



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes Council Meeting – February 10, 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, Councilor Shawn Spurlock

Absent – Councilor Sam Maxson

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, Rick Miller, Tom Rohrbough, Dennis Dutchess, Jeff Smell

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 1/27/2026 Council Meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to approve the minutes and seconded by Shawn Spurlock.

Department Reports:

- Mayor's Report:
 - Remodel for council chambers and hallway is close to completion. Fire Chief Haddix has been working on painting and trim – 90% complete.
 - Hot water tank in city hall has been addressed and fixed.
 - Still obtaining quotes to remedy the heating issues. Aiming for at least three quotes before the next meeting for discussion and decision.
 - Public Works was commended for their work during the cold and snowy weather, and when compared to neighboring municipalities, it was clear to see that Nutter Fort was definitely above the curve.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Snow removal costs are close to the same as last year, but the cost of salt increased at the end of last year. It was suggested that the street fee be utilized to help offset the additional costs related to salt acquisition. Using money from the street fee will not impact our O&M costs moving forward, which is a positive thing. The O&M costs factor in when considering the total amount of any future rate increases, if/when they occur.
- Chief of Police Report:
 - Police Chief job has been posted. Applications will be accepted until close of business on March 5, 2026.
- Fire Chief Report:
 - Ultimate Giveaway moved to May 9, 2026.
- EMS/Ambulance Report (via written report):
 - Ambulance 717 was inspected by the state and is now in service.
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
 - PW old garbage truck is back from the shop after DEF issues.
 - Nutter Fort is undergoing a five-million-dollar sewer project in the Chub Run/Suds Run area. Residents involved in the project have received notification. There were questions about the sewer

treatment facility having a smell to it. It was compared to the one in Chestnut Hills where there were no issues.

- Code Enforcement Report:
 - None

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.

New Business:

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ambulance Refinance* – Jeff Smell from Country Roads Leasing presenting 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 on a 5-year term. Natalie Haddix *moved to table the discussion on the ambulance refinance until Jeff Smell could present a rate for a comparable term*, with a second by Charlene Louk. A roll call was performed:
 - *Councilor Rick Lafferty – Yes*
 - *Councilor Karen Phillips – Yes*
 - *Councilor Charlene Louk – Secunder*
 - *Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent*
 - *Recorder Natalie Haddix – Mover*
 - *Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Yes*

Motion to table the agenda item at this time passed unanimously.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Outage Communication Plan – Revision #1* – The PSC rejected the originally submitted plan. Treasurer Cummings revised the plan and presented it via handout. Charlene Louk *moved to accept the outage communication plan revision with the addition of the word “water” to the title*, 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 – Yes*

Motion passed unanimously to accept the revised Outage Communication Plan with the addition of the word “water” to the title.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – WesBanco ACH, Check, & Payee Positive Pay* – There was fraudulent activity on a checking account at WesBanco last week and it was suggested to add this service to each account at \$20/month/account. There are a total of 22 accounts. Discussion also moved into potentially missing out on B&O taxes by not utilizing a bank within the Town of Nutter Fort. Charlene Louk *moved to decline the WesBanco ACH, Check, & Payee Positive Pay at this time and revisit if it becomes an issue later*, 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 – Yes*

Motion passed unanimously to decline the WesBanco ACH, Check & Payee Positive Pay at this time.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – FY 2025/2026 General Budget Revision #2* – Discussion was held on the increase of projected funds of a little over \$200,000. This income would be revised to reflect allocation to snow removal, street construction, sidewalks, fairs, LPR cameras, city hall repairs, and the future purchase of a cruiser. Rick Lafferty *moved to accept the FY 2025/2026 General Budget Revision #2*, seconded by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:
 - *Councilor Rick Lafferty –Mover*
 - *Councilor Karen Phillips – Seconder*
 - *Councilor Charlene Louk – Yes*
 - *Councilor Sam Maxson – Absent*
 - *Recorder Natalie Haddix – Yes*
 - *Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Yes*

Motion passed unanimously to accept the 2025/2026 General Budget Revision #2.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Personnel Policy Updates – Donated Leave* – Councilor Charlene Louk requested this be on the agenda. A revised leave policy was passed in December 2025, including a leave donation part from legal. Charlene is concerned that the policy lacks parameters and needs to be reviewed and updated. She has acquired examples from other local places of employment. Charlene volunteered to be on a committee, along with Karen Phillips and Rick Lafferty, to present a projected plan to council regarding this particular policy. Charlene Louk *moved to keep the donated leave policy and update it with parameters via a committee, which will consist of Charlene, Rick & Karen*, seconded 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 to accept keeping the donated leave policy, but update it with parameters after a review by the committee of the following council members: Charlene Louk, Rick Lafferty, & Karen Phillips.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Personnel Matter & Legal Matter – Buckhannon Pike Properties*
 - *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.*
- **Executive Session:** Pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section 4 of the West Virginia Code, Rick Lafferty *moved that Council adjourn into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.*
 - *This motion was seconded by Shawn Spurlock, with the motion passing unanimously. Executive session was entered into at 7:11p.m.*
 - *Natalie Haddix moved to end the executive session and resume the regularly scheduled council meeting with a second Charlene Louk. Motion passed unanimously and executive session was terminated at 7:28p.m. and council chambers was reopened to the public.*

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:32 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor