



Town of Nutter Fort Minutes

Council Meeting – December 9, 2025 – 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 Sam Maxson, Councilor Charlene Louk

Absent - Recorder Natalie Haddix, Councilor Shawn Spurlock, Councilor Karen Phillips

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, PW Supervisor Travis Yost, Code Enforcement Robert Leonard

Guests – Adam Zahradnik, Mike Curran, Jennifer Robinson, Mary Hays, Cynthia Lafferty, Sheree Rosevear Lister

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 11/12/2025 and 11/25/2025 Council Meetings were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to approve the minutes and seconded by Sam Maxson.

Department Reports:

- Treasurer:
 - Bennett & Dobbins has been in office this week to finalize the 2025 PSC reports and financial statement.
 - Purchasing policies are being drafted over the next several works.
 - 2025/2026 FY audit scores were tallied, and Ferrari and Associates will be doing the Town's audit. The paperwork was sent to the WV State Auditor's office.
- Chief of Police:
 - None
- Fire Chief:
 - None
- EMS/Ambulance (via written report):
 - All trucks in-service except the new one, which should be finished by next week and on the road by mid-January.
 - Working on a year-end report to highlight numbers for the year.
 - EMS has provided great service and thousands have benefited.
 - EMS Supervisor thanked the mayor, recorder, council, Leslie, all departments, and residents for their support. He further noted, "I personally look forward to coming to work there at the town every day. Looking forward to another successful year in 2026. Want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."
- Public Works:
 - One of the plow trucks was hit, but there were no injuries. Getting estimates for repair, insurance adjuster involved.
 - Man lift - \$400 for pick up and drop off, but no guarantee of getting it back when needed. Looking for a man lift to have year-round, considering leasing or financing instead of renting. The amount of money being spent on the man-lift for a rental is outweighing the cost of leasing/financing.
 - Nutter Run project starts next Monday, and, subsequently, the area will be a mess for a while.

- Engineering:
 - None
- Code Enforcement:
 - None

Approval of Accounts Payable:

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

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 – Public Hearing was opened. Brief discussion on Clarksburg Water Board's upcoming meetings – 12/18/25 at 10:00am and 6:00 pm. The mayor asked for any comments, questions, or concerns:
 - A resident inquired why would the rates be raised at this time of the year when everyone is having a hard enough time paying their bills, making payments, etc.
 - Response: It was clarified that the Town of Nutter Fort was not raising the rates again. This rate increase that is currently being worked on is a rate increase that Clarksburg Water Board just passed on to the Town of Nutter Fort. That's what this rate increase is. We've had our first reading and a workshop on this matter. This was where Clarksburg started their infrastructure projects and the rate increase was to resale customers, which is the Town of Nutter Fort. This isn't another increase; this is the increase that we've been working on since September/October.
 - This is a rate increase from Clarksburg that the Town of Nutter Fort cannot absorb. The Town of Nutter Fort has been informed that there will be two more rate increases next year from Clarksburg Water Board. The initial rate increase already went into effect on November 1, 2025, on Clarksburg Water Board's side.
 - Another resident inquired about any knowledge regarding the amount of the additional rate increases by Clarksburg Water Board and how the grant money they received impacts all of this.
 - Response: No direct answer was provided from Clarksburg Water Board regarding the amount of increases. The rate increase that was just passed through has nothing to do with projects (i.e. replacement of lines), just for the purchase of water.
- Charlene Louk moved to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Sam Maxson, and unanimously approved by council. Public Hearing on proposed Ordinance 2024-04 was officially 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* – Rick Lafferty moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-04, which was seconded by Charlene Louk. A roll call was performed for each council member's action on the motion. The results were as follows:
 - *Councilor Rick Lafferty – Mover*
 - *Councilor Karen Phillips – Absent*
 - *Councilor Charlene Louk – Seconder*
 - *Councilor Sam Maxson – Yes*
 - *Recorder Natalie Haddix – Absent*
 - *Councilor Shawn Spurlock – Absent*

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2025-05 – An Ordinance Amending Article 157.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Relating to Hiring of Employees; Amending Article 157.24 Relating to the Accrual of Vacation for Employees, Eliminating the Accumulation of Vacation, Eliminating Vacation Payouts, Allowing Advance Paid Time Off, Allowing Leave Donation – 2nd Reading* – Sam Maxson moved to approve Ordinance 2025-05, which was seconded by Rick Lafferty. A roll call was performed for each council member's action on the motion. The results were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – Ordinance 2026-06 – An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort Increasing Wages for the Nutter Fort Police Department – Patrolman, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Chief Wages – 2nd Reading* - Sam Maxson moved to approve Ordinance 2025-06, which was seconded by Charlene Louk. A roll call was performed for each council member's action on the motion. The results were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – December 23, 2025, Council Meeting* – It was recommended to council the upcoming council meeting due to Christmas. Charlene Louk moved to cancel the December 23, 2025 Council Meeting, which was seconded by Rick Lafferty. A roll call was performed for each council member's action on the motion. The results were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- *Review-Discuss-Consider – WesBanco Nutter Fort Closing* – Discussion was held on the announcement of the bank's closing of the Nutter Fort branch and a plan moving forward. Accounts will remain with WesBanco until further research can be done to determine next steps.
 - No action by council necessary on this agenda item.
- *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.*

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:21p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor