



Town of Nutter Fort Council Meeting September 8, 2026 – 6:30pm

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

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

Absent - Councilor Sam Maxson

Department Heads – Police Chief Adam Titchenal, Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough, PW Supervisor Travis Yost, Code Enforcement Representative Robert Leonard

Guests – Cynthia Lafferty, Kenneth Johnson, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Don Fowler, PW Merrill, Brittany Merrill, Paul Merrill, Beverly Ruppert, Tim Ruppert, Frank Ferrari, Ronnie Raines, Bryant Sponaugle

Public Comment:

- Resident Jennifer Robinson:
 - Expressed concerns that residents who cannot attend in person have no practical way to stay informed because agendas are provided without supporting documents, staff reports, or explanations. Further, it was noted that informal cost estimates received for live streaming equipment have ranged from \$10,000 to \$20,000. She requested that the town obtain official quotes for the necessary live-broadcasting equipment, make those quotes public, and place the item on an agenda for council vote.

Presentation of Resolution 2026-04 Recognizing City of Clarksburg Personnel and Nutter Fort EMS Personnel:

- Prior to the resolution being presented, a letter was read from medical director Dr. Scheidler detailing the incident involved.
- The resolution was read honoring City of Clarksburg Fire Department honorees Captain Walter Knight, Lieutenant Neal Adrich, Lieutenant Jeff Sanders, and firefighter Garin Chambers, along with Nutter Fort EMS honorees Patrick “PW” Merrill, EMT Ronnie Raines, and EMT Bryant Sponaugle.
- Mr. Fowler, the patient whose medical emergency was the subject of the resolution, addressed council with his appreciation for the honorees’ efforts to save his life. He also presented checks to Nutter Fort EMS as a token of his appreciation.

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Councilor Charlene Louk moved to approve the minutes of the 8/25/2026 Council Meeting, with a second by Councilor Karen Phillips. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Department Reports:

- Mayor’s Report:
 - Notre Dame High School has requested to have their annual homecoming parade in the Town of Nutter Fort again this year. Their parade is scheduled to take place in town on October 2, 2026.
 - The work being performed on the exterior of the public works maintenance building has been completed. Quotes are being obtained for the replacement of the rotted areas inside the building.
 - Quotes are being gathered for video recording and livestreaming capabilities. Current pricing estimates range from \$11,000 to \$20,000. A formal quote was received from Advantage Technologies and pricing is being compared to systems used in the Clarksburg and Bridgeport council chambers.
 - The decommissioned F550 dump truck will be traded in for a new cruiser through the DEP Grant instead of going to auction. Rick Floyd at Jenkins confirmed that they will accept the truck on trade once the new cruiser arrives.
- Treasurer’s Report:
 - Business as usual in the office – no issues to report



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- Working with PD on FOIA requests
- Working with Ryan Holcomb on the upcoming AML Project
- Working with different legal counsel on claims
- Working on finalizing some vendors for the Halloween Fall Festival
- Chief of Police Report:
 - The department is focused on speeding issues, primarily in school zones.
 - They have started deploying two officers simultaneously for traffic enforcement, averaging three to four traffic stops for speeding-related offenses during morning and evening shifts.
- Fire Chief Report:
 - Preparing outside facilities for winter.
 - Thanked PW Supervisor Yost's crew for applying sealant around back of the station which will help with fire hose cleanliness.
- EMS/Ambulance Report:
 - Expressed gratitude to the council for recognizing department personnel.
 - Noted that despite a rough and costly start, the integration of EMS as a town department is showing true benefits for the town and local business owners.
 - Recognized Treasurer Cummings' support in helping to keep EMS operational.
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
 - Reminded everyone that wipes labeled as flushable wipes are causing issues when flushed.
- Engineering Report:
 - None
- Code Enforcement Report:
 - 15 high grass violations, of which 14 have been resolved.
 - 3 garbage complaints, all resolved.
 - Completed 3 rental inspections, with 2 more scheduled for next week.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- *Approval of Accounts Payable:* Accounts payable items were reviewed and discussed. Councilor Charlene Louk moved to approve the accounts payable items, with a second by Councilor Karen Phillips. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business:

- a) **Consideration/Discussion of Ordinance 2026-05** – *An Ordinance Amending Article 133.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Designating the Treasurer as the Temporary Recording Officer in the Absence of the Recorder – 2nd Reading:*

After the mayor opened the floor for discussion on the Ordinance's second reading, with none heard, Councilor Charlene Louk moved to accept Ordinance 2026-05 – An Ordinance Amending Article 133.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Designating the Treasurer as the Temporary Recording Officer in the Absence of the Recorder, on its second reading, with a second by Councilor Karen Phillips. A roll call vote was conducted:

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



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Ordinance 2026-05 – *An Ordinance Amending Article 133.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Designating the Treasurer as the Temporary Recording Officer in the Absence of the Recorder – 2nd Reading – Motion approved.*

New Business:

- a) **Consideration/Discussion of Ordinance 2026-06 – An Ordinance Repealing Article 745.29 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort** – Mayor Hudkins explained that this repeal should have occurred when home rule was established. Under home rule, to receive the sales and use tax, the town was required by the state to give up 5% of the B&O taxes. The ordinance was discovered still on the books during research regarding rental and property inspection ordinances.

Councilor Charlene Louk moved to accept Ordinance 2026-06 – An Ordinance Repealing Article 745.29 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort, with a second by Councilor Karen Phillips. A roll call vote was conducted:

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

Ordinance 2026-06 – *An Ordinance Repealing Article 745.29 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort – Motion approved.*

- b) **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 which, if made public, would be detrimental to the interest of the Town and for any other lawful purpose.*

Council Comments:

- a. Councilor Rick Lafferty commented about public works recent tree limb trimming.
- b. Councilor Charlene Louk praised the recent work performed in the town.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:53 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor