World War II and Korea. He holds the distinct but sorrowful title as “GOLD STAR FAMILY” due to the fact that his brother THOMAS APESOS died as a result of a mortar attack during the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the “D-day” invasion. Harold E. Miller, Mayor of the City of Weirton, Brooke and Hancock counties do hereby recognize veteran Mark Apesos, for his dedicated military service to our county, on this day January 7, 2019.

### **HONORING COMMUNITY HERO – “CHLOE ORECCHIO” – A CITIZEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**Councilman Fred Marsh** , Chloe, a city is only as great as the spirit of the people who live there. After all, a city is just a spot on a map surrounded by borders and filled with zones and districts. If greatness comes to a city, it is because the people achieved it. When citizens show that they care enough to take action whenever they see a problem, our town becomes a better place to live. Seeing a problem and taking steps to resolve it independently is the mark of a true leader and visionary. Today, we recognize the achievements of an outstanding Weirton resident who made a difference in her community.

**Chloe Orecchio** is a citizen of the City of Weirton and a sixth-grade student at St. Joseph the Worker School. While on her way to school, Chloe was dismayed at the litter that was lining the driveway leading up to her school. Chloe decided to start Chloe’s Campus Cleanup and recruited a group of volunteers to work together to make her vision a reality. In May of 2018, this group of volunteers, working together, gathered up trash and litter to clean up the school campus. The volunteer service of community members strengthens our City as a whole and improves our quality of life. Chloe not

only recognized a problem, but she took action and came up with a solution, which is the mark of a true leader. Chloe has demonstrated a spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, and love for her school and community. Harold E. Miller, Mayor of the City of Weirton, on this day January 7, 2019, hereby honor Chloe Orecchio on being a leader and the founder of Chloe's Campus Cleanup and for volunteering her time to maintain the beauty of the St. Joseph the Worker School campus. Chloe Orecchio is truly a "Citizen Making a Difference".

**CITIZENS REMARKS:**

**Mayor Harold Miller**, I want to mention one thing. Mr. Ed Rodak passed away this past weekend. He was a former councilman here in Weirton. George you may know if he was a veteran or not.

**Councilman George Ash**, yes, he served in World War II.

**Mayor Harold Miller**, yeah I thought he was. I know his son-in-law and daughter. We like to take just a moment for a silent prayer in remembrance of Mr. Ed Rodak, a former councilman here in the City of Weirton.

**A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of former councilman Mr. Ed Rodak.**

**George Romage, Recent Pay Raises**, attended the February 11, 2019, Regular Council Meeting in opposition of the pay raises for the Mayor and Council that is to take effect with the 2019 Mayor and Council that is elected. He was in opposition of the raise amounts and how they were voted on based off a November 25, 2019, article/letter-to-the-editor.

**Dewey Guida, Brunch Bill**, attended the February 11, 2019, Regular Council Meeting as the restaurant owner of Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille and as a citizen of Weirton in support of amending the City of Weirton's Home Rule Plan to include the Brunch Bill. Mr. Guida's points of support for the Brunch Bill were the enhancement of Weirton's image and growth.

**Dan Greathouse, Brunch Bill**, attended the February 11, 2019, Regular Council Meeting on behalf of Top of WV Convention Bureau and Board in support of amending the City of Weirton's Home Rule Plan to include the Brunch Bill. Mr. Greathouse stated that he had been advised that a law similar to that of the Brunch Bill for municipalities was being discussed for counties.

**Brenda Mull, Brunch Bill**, attended the February 11, 2019, Regular Council Meeting on behalf of the Weirton Chamber of Commerce in support of amending the City of Weirton's Home Rule Plan to include the Brunch Bill. Ms. Mull's points of support for the

Brunch Bill was for Weirton's Businesses to be able to compete with neighboring states so we may keep jobs and revenue here in Weirton.

**Anna Withrow, Weirton Area Reuse Plan** – attended the February 11, 2019, Regular Council Meeting to give an update on the Weirton Area Reuse plan. The update included a roundabout in North Weirton – North Main Street on Route 2 and the timeline for the project was going to be extended. A rough draft of the project will be provided in April 2019, and the project is scheduled to be completed in May.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Mayor Declares 2019 the Year of the Volunteers**

**Mayor Harold Miller**, I decided a couple weeks ago to declare 2019 the year of the volunteer. We are going to try and highlight many volunteer activities that are going on in our community as we can.

- **Gerard Spencer – Juvenile Division**

**Mayor Harold Miller**, stated that a letter was going to be read by the City Clerk that recognizes Gerard Spencer for his outstanding work regarding an investigation.

DeeAnn Pulliam, City Clerk, read the letter dated December 21, 2018, from Prosecuting Attorney, James W. Davis commending Gerard Spencer for his outstanding work regarding the investigation and subsequent prosecution of the case involving Ethan Strobe.

The letter dated December 21, 2018, read as follows:

Dear Gentlemen:

On June 5, 2018, Ethan Strobe, a resident of Weirton, WV, was found guilty by a Hancock County Jury for the felony offenses of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree and Sexual Abuse by a Custodian. On yesterday's date, Mr. Strobe was sentenced by the Honorable Jason A. Cuomo to a maximum of 25 to 45 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, 50 years of enhanced supervised probation upon his release from incarceration, and the requirement that he register as a sex offender for life. Mr. Strobe has a criminal history that includes a felony conviction of attempted arson from 2010 wherein Mr. Strobe was caught attempting to throw a "Molotov cocktail" into the Ponderosa Restaurant previously located on Three Springs Drive.

Please accept this correspondence for the purpose of commending Weirton Police Department Detective Gerard Spencer for his outstanding work regarding the investigation and subsequent prosecution of this matter. Upon initiation of the investigation, Detective Spencer had concern regarding the well-being of the child. He persistently sought the assistance of this office and child protective services to ensure the safety of the child. He then conducted a thorough investigation that included assistance by Sergeant Kush of the West Virginia State Police as well as the services of The Comfort House Child Advocacy Center in Weirton. Upon arrest and subsequent indictment, he continued to work closely with this office as the case was prepared for trial.

Often times the work of protecting a child, is shrouded in confidentiality. Because of this, officers investigating such crimes do not get the recognition for their service that more publicized crimes receive. Detective Spencer was the driving force in protecting not only this victim, but also the children and citizens of Weirton from this very dangerous individual.

**Chief Rob Alexander** , acknowledged and thanked Gerard Spencer for the job he does in the Juvenile Division of the Police Department.

**Mayor Harold Miller**, discussed the ugly situations the Juvenile Division and organizations like the Comfort House deal with. Mayor Miller acknowledged and thanked Gerard for the work he does.

**Councilman George Ash**, thanked Councilman Fred Marsh for the bell used during the Final Roll Call Ceremony. Councilman George Ash recognized and thanked Mayor Miller for his efforts involving the Council in City matters and the progression of the City. He also acknowledged his involvement in recognizing veterans and deceased veterans. Fellow councilmen were acknowledged for their corporative efforts serving with him.

#### **READING OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the December 10, 2018, minutes was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Weigel.

**Motion passed with 4 votes in favor, 0 against, and 2 abstentions**

**Councilman Fred Marsh** – requested an abstention because he was absent from the January 7, 2019, meeting.

**Councilman Enzo Fracasso** – requested an abstention because he was absent from the January 7, 2019, meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2053. An Ordinance to the Amendment No. 800 to the Traffic Control Map Ordinance No.214 of the City of Weirton to change Delaware Avenue from a One-Way Street into a Two-Way Street. (Councilman Connell)**

A Motion was made to approve the second reading of the ordinance by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Ash.

**Motion passed 6/0**

- 2. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2054. An Ordinance Approving and Implementing Tax Increment Financing Project Plan No. 2 – Park Drive Development within the City of Weirton Three Springs Drive Tax Increment Financing District No. 1. (City Manager)**

Mayor Harold Miller moved for a motion three times on the second reading of the ordinance.

A motion was not made, and the ordinance was not passed

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. An Ordinance Approving and Implementing Tax Increment Financing Project Plan No. 2 – Park Drive Development within the City of Weirton Three Springs Drive Tax Increment Financing District NO. 1. (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the first reading of the ordinance by Councilman Marsh, and second by Councilman Ash.

**Motion passed 6/0**

- 2. An Ordinance Modifying Ordinance #1313 Establishing New Minimum and Maximum Salary Levels of Specific Non-Union Municipal Employees within Specific Departments of the City of Weirton General Fund and Adding/Eliminating Specific Positions. (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the first reading of the ordinance by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Fracasso.

**Motion passed 6/0**

- 3. An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Weirton to Submit to The Municipal Home Rule Board a Proposed Amendment, Attached Hereto as Exhibit A, to the City of Weirton's Municipal Home Rule Plan Consistent with West Virginia Code § 8-1-5a, Requesting Approval to Allow the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages by Certain Alcohol Beverage Control Administration Class "A" License Holders Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the first reading of the ordinance by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Weigel.

**Motion passed 6/0**

- 4. A Resolution Adopting the Time of 11:00 a.m. for the Regularly Scheduled Weirton City Council Meetings for the Months of February and March 2019. (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Fracasso.

**Councilman Weigel – Opposed  
Councilman Marsh – Opposed**

**Motion passed 4/2**

- 5. A Resolution to Enter Into a Contract for the Purchase of One (1) Volvo Vibratory Asphalt Roller for the Street Department at Public Works (\$53,700.00). (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilman Fracasso, and second by Councilman Connell.

**Motion passed 6/0**

- 6. A Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of One (1) Ford SUV Police Cruiser for the Weirton Police Department (\$36,462.00). (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.

**Motion passed 6/0**

**7. A Resolution to Enter into Contract for the Purchase of One (1) Ford Sedan Police Cruiser for the Weirton Police Department (\$32,698.00). (City Manager)**

A Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilman Connell, and second by Councilman Adams.

**Motion passed 6/0**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Traffic Commission**

Dave Guglielmo  
1/1/2019to12/31/2022

A Motion was made to approve the appointment by Councilman Weigel, and second by Councilman Marsh.

**Motion passed 6/0**

**Mayor Harold Miller**, stated we have a growing list of growing boards and commissions that do not exist. We need to look at the list and eliminate the ones that are no longer operating.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**City Manager – Joseph B. DiBartolomeo**

Reported that improvements to the building were being looked at within the next few months, and that we would be starting to work on the budget. A Merry Christmas was expressed to Serbian residents. It was also discussed that liability insurance coverage was being worked on also. The growth opportunities for the City was also discussed.

**Police Department – Chief Alexander**

Had nothing additional to report

## **Fire Department – Chief Shumate**

Talked about challenges and positives the Fire Department faced in the month of December. It was also expressed of his dislike of dragging fire and police departments into an argument to get a point across.

## **Public Works – Rod Rosnick**

Had nothing additional to report

**Mayor Harold Miller** , asked about the salt.

**Joseph B. DiBartolomeo**, advised Rod to report how much they were paying for salt for this year compared to last year.

**Rod Rosnick, Public Work Director**, reported this year it is at \$92/ per ton and last year is was at \$56/per ton last year.

## **Library – Rik Rekowski**

Reported that the WV Department of Transportation was going to meet again here in the City on January 10. It was expressed more people were needed to take the transportation survey available on SurveyMonkey. Mr. Rekowski advised that the library is having career planning and job search coaching workshops. Individuals getting and taking the GED test was also touched on.

## **Utilities – Water and Sewer – Butch Mastrantoni**

Advised the council that a date for the Waterplant/ Sewerplant upgrade Taskforce to meet has been set for noon at January 24, 2019, at the sanitary plant on Freedom Way. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that the water and sewer infrastructure would be incorporated to support the Comprehensive plan. On Main Street there was a collapsed sewer line, which is going to be addressed.

## **Park Board – Coty Shingle**

Talked about the renovations of Starvaggi Park. The City of Weirton was thanked for their support in the project and help on the insurance.

## **Planning & Development – Jessica Gumm**

Reported that they are working on a TIF 2 district in the downtown area, including Moon and the Frontier Property. Progress on the TIF voted on at this council meeting will be forthcoming. It was expressed that Planning would be working with the Mayor on a project for a Handicap Playground.

## **Weirton Transit -Donna Gialluco**

Reported that regular stops to their routes on Three Springs Drive and American Way has been added.

## **Finances – Joseph B. DiBartolomeo, City Manager**

### **General Fund Cash Report for December, 2018**

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$ 3,259,714.97
Interest on Checking:	\$ 1,299.45
Deposits:	\$ 463,760.09
Draw-downs on Investment:	\$ 0.00
Disbursements:	\$ 1,075,001.59
Deposits to Investments:	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	\$ 2,649,772.92
Beginning Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Interest on Investments:	\$0.00
Investment Proceeds:	\$0.00
Change in Value:	\$0.00
Deposits:	\$0.00
Withdrawals:	\$0.00
Ending Investment Balance:	\$0.00
Petty Cash:	\$800.00
Total Cash and Investments Available:	\$ 2,650,572.92

**Additionally we do not have any outstanding invoices due at this time.**

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.

**Motion passed 6/0**

**Request by Council to convene into Executive Session consistent with WV Code 6-9-A-4-A to consider personnel matters**

**N/A**

**Councilman Tim Connell**, recited the closing prayer.

**Mayor Harold Miller**, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Ash, and second by Councilman Connell.

**Motion passed 6/0**