



## Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – May 27, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

### **Called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Sam Maxson**

Attendance – Mayor Sam Maxson, Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Karen Phillips, Councilor Charlene Louk, Recorder Natalie Haddix, Councilor Bryan Gonzalez, Councilor Emily Lamm

Department Heads – Police Chief Ron Godwin, PW Supervisor Travis Yost, PT Code Enforcement Officer Robert Leonard

Guests – Mike Curran, Kenneth Johnson, Kathy Powell, Shirley Sheets, Dennis Dutchess, Walt Lanham, Curt Lamm, Cynthia Lafferty, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Rezin Hudkins IV, Jameson Holt

### **Minutes:**

- *Approval of minutes:* Approval of minutes for the 4/25/2025 Emergency Council Meeting and 5/13/2025 Council Meeting, with a correction to remove Councilor Karen Phillips from attendance, was approved by unanimous vote. The motion was made by Bryan Gonzalez and seconded by Charlene Louk.

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

- Sanitary Board Meeting was held and the Chub Run requisition number 6 was approved in the amount of \$10,556.59.
- Meeting with DEP and Thrasher was held to discuss Phase II of the AML project.
- The hydrant information on the agenda pertains to new PSC regulations regarding municipal responsibility for fire hydrant maintenance and testing.
- BowSel Inc. will be in Nutter Fort starting Thursday, May 29, 2025, to begin hydrant testing to fulfill the new requirements.

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

- Accounts payable items, presented via handout, were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk, seconded by Karen Phillips.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2025-02 – An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort Reducing the Speed Limit on Residential Streets – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading* – Discussion was held again on Ordinance 2025-02 which would lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph around daycares and in alleys of the Town. Ordinance 2025-02 passed its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk, seconded by Karen Phillips.

### **New Business:**

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2025-03 – An Ordinance amending Article 911 to Modify Requirements for Resurfacing of Excavation of Town Streets – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading* – Discussion was held on Ordinance 2025-03, which would amend Article 911 to require that utility companies disturbing more than 20% of a street repave up to the next block. It was noted that the City of Clarksburg has a similar ordinance. Resident Rezin Hudkins mentioned that Bridgeport requires restoration of the road to its previous condition, without a specific percentage requirement. Natalie Haddix inquired about the timing of the ordinance; it was confirmed that a short delay would not impact pending work. Council requested that the ordinance be redrafted using language similar to Bridgeport's version. Ordinance 2025-03 was tabled pending revision, following a unanimous vote after a motion by Charlene Louk, seconded by Karen Phillips.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Stop Signs* – Discussion was held after several residents requested four-way stop signs at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Washington Street due to speed and safety concerns. The police chief is in favor of the four-way stop, with council's approval. The placement of four-

way stop signs, including lines to be painted, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Washington Street was approved after unanimous vote following a motion by Bryan Gonzalez which was seconded by Emily Lamm.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Public Comment Forum* – Discussion was held regarding the format of the Public Comment sign up sheet. The purpose behind the sheet was to provide department heads and council time to research questions residents may have. The sign-up sheet is not preventative of comments made by residents, but answers on the spot may not be available if the topic requires additional research. It was noted that the wording from another municipality that was introduced at the previous meeting needed to be revised for the public comment sign-in sheet.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Fire Hydrant Flow-Testing Procedure; Fire Hydrant Marking Code; Fire Hydrant Inspection Procedure* – Discussion was held regarding the three aforementioned items, as they relate to new PSC regulations on municipalities handling fire hydrants and testing. All three were approved after unanimous vote following a motion by Charlene Louk which was seconded by Karen Phillips.
- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Personnel Matter & Legal Matter*
  - *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 disclosing 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.* – Not Applicable

### **Committee Reports:**

- Chief of Police Report:
  - Continuing to put out information on hiring of new officers.
  - Getting prices on vehicles, since they are overdue for replacement, specifically the 2012 and 2014 vehicles. This was previously delayed due to staffing numbers. Will follow up with the Treasurer to further discuss and will present the findings at a future council meeting.
- Fire Chief Report:
  - Reminder: A parade, which is part of the Family Fun Extravaganza in the park, beginning at the intersection of Route 20 and Route 98, will take place Friday evening, May 30, 2025.
- EMS/Ambulance Report:
  - Everything is running as normal and the 2025 ambulance is scheduled to be delivered Thursday, May 29, 2025.
  - An additional crew will be on duty over the weekend due to the event in the park.
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
  - Noted that there is a lot going on in Nutter Fort right now, the town has a good water and sewer system, and that PW is here to help the residents.
- Engineer Report:
  - Chub Run Sewer project is scheduled for June 1, 2025, start date, but that is likely to be delayed.
  - The AML project is set to go out to bid at the end of the year.
  - Lift stations in Phase IV of the sewer project are still awaiting approval from the PSC.
- Code Enforcement Report:
  - The part time Code Enforcement officer accompanied Ronnie Hall (PW/Code) on Friday for rental inspections and training.

### **Public Comment:**

- Resident Dennis Dutchess:
  - Drain Issue: Reported a drain issue at the corner of White and Illinois, noting that parts were obtained earlier in the spring, but the work was not completed due to weather. He requested that the city keep this issue a priority due to waterlogging in the area.
  - Old Car Wash/Pizza Parlor Issue: Inquired about the old car wash with plans to put a pizza parlor in it. There was discussion about floodplain restrictions on the property. Code enforcement noted that if improvements exceed 50%, the property must be brought to current standards. It was clarified that the current car wash was not being demolished but rather renovated by the new owner or future use.
  - Political Affiliation: Mr. Dutchess expressed concern about political signage related to the upcoming election and recommended revising ordinances to ensure non-partisan campaigning.

**The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:58 p.m.**

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Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

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Sam Maxson, Mayor