



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – March 12th, 2024

Called to order at 6:32 pm by Mayor Sam Maxson.

Attendance – Sam Maxson, Charlene Louk, Rick Lafferty, Jim Link, Natalie Haddix

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Police Chief Ronnie Godwin, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix

Guests – Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Town Accountant Zack Dobbins, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Cindy Lafferty, Morgan Earp, Janet Conrad

Absent – Karen Phillips, Bryan Gonzalez

Minutes:

- Approval of minutes 2/27/2024 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote after a motion to approve the minutes was made by Charlene Louk and a second by Rick Lafferty.

Treasurer's Report:

- Reminder of Budget Workshops
 - 3/19/2024 – 5:00pm
 - 3/20/2024 – 5:00pm
 - 3/21/2024 – 5:00pm
- Conversations were had today on EMS collections with Nathan and ASAP Billing. We have agreed to give a 20% discount to patients as a “last-ditch” effort to collect old accounts before turning them over to a collections company. The balance must be paid in full (minus the 20%) or the full balance is turned over to a collections company. We are also offering this discount to patients that have no insurance in an effort to increase collections.
- FYE 2023 Audit has been completed by Ferrari and Associates. Final copy will be forwarded upon receipt. There were 3 findings on the audit.
 - Segregation of Duties
 - Water Revenue Bond Ordinance – Rate Covenant - (gross revenues shall be equal to but not less than 115 percent of the average annual debt service requirements, principal and interest, and sufficient to pay all reasonable operating expenses of the system)
 - Sewer Revenue Bond Ordinance – Rate Covenant - (gross revenues shall be equal to but not less than 115 percent of the average annual debt service requirements, principal and interest, and sufficient to pay all reasonable operating expenses of the system)
- Treasurer spoke with Seth DeVault of Region VI concerning funding for EMS and Police. We will be attempting to secure funding from the Senate Appropriations Committee this fall to assist in larger purchases for the departments. This will be from Congressionally Directed Spending.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- Accounts payable items were presented via handout (attached) and were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk which was seconded by Rick Lafferty.

Public Hearing:

- A Public Hearing was held to discuss the An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort, West Virginia, Amending the Schedule of Rates and Charges for the Services and Facilities Furnished for the Customers of the Sewerage System of the Town of Nutter Fort by Increasing the Rates and Charges by the Establishment of New Rates and Charges. Questions were raised and Town Accountant Zack Dobbins was in attendance to answer questions. Upon all outstanding questions being answered, the public hearing was concluded.

Unfinished Business:

- Review Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2024-02 - An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort, West Virginia, Amending the Schedule of Rates and Charges for the Services and Facilities Furnished for the Customers of the Sewerage System of the Town of Nutter Fort by Increasing the Rates and Charges by the Establishment of New Rates and Charges – 2nd Reading. Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-02 on the 2nd Reading was approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Jim Link.
- Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2024-03 – Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort to Purchase a Portion of 411 Buckhannon Pike –2nd Reading. Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03 on the 2nd Reading was approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Rick Lafferty.

New Business:

- None

Committee Reports:

- Chief of Police Report: Nothing to report.
- Fire Chief Report:
 - Still waiting on a date for the Ultimate Giveaway to be set. Will update once a date has been locked down. Likely between October 26, 2024, or November 9, 2024.
 - Day to day operations are still going smoothly.
- EMS/Ambulance Report: (via written report)
 - Since March 1, 2024, there have been 104 incidents with 40 being emergency calls.
 - Averaging around 30-40 non-emergency transports per week
 - Possibility of Full Time Employee being unable to fulfill their current shift but is still able to work some due to an arising medical condition. This is detrimental to an already understaffed department. Without additional full-time positions, we run the risk of not filling our schedules which would include not being able to respond to medical emergencies and an obvious decline in revenue.
 - Written thank you was included with the report: “A personal thank you to Fire Chief Haddix for going above and beyond by helping to staff the ambulances on a weekly basis since we have started transports. I cannot stress how big of a role he has played by simply sacrificing his time and commitment to the fire dept to assist EMS. I could not let this go unspoken of any longer.”
- Public Works Supervisor Report: None
- Engineer Report: None

Public Comment:

- None

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:47pm.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor