



## Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – January 27, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

**Called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Rezin Hudkins, IV**

**Attendance** – Mayor Rezin Hudkins, IV, Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Charlene Louk, Councilor Shawn Spurlock, Councilor Karen Phillips (via phone), Recorder Natalie Haddix

**Absent:** Councilor Sam Maxson

**Department Heads** – Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough, Code Enforcement Robert Leonard

**Guests** – Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Cynthia Lafferty, Adam Zahradnik, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell

### **Public Comment:**

- None

### **Minutes:**

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 1/13/2026 Council Meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to approve the minutes and seconded by Rick Lafferty.

### **Department Reports:**

- City Hall:
  - Water tank ruptured and flooded the basement. New drains helped minimize the damage and a water shut off valve was also installed.
  - Leaking toilet was replaced by Public Works during normal business hours.
  - Heating issues and cracked single pane windows need to be addressed due to heating loss in city hall.
  - Snow removal operations have been ongoing since Saturday. Public Works has been doing a tremendous job. Trash services have been delayed, but any resident can reach out to City Hall if a pickup is needed.
  - Considering purchasing a small V blade for the side by side to help clear sidewalk from Food Lion to Speedway in the future. Public works and the fire department assisted a lady because of the snow/ice buildup. The current snow blower is inefficient for ice removal.
  - Council Chambers remodel is nearing completion. Fire Chief and Public Works did the work during normal business hours. Will attempt completion in the next few weeks, weather permitting.
- Treasurer:
  - WesBanco is officially closed. The city is using a scanner offered by the bank to do remote check deposits.
  - PSC Reports for FY ending June 30, 2025, have been completed by Bennett & Dobbins. Financial Statements need to go to Ferrari and Associates for the financial audit.
  - Budget sessions will begin March 7.
  - Those interested in attending budget training with the WV State Auditor's office need to notify Leslie.
  - Also working on liens for past due fire fees.
  - Mayor Hudkins noted that he, the treasurer, and Councilor Charlene Louk met with the president and vice president of WesBanco before Christmas. WesBanco is unsure of what they will be doing with their building. Their guidelines address selling to competitors, but selling to competitors is not out of the question if it makes financial sense. According to their rules, the building cannot be sold to another bank for five years, but, depending on the financial parameters, they may consider waiving this.
- Chief of Police (via written report):
  - Officer Zahradnik provided a printout of updated call numbers. There were 467 calls for service from 11/1/25 through January 27, 2026. 54 traffic citations were issued and 6 arrests were made.

- The focus currently is finishing policies and awaiting equipment for the new vehicle.
- They are trying to get the process together with civil service to get a test put out and hiring new people.
- Chief Godwin will be meeting with the retirement board to determine his tentative end date of end of March/April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Fire Chief:
  - Fire Engine refurbishment: One of the older engines was sent to Atlantic Equipment and Apparatus Sales for the pump and frame rails to be redone and truck to be recertified. Buying a new fire engine costs over a million dollars with a 2 1/2 year turnaround. Refurbishing the older engine will provide another 10-15 years of use for that engine. The thought was initially to sell the engine, but appraisals were too low and this was the most cost-efficient way to maintain the engine. While the conversation regarding the acquisition of new apparatus to replace two pieces of apparatus that are 20+ years old each, this will help in the interim.
- EMS/Ambulance:
  - In 2025, there were a total of 3,394 total runs:
    - 2,129 were non-emergency transports
    - 118 were ALS transports (hospital to hospital with advanced care, requiring a paramedic at all times)
    - 1,256 were emergency calls
  - It was noted that the high mileage and wear and tear on the ambulances due to the high number of runs they make, road conditions, and the constant use of the vehicles, add to the ongoing maintenance.
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- Public Works:
  - Ongoing snow maintenance/removal.
- Engineering:
  - None
- Code Enforcement:
  - Did an inspection on a new rental and they have 30 days to correct what they need to fix.

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

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

### **Public Hearing:**

- To conduct a public hearing regarding proposed Ordinance 2025-04 related to amending the schedule of rates and charges for the customers of the water distribution system of the Town of Nutter Fort Unfinished Business.
  - This was due to a clerical error with the publication of the Ordinance. This is not a new fee.
  - Public hearing opened.
  - Public comment requests were asked for, twice, with no response.
  - Public hearing closed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2025-04* – 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 – 2nd Reading – **NOTE – this is only a re-read due to a clerical error in December, 2025.** Charlene Louk moved to accept Ordinance 2025-04, with a second by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:
  - *Councilor Rick Lafferty – Yes*
  - *Councilor Karen Phillips – Seconder*

- Councilor Charlene Louk – Mover
- Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent
- Recorder Natalie Haddix – Yes
- Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

- *Discussion – LPR/Camera Installation* – Discussion was held on the use of a certified electrician to install the electric for the cameras. The town received the cameras on a grant. Proper installation of the electric needs to be confirmed. Natalie Haddix moved to hire a certified electrician to install the electric that will power the LPR Cameras, with a second by Shawn Spurlock. A roll call was performed”

- Councilor Rick Lafferty – Yes
- Councilor Karen Phillips – Yes
- Councilor Charlene Louk – Yes
- Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent
- Recorder Natalie Haddix – Mover
- Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Seconder

Motion passed unanimously.

- *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 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.*

**Council Comment:**

- Councilor Natalie Haddix noted that EMS has a call on Monday for a normal transport in town. The house is positioned on a hill. Public Works salted the area, EMS shoveled the sidewalk, and the Fire Department was present for additional patient assistance. Everyone worked together. We always hear the bad, but it is very important to focus on the good as well.
- Council also noted that Public Works did an excellent job on the snow removal, as always.
- Clarksburg Water Board Audit copies were available for anyone who was unable to attend the Clarksburg Water Board meeting.

**The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:51p.m.**

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Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

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Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor