



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – February 24, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Rezin Hudkins, IV

Attendance – Mayor Rezin Hudkins, IV, Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Karen Phillips, Councilor Charlene Louk, Recorder Natalie Haddix

Absent – Councilor Sam Maxson, Councilor Shawn Spurlock

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, PW Supervisor Travis Yost, PT Code Enforcement Officer Robert Leonard

Guests – Cynthia Lafferty, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Mike Curran, Dennis Dutchess, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell

Public Comment:

- Resident Dennis Dutchess:
 - He shared information about Clarksburg Water Board (CWB) and a letter from Riley Moore, who partnered with the CWB to secure \$2 million plus in funding for lead line replacement. He is questioning whether residents are paying for water systems outside of Clarksburg. He suggested that the Town's attorney investigate.

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 2/10/2026 Council Meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to approve the minutes and seconded by Karen Phillips.

Department Reports:

- Mayor's Report:
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Fiscal year ending 2025 (FY24/25) audit will take place on March 9th and 10th by Ferrari and Associates.
 - Training – Recent attendance for budget training with the State Auditor's Office.
 - Budget Workshop – Need to schedule budget workshop for upcoming FY26/27 budget. It was agreed upon to hold the budget workshop at 5:00pm on March 16, 2026.
 - Congressional spending money – will be applying for this money to help acquire funding for a new fire engine to replace ones that are 20+ years old.
- Chief of Police Report:
 - None
- Fire Chief Report:
 - Tickets went on sale this morning for the Ultimate Giveaway, which was moved to May 9, 2026.
 - Cartoon Headquarters Extravaganza – Met with James Vanscoy re: upcoming event that will be held 4/23/26 through 4/26/26 in the park. Schools will be bussing in kids during school hours on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The parade is planned for 11:00am on Saturday, April 25, 2026, and will be utilizing the same route as the Notre Dame High School Homecoming parade. Fire & EMS will be present during the event to give presentations at various times throughout the four-day event.
 - Flea Market – There will be a flea market at the park on the day of the city-wide yard sale, organized by the City of Clarksburg Park Board.
- EMS/Ambulance Report (via written report):
 - 195 incidents in February 2026.
 - Two part-time EMTs are coming aboard.

- A full-time employee dropped down to part-time due to other opportunities.
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
 - \$20 was collected from the basketball courts quarter machine, so it appears the basketball court is being utilized.
 - The garbage truck that was down is back in service.
 - The truck involved in a collision during inclement weather is in the shop for repairs.
- Engineering Report:
 - Phase 1 AMD:
 - Present Change Order 4
 - Present Engineering Amendment 2
 - Present Notice of Acceptability
 - Phase 2 AMD:
 - 30/34 ROWs in hand
 - Still working on obtaining ROWs from 2 businesses, 1 utility and 1 resident
 - DOH permit being reviewed
 - Discuss tree felling
 - To-bid meeting with AML tomorrow at 10:30AM
 - Chub Run:
 - Review progress meeting minutes
 - Present Change Order 1
 - Present Change Order 2
 - Vendor bid opening moved from 2/24/2026 to 3/10/2026
 - Phase IV:
 - Waiting on contractor to remobilize
- Code Enforcement Report:
 - Successfully contacted Mark Gricewich regarding the vacant structure on Buckhannon Pike, formerly RG Motorsports. The property will be addressed soon.
 - Notices sent to various property owners regarding the status of their property and not being aligned with the codified ordinances of the town.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- Accounts payable items were reviewed and discussed. Items were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk, seconded by Karen Phillips.

Unfinished Business:

- ***Review-Discuss-Consider – Ambulance Refinance*** – Jeff Smell from Country Roads Leasing previously presented a refinancing option for ambulances 716 & 717. Current payment through WesBanco is at a 5.5% interest rate for five years. Country Roads Leasing quote is 4.85% for 8 years. After further discussion, a request was made for Jeff Smell to present a comparable quote for a 5-year term. Mr. Smell returned with various term lengths and interest rate financing options to this meeting. It was discussed that there are outstanding issues regarding the financing of both pieces of apparatus at one time. Additionally, the rate change was less than a percentage point, so it was suggested that it be revisited later. Rick Lafferty *moved to keep the agenda item on as unfinished business and revisit in a few months in anticipation of lower interest rates*, with a second by Charlene Louk. A roll call was performed:
 - Councilor Rick Lafferty – Mover
 - Councilor Karen Phillips – Yes
 - Councilor Charlene Louk – Secunder
 - Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent
 - Recorder Natalie Haddix – Yes
 - Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Absent

Motion to keep this item under unfinished business and revisit again in a few months passed unanimously.

New Business:

- **Review-Discuss-Consider – Town Hall Heating/Cooling Quotes** – The current furnace in town hall is insufficient to heat the basement. The foyer requires both heating and AC, which a mini-split would accomplish. Focusing solely on the basement heating would cost \$3,500 - \$4,000, which fixing both the basement and foyer would total \$6,500. The foyer was 25 degrees during the sub-zero temperatures and there is no way to add duct work to the foyer.
- Natalie Haddix *moved to table the discussion until the next meeting once further information was obtained*, seconded by Rick Lafferty. A roll call was performed:
 - Councilor Rick Lafferty – Secunder
 - Councilor Karen Phillips – Yes
 - Councilor Charlene Louk – Yes
 - Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent
 - Recorder Natalie Haddix – Mover
 - Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Absent

Motion passed unanimously to table the discussion until the next meeting once further information was obtained.

- **Review-Discuss-Consider – Engagement of Future Accounting Services** – Zach Dobbins informed Leslie that their accounting services that they offer will change due to personnel turnover. Moving forward, they will pull back from completing financial statements and PSC reports but continue rate structures and project accounting work. He suggested another accountant to reach out to and see if that person would be a good fit for the town. Charlene Louk *moved to enable town hall to reach out to the new accountant and allow exploration and decision making, as necessary*, seconded by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:
 - Councilor Rick Lafferty – Yes
 - Councilor Karen Phillips – Secunder
 - Councilor Charlene Louk – Mover
 - Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent
 - Recorder Natalie Haddix – Yes
 - Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Absent

Motion passed to enable town hall to reach out to the new accountant and allow exploration and decision making, as necessary.

- *If Matters Arise:*
 - *If Matters Arise: Enter into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to personnel matters, the sale, lease or purchase of real property, economic development issues to disclose competitive issues, to confer with legal counsel regarding matters that which, if made public, would be detrimental to the interest of the Town and for any other lawful purpose.*

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:05 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor