



Town of Nutter Fort Council Meeting April 14, 2026 – 6:30pm

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

Attendance – Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Sam Maxson, Councilor Karen Phillips, Mayor Rezin Hudkins, Councilor Shawn Spurlock

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Police Chief R.A. Titchenal, Public Works Director Travis Yost, PT Code Enforcement Officer Robert Leonard

Guests – Cynthia Lafferty, Mark Hays, Jennifer Robinson, Kenneth Johnson, Kathy Powell, Shirley Sheets

Public Comment:

- None

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 3/24/2026 Council Meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Sam Maxson to approve the minutes and seconded by Karen Phillips.

Department Reports:

- Mayor's Report:
 - I want to apologize for the agenda not being posted to the webpage. It was missed I am not denying that at all. We have had sickness running through the office in the past few weeks, so the girls and I have been spread thin the last few weeks and that's not an excuse but want everyone to be aware. We are working to put some things in place to make sure that does not happen again and will also be uploading the agenda to social media as well.
 - Continue coordination with department heads to ensure efficient daily operations.
 - Ongoing review of current budget, expenditures, and financial planning for the future.
 - I would Like to introduce the Chief of Police Robert Adam Titchenal started in office on 4/13/26. There will be a formal swearing in ceremony at a later date that everyone will be invited to attend.
 - The Police Department continues to provide dedicated service to our community.
 - Fire and emergency services remain fully operational and prepared, with continued focus on response readiness and safety training.
 - Progress continues on road repairs from the winter, reestablishing curbs where needed to prepare for Spring weather.
 - Routine maintenance such as street cleaning/sweeping has started and is ongoing, signage updates, and seasonal preparations are underway; grass cutting, etc.
 - Ongoing discussions with local businesses and potential investors to promote growth and opportunities. Joe's Flies has been purchased by a local business owner. He is also working to obtain the old Papa John's building as well.
 - The Cartoon Headquarters Family Fun Extravaganza starts 4/23/2026 and will run through 4/26/2026 at Clarksburg City Park.
 - I am looking into doing some much needed maintenance to the salt bin and the Public Works large garage. Also, we will be working this spring and summer to get all the curbs cleaned and painted.
 - I would like to thank council for the help the past few weeks reviewing applications and participating in phone conversations during the hiring process of the new Chief of Police.
 - I would like to thank all the employees and residents for their continued support and dedication to making our community a great place to live and work.

- **Treasurer's Report**
 - FYE2025 Audit was rejected by the state due to the Nutter Fort Library's FYE 2021-2024 audits not being completed. After speaking with the Ferrari and Associates and the State of WV Auditor's office, it was decided that the Town put those years audits out for bid. In doing so, our FYE2025 audit was accepted. All bids are due 4/17/2026. An approved copy of our audit has been emailed to all council members. It is available to the public on the state auditor's website.
 - LPR camera installations have been approved by the State Police, it has now moved onto the WVDOH.
 - Halloween Fall Festival 2026 meeting on 4/22/2026 @ 1:30pm
 - Lighting updates are ongoing by First Energy.
 - I attended PEIA training in Parkersburg on 3/27/2026. All non-state agencies will now be going through annual audits of eligible employees and there are new laws that must be followed to be eligible to continue through PEIA insurance such as a 50% minimum employee participation rate.
 - Public Works and I met to ensure a new procedure on mowing properties. Hopefully this new process will guarantee that property owners are liable for costs.

- **Chief of Police Report:**
 - Chief Titchenal introduced himself and reported that he was injured on his last day of duty at his previous employer. Will be on desk duty for a while.

- **Fire Chief Report:**
 - None

- **EMS/Ambulance Report:**
 - \$17,272 in grant monies received for equipment purchases. Matching funds of 25%. Money must be spent by June 2026 per the rules of funding.

- **Public Works Supervisor Report:**
 - Assisted City of Stonewood with a hydrant replacement this week.

- **Engineering Report:**
 - None

- **Code Enforcement Report:**
 - Asbestos testing was performed at 720 Illinois Ave to prepare for demolition.

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 Karen Phillips.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Review-Discuss-Consider – 2026 Ford Super Duty F350 Bids** – 4 bids received (MidState Ford \$65,378.00, Whiteside Chevrolet \$74,556.00, Thornhill Ford \$76,367.00, Jenkins Ford \$67,222.84).

Shawn Spurlock *moved to table the item until specifications can be reviewed*, seconded by Sam Maxson. A roll call was performed:

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

Motion passed unanimously to table.

- **Review-Discuss-Consider – 2026 Ford AWD Police Interceptor Bids** – 4 bids received (MidState Ford \$54,947.00, Whiteside Chevrolet \$83,704.00, Thornhill Ford \$64,253.00, Jenkins Ford \$46,500.00).

Rick Lafferty *moved to table the item until specifications can be reviewed*, seconded by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:

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

Motion passed unanimously to table.

- **Consideration of Ordinance 2026-01 -An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort Providing a FYE2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment for All Employees – 1st Reading** – Discussion was held on possibly increasing benefits vs. wages.

Shawn Spurlock *moved to table the item until benefits can be reviewed*, seconded by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:

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

Motion passed unanimously to table.

- **Consideration of Ordinance 2026-02 -An Ordinance of the Town of Nutter Fort Enacting Wages for the New Nutter Fort Police Chief – 1st Reading**

Sam Maxson *moved accept Ordinance 2026-02*, seconded by Karen Phillips. A roll call was performed:

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

Motion passed unanimously to accept Ordinance 2026-02 Enacting Wages for the New Nutter Fort Police Chief.

- **Consideration of Meeting Time for 4/21/2026 Lay the Levy Meeting**

Karen Phillips *moved have the 4/21/2026 meeting at 3:00PM via conference call*, seconded by Rick Lafferty. A roll call was performed:

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

Motion passed unanimously to have the 4/21/2026 Lay the Levy Special Meeting at 3:00PM via conference call.

- *If Matters Arise:*
 - *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 6:55 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor