



Town of Nutter Fort Council Meeting May 26, 2026 – 6:30pm

Called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Rezin Hudkins

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

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Police Chief Adam Titchnell, EMS Supervisor Nathan Rohrbough, PT Code Enforcement Officer Robert Leonard

Guests – Cynthia Lafferty, Kenneth Johnson, Jennifer Robinson, Mark Hays, Shirley Sheets, Kathy Powell, Mike Curran, John Carter, Ryan Holcomb

Absent - Councilor Shawn Spurlock

Public Comment:

- Resident John Carter addressed council about issues with traffic coming from School Street alley. It was noted that previous attempts to address the issue with the Harrison County Board of Education, principals at Nutter Fort Elementary, and Nutter Fort Police Department were unsuccessful. Suggestions for improvement include installing a stop sign and a speed bump at the alley's turn-in point. Additionally, on a second topic, it was requested that the Town of Nutter Fort consider allowing residents to keep hens, not roosters, within city limits, noting that other areas permit chickens.

Presentations:

- Proclamation Honoring WV Community Educational Outreach Services – presentation postponed

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 4/21/2026 Special Session Council Meeting and 4/28/2026 Council Meeting 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's Report:**
 - Sanitary Board Meeting was held today. Chub Run Req #13 was approved for \$252,801.58.
 - 2027 West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant through the WV DEP is in progress for application. To be used for recycling totes to hopefully garner more recycling participation from residential and commercial customers in Town and lower waste costs.
 - The Town has new federal requirements issued by the US DOJ requiring state and local governments to ensure that their websites, mobile applications, and certain online services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. They have recently extended the compliance deadline to April 26, 2028. We are in the planning and assessment process currently.
 - All streetlights that were out on Buckhannon Pike have been repaired and upgraded to 260-watt LED. Several lights within the school zone that were working have also been upgraded to the 260-watt LED due to the close proximity to the entrance and exit of the school. There was also a light on the Nutter Fort side of Route 98 that was out and has been upgraded to a 260-watt LED. There have been additional lights on side streets that have been replaced with 90-watt LEDs. Moving forward, in coordination with First Energy, the streetlights will be a "fix upon failure" process to the switch to LED. If anyone is aware of a streetlight that is not working, please call Town Hall with a pole number and location.
- **Chief of Police Report:**
 - Remodel Update - Remodel of the police department included painting and new carpeting.

- Firearm Transition – Recently received new firearms, as the department will be transitioning from the 40 caliber to the 9mm.
- Recent MVC – Officer Murphy will soon be concluding his investigation into a recent motor vehicle collision involving an E bike.
- Fire Chief Report:
 - Fundraising Event – Appreciate everyone’s support on a successful Ultimate Giveaway on May 9, 2026.
- EMS/Ambulance Report:
 - State Funding – Received funding from the State of WV for EMS supplies. A ventilator was purchased using some of that funding which will increase transport capabilities.
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
 - None
- Engineering Report:
 - Phase 1 AMD: Complete
 - Phase 2 AMD: 31/33 ROW’s in hand, reroute of original route, DOH permit being reviewed
 - Chub Run: Review progress meeting minutes, Vendor bid opening successful, Future phase discussions
 - Phase IV: IJDC budget revision needs submitted and approved, Will need to coordinate construction / expectations prior to remobilization
- Code Enforcement Report:
 - RG Honda – portion of this property is being torn down
 - Final Inspections – conducted for Ember Coffee Company, East Chicago, and Café Lulu

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.

Unfinished Business:

- a. *Consideration of Ordinance 2026-03 – An Ordinance Amending Article 171.02 and 131.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Nutter Fort Relating to the Mayor Appointing a Municipal Judge – 2nd Reading* - Ordinance 2026-03 was approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Sam Maxson to accept Ordinance 2026-03 and seconded by Charlene Louk.
- b. *Consideration of Ordinance 2026-01 – An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort Providing a FYE2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment for All Employees – 2nd Reading* - Ordinance 2026-01 was approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept Ordinance 2026-01 and seconded by Rick Lafferty, with Natalie Haddix abstaining from the vote.

New Business:

- a. ***Consideration of FY 2025/2026 General Budget Revision #3*** – Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item and seconded by Karen Phillips.
- b. ***Consideration of FY 2025/2026 Coal Severance Budget Revision #2*** – Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item and seconded by Karen Phillips.
- c. ***Consideration of FY 2026/2027 EMS Budget*** – Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item and seconded by Rick Lafferty.
- d. ***Consideration of FY 2026/2027 Water Fund Budget*** – Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item and seconded by Karen Phillips.
- e. ***Consideration of 720 Illinois Avenue Demolition Quotes*** – Code Enforcement received three quotes to tear down the mobile home that is currently there. The lowest bid of the three received was from Enviroclean for \$5,297.50. Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item as long as it includes the tipping fees, cleanup & hauling of all debris, backfill, mulch, and seed, and seconded by Karen Phillips. *It was noted prior to conclusion of the meeting by resident Jennifer Robinson that properties need to be checked for squatters prior to demolition.

- f **Consideration of Legal Matters - Police (Executive Session Anticipated)** – Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Upon reconvening open session after conclusion of Executive Session, Natalie Haddix moved to engage with attorney Todd LaNeve of Police Legal Counsel to provide future legal services to NFPD, with a second by Sam Maxson, and unanimous approval after vote.
- g **Consideration of Legal Matters – 411 Buckhannon Pike Property (Executive Session Anticipated)** – Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Upon reconvening open session after conclusion of Executive Session, Natalie Haddix moved to reallocate ARPA funds that were previously earmarked for 411 Buckhannon Pike in the amount of \$30,000 and instead redirect \$19,300 to Fire, Police, & EMS towards radios and \$12,700 to Public Works towards manlift purchase, with a second by Charlene Louk, and unanimous approval after vote.
- h **Consideration of Offer to Lease Oil and Gas Interests (Executive Session Anticipated)** - Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Upon reconvening open session after conclusion of Executive Session, Natalie Haddix moved for Council to provide internal guidance for Leslie to correspond and report back findings to Council, with a second by Charlene Louk, and unanimous approval after vote.
- i **Consideration of Business and Occupational Tax Past Due Accounts (Executive Session Anticipated)** – Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Upon reconvening open session after conclusion of Executive Session, Sam Maxson moved for Mayor Hudkins to be authorized to discuss solutions for past due B&O tax accounts with those involved, with a second by Karen Phillips, and unanimous approval after vote.
- j **Consideration of ARPA Funding Allocation** – Addressed in item G of New Business. Natalie Haddix moved to reallocate ARPA funds that were previously earmarked for 411 Buckhannon Pike in the amount of \$30,000 and instead redirect \$19,300 to Fire, Police, & EMS towards radios and \$12,700 to Public Works towards manlift purchase, with a second by Charlene Louk, and unanimous approval after vote.
- k **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.*
 - o **Executive Session:** *Due to the nature of agenda items F, G, H, & I, pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section 4 of the West Virginia Code, Natalie Haddix moved that Council adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters.*
 - o *This motion was seconded by Charlene Louk, with the motion passing unanimously. Executive session was entered into at 6:53p.m.*
 - o *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 7:23p.m. and council chambers was reopened to the public.*

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:27 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor