



## Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – 6:30pm

### **Called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Sam Maxson**

Attendance – Mayor Sam Maxson, Councilor Bryan Gonzalez, Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Charlene Louk (by phone), Recorder Natalie Haddix

Absent: Councilor Karen Phillips, Councilor Jim Link

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Chief Ron Godwin, PW Supervisor Taylor Keith, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough (via phone)

Guests – Ryan Holcomb, Dennis Dutchess, Cynthia Lafferty, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Mark Hays, Jennifer Robinson, Officer Justin Hetherington

### **Minutes:**

- Approval of minutes 7/9/2024 Council Meeting – Meeting minutes for the 7/9/2024 Council Meeting was approved by unanimous vote after Charlene Louk moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Rick Lafferty.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- None.

### **Approval of Accounts Payable:**

- Accounts payable items were presented via handout (attached) and were approved for payment by unanimous vote after Charlene Louk moved to approve the accounts payable items and the motion was seconded by Bryan Gonzalez.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2024-08 – An Ordinance Amending Article 157.07 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Relating to Payment of Salaries and Wages – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading* - Charlene Louk moved to approve the Ordinance 2024-08 on its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading with a second on the motion by Rick Lafferty. Motion carried after unanimous vote.

### **New Business:**

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – FY 2024/2025 General Budget Revision #1* – Charlene Louk moved to approve the 2024/2025 General Budget Revision #1 with a second on the motion by Bryan Gonzalez. Motion carried after unanimous vote.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2024-05 – Readoption Only - 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 Water Distribution System of the Town of Nutter Fort by Increasing the Rates and Charges by the Establishment of New Rates and Charges* – Rick Lafferty moved to approve the Readoption only of Ordinance 2024-05 with a second on the motion by Bryan Gonzalez. Motion carried after unanimous vote.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Discussion on Ordinance 777 – Changes necessary to 777.09 & 777.11* – Discussion was held regarding updating the codified ordinances to include language to put a time limit on the period of time after a HUD inspection due to multiple failures in recent inspections by Code Enforcement. This discussion was tabled by unanimous vote until Code Enforcement could be present with additional information on the revisions requested after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Rick Lafferty.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Lease Purchase of 2024 Ford Super Duty F-350* - Discussion was held regarding the repurposing for the EMS Department of a town vehicle currently utilized by the Public

Works Department and a lease for a replacement of the vehicle for the Public Works Department. Additional information was requested from both the EMS and Public Works Departments. This discussion was tabled by unanimous vote pending additional information regarding the purchase being brought to the next meeting after a motion by Rick Lafferty and a second by Charlene Louk.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Discussion on Nutter Fort Library – Possibility for Executive Session*
  - Necessitated Need for Executive Session – Ability to enter Executive Session to discuss the Nutter Fort Library was approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Rick Lafferty and a second by Charlene Louk. Executive Session went into effect at 7:18pm.
  - Conclusion of Executive Session to discuss the Nutter Fort Library was approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Rick Lafferty which was seconded by Charlene Louk. Executive Session concluded at 7:45 pm.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Chief of Police Report: Nothing at this time.
- Fire Chief Report: Ultimate Giveaway tickets are on sale now.
- EMS/Ambulance Report: July has seen 186 calls thus far, with 107 transports (4 ALS) and 79 emergency calls.
- Public Works Supervisor Report: Blacktopping - approximately 275 tons of the 400 tons planned has been completed in the areas of Bagwell, Ohio Avenue, Bryan Street, Indiana Avenue, Illinois Avenue. Curb work is still slated to be completed on Indiana Avenue.
- Engineer Report: Phase IV Sanitary Sewer stated yesterday with a contract time of approximately 120 days. Chub Run area has 5 remaining Rights of Way to be obtained. AML projects – keep moving forward and gathering exploratory data.
- Code Enforcement Report: Has inspected 31 rental properties and only 4 passed. The most common failure points are lack of smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors as well as GFCI failure (electrical). He had noticed that HUD approved many of these rental locations in recent months according to the occupants. This is what led to the request for revision of Ordinance 777. (via written report)

### **Public Comment:**

- Resident Dennis Dutchess:
  - Street Fee – 5 years in with this fee and he would like to know what the money is being used for today, and, moving forward, what would the money in there be used for.
    - PW Supervisor explained that 275 tons of 400 tons of the current blacktop project was approximately \$50,000 and that's not all of the blacktop to be purchased. Town will pay for the blacktopping where any project stops short. Every ten years, each street will be repaved out of the approximate \$120K/year. As of this current fiscal year, \$90,000 out of \$120,000 of the street improvement fee was already utilized towards paving.
  - Inquired about the edge line and speed bump status on Illinois Avenue.
    - PW Supervisor advised that will be fixed by end of week.
  - Asked when the last meeting of Clarksburg Water Board was held. It was noted that it was approximately March 2024. He will be attending tomorrow's Clarksburg Water Board meeting.
- Resident Shirley Sheets:
  - D&M Contracting is going way too fast by her house.
    - PW Supervisor advised that this was already addressed twice today, and police chief Godwin is aware.
  - Council Packets – Asked if they were able to have council packets.
    - Treasurer Leslie Cummings discussed that the accounts payable portion of the packets needs to be approved by council before distribution, as they are not voted on prior to the current meeting.
- Resident Jennifer Robinson:
  - Per 5/2019 council meeting, Jennifer said she was receiving council packets, but that has since stopped receiving accounts payable information. She was corresponding with the Town of Nutter Fort through an email chain on various items but hasn't received a response lately. Wanted to know why the Sanitary Board Agenda and Minutes were not placed online.
    - Treasurer Leslie Cummings noted that the Municipal League and the Town's Attorney were asked about the Accounts Payable information and that can be distributed once

approved by council and paid. She added that the Sanitary Board agendas and minutes were in the process of being placed online.

- Resident Cynthia Lafferty:
  - She advised that the Town of Nutter Fort's Community Facebook Page (not the actual Town of Nutter Fort Facebook Page) gets a lot of things started unnecessarily and the page's admin/moderator could better control the misinformation and negativity on the page.

**The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:45pm.**

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Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

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Sam Maxson, Mayor