

**CITY OF WEIRTON
COUNCIL MEETING – SPECIAL**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022
6:00 P.M.
ROOM 201, WEIRTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Executive Session shall be held only if a majority vote of the members of the governing body vote to hold an executive session and the items for consideration shall consist of any and all of those contained within West Virginia Code 6-9A-4.

- 1. WORK ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET BY DISCUSSING, MODIFYING, ACCEPTING OR REJECTING PART OR ALL OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET.**

ADJOURNMENT

***MEETING HAS BEEN ADJOURNED UNTIL FEBRUARY 24, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.**

PRAYER

**MEETING MINUTES
WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL**

Special Council Meeting
Room 201, Weirton Municipal Building
Weirton, WV 26062

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Harold Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order.

City Clerk Kimberly Long conducted roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mayor and Council Members in Attendance

Harold E. Miller	Mayor	IN PERSON
Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1	BY PHONE
Chris Jonczak	Councilmember Ward 2	ABSENT
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3	BY PHONE
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4	IN PERSON
Flora Perrone	Councilmember Ward 5	IN PERSON
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6	IN PERSON
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7	IN PERSON

City Officials in Attendance

Mike Adams	City Manager	IN PERSON
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance Director	IN PERSON
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney	IN PERSON
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director	IN PERSON
Charlie Kush	Police Chief	IN PERSON
Kevin Himmelrick	Fire Chief	IN PERSON
Pamela Wright	Employee Benefits Administrator	IN PERSON
W. Coty Shingle	Park Board Executive Director	IN PERSON
Rik Rekowski	Library Director	IN PERSON
Phil Gilcrest	Weirton Transit Manager	IN PERSON
Kimberly Long	City Clerk	IN PERSON

Request by Council to convene into Executive Session consistent with West Virginia Code 6-9A-4.

No motion was made to go into Executive Session.

WORK ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET BY DISCUSSING, MODIFYING, ACCEPTING OR REJECTING PART OR ALL OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET.

Discussion:

Finance Director, Diana Smoljanovich, began the discussion at the contingency section of the budget, where the discussion ended at the Saturday, February 12, 2022, workshop. It was noted that the monies for the recently approved RFQ human resources consulting audit will come out of the finance professional services budget.

Police Department - The budget for officers remains as it has for the last 3 years – 40 officers, including the chief and deputy chief. The department is requesting 5 new cruisers. With adding 5 new vehicles to the fleet, the 5 replaced vehicles would be made into canine vehicles. The future goal is for each officer to have their own vehicle which would help with maintenance and longevity of the vehicles.

Councilman Ash made a motion to accept the police department's budget request of 5 new cruisers, 5 in-car cameras, and 25 Tough Books laptops.

Motion to Approve: 6/0

Councilman Weigel made a motion to take \$2 million out of contingencies to be put under line item 8570 (Police Cap Out Building).

Discussion: The contingency fund is made up of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds cannot be used to pay off debt or used as a down payment on anything. The only time they can be used for capital projects is as a "pay as you go" project. The City Manager and Finance Director have been tasked to research where \$2 million can come from that Councilman Weigel is requesting.

Councilman Ash made the motion to table this request until it can be verified what the ARPA funds can be used for.

Discussion: It was further discussed and verified that ARPA funds cannot be used towards the new proposed public safety facility. These funds can be used toward improvements to the municipal building because those fall under capital improvements. It was noted that CARES Act funding and ARPA funds are 2 different things.

Motion approved: 6/0

At this time, Councilman Weigel excused himself from the meeting.

Fire Department – The budget request includes an increase of firefighters from 28 to 31 to decrease overtime. It was noted that 2 of the 3 new hires would not need our health benefits. This increase would put 10 men on each shift and would allow for vacation time to be taken and no overtime would have to be paid out.

At this time, Councilman Marsh excused himself from the meeting.

Discussion: A request for funds to put an addition on the rear of the headquarters station. It is being proposed that this work could be done in-house by members of the fire department. They could do the work when they are off-duty, but they would still get paid overtime rate to do this. The reason for using off-duty personnel is because certain phases of the project, such as pouring concrete, cannot be interrupted if a fire call came in. It was suggested that this project be put out for bids. One of the fire trucks would be parked in this addition.

Councilman Ash made the motion to table the whole fire department budget request until the next session in order to allow more time for council members to review everything that has been presented.

Motion approved: 4/0

Animal control – No additional requests.

Police Administration – Salaries are coming down because of the resignation of one of the crossing guards. As it was decided 2 or 3 years ago, once crossing guards retire, they will not be replaced. Chief Kush confirmed that he is in agreement with this decision.

Street Department – Increase of 4 employees is being requested for the purpose of maintaining the new streets and sidewalks of the Park Drive development. These employees would be full-time employees and not dedicated to Park Drive only. They would be used for all other duties as needed. CDL training was discussed. Public Works Director, Rod Rosnick, explained that he is working on getting approval to be a CDL training facility. If not, more money will have to be allotted for CDL training, which will cost approximately \$4,500-\$6,000 per employee. This is due to a new federal mandate that requires people to go through a training facility in order to test for a CDL license.

City Garage – The budget includes equipment purchase requests.

Weirton Transit – There will be a drawdown from the FTA in the amount of \$574,500.00 and the contribution from the City remains at \$75,000.00.

Sanitation Department – Increase in wages due to the new contract. Landfill contract will be about 20% higher. No additional equipment requests this year.

Storm Sewer – Remains the same.

Visitors Bureau – As required, they will receive ½ of the hotel occupancy revenue.

Parks and Recreation – Requested an increase of 21%, which is \$700,000.00. It was asked if ARPA money can be used for any of the requests or operating costs? It was noted that the ARPA funds can be used for the Starvaggi Pool project previously discussed.

Councilwoman Perrone made the motion to table this request until it can be determined if operating costs can be covered with ARPA funds.

Motion Approved: 4/0

Mayor’s Youth Program – Remains the same.

Library – Requesting a 5% increase.

Beautification – Remains the same.

Capital Projects – An increase of 25% is being allotted for paving. The rising cost of materials must be considered.

Councilman Ash made the motion to recess until February 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion Approved: 4/0

Continuation of the February 17, 2022, Special Council Meeting

Room 201, Weirton Municipal Building
Weirton, WV 26062

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Ash made the motion to come out of recess.

Motion Approved: 7/0

Mayor and Council Members in Attendance

Harold E. Miller	Mayor	ABSENT
Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1	IN PERSON
Chris Jonczak	Councilmember Ward 2	IN PERSON
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3	IN PERSON
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4	IN PERSON
Flora Perrone	Councilmember Ward 5	IN PERSON
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6	IN PERSON
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7	IN PERSON

City Officials in Attendance

Mike Adams	City Manager	IN PERSON
Diana Smoljanovich	Finance Director	IN PERSON
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney	IN PERSON
Rod Rosnick	Public Works Director	IN PERSON
Charlie Kush	Police Chief	IN PERSON
Kevin Himmelrick	Fire Chief	IN PERSON
W. Coty Shingle	Park Board Executive Director	IN PERSON

Rik Rekowski
Kimberly Long

Library Director
City Clerk

IN PERSON
IN PERSON

- The revenue side was adjusted to reflect the property tax figure received from the assessor's office of \$2,737,754.00, which is about a 3.6% increase. The \$96,862.00 was added into contingencies.
- A \$30,000.00 allotment for the HR consultant was added into the Finance Department.

Civic Contributions – Added \$20,000.00

Library – Request approved.

- The use of ARPA funds for Parks & Recreation was addressed. These funds can't be used for operating expenses.

Summer Youth Program – Remains the same

Beautification – Remains the same

Paving – 25% increase

Discussion: Use of ARPA funds took place. None of those funds can be set aside for the proposed public safety facility because ARPA funds cannot be used for anything that has to be financed. After further discussion, it was decided to put \$2.5 million into Capital Improvements for the City Building. This would allow for an option of potentially adding on a new police department area to the current municipal building

Parks & Recreation – The request is to be able to continue to cover the wage increases approved last year and cover expenses.

Councilman Marsh made a Motion to take the Parks & Recreation budget request from the table.

Motion Approved: 7/0

Councilman Jonczak made a Motion to approve the Parks & Recreation budget request of \$700,000.00.

A Roll Call Vote was Requested for this Motion:

Councilman Fred Marsh	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Chris Jonczak	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman George Ash	<u>Yes</u>
Councilwoman Flora Perrone	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Enzo Fracasso	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Terry Weigel	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Tim Connell	<u>Yes</u>

Motion Approved: 7/0

Fire Department

Councilman Ash made a Motion to take the Fire Department Budget request from the table.
Motion Approved: 7/0

The request for \$89,450.00 for an addition to the fire headquarters building was removed.

Councilman Connell made a motion to approve the request for 3 new firefighters and a new fire truck.

Councilman Jonczak seconded the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was Requested for this Motion:

Councilman Tim Connell	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Chris Jonczak	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman Fred Marsh	<u>Yes</u>
Councilman George Ash	<u>No</u>
Councilwoman Flora Perrone	<u>No</u>
Councilman Enzo Fracasso	<u>No</u>
Councilman Terry Weigel	<u>No</u>

Motion Failed: 4/3

Councilman Weigel made a motion to approve the request for a new fire truck.

Motion Approved: 7/0

\$191,875 has been added into Fire Equipment Cash for the down payment on the fire truck. The annual lease payment on the new fire truck was revised to \$71,600 per year for the term of a 10-year loan.

Request by Council to convene into Executive Session consistent with West Virginia Code 6-9A-4.

A Motion to convene into Executive Session was made by Councilman Fracasso.

Motion passed 7/0

Motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilman Marsh.

Motion passed 7/0

City Attorney, Vince Gurrera, stated the purpose for Executive Session was to discuss oil and gas litigation and potential additional council meetings.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Weigel

Motion Approved: 7/0

Minutes approved at the March 7, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Signed: Kimberly Long, City Clerk