



Town of Nutter Fort Council Meeting June 9, 2026 – 6:30pm

Called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Recorder Natalie Haddix

Attendance – Councilor Rick Lafferty, Councilor Sam Maxson, Councilor Karen Phillips, Councilor Charlene Louk, Councilor Shawn Spurlock, Recorder Natalie Haddix

Department Heads – Treasurer Leslie Cummings, Police Chief Adam Titchnell, PW Supervisor Travis Yost, PT Code Enforcement Officer Robert Leonard

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

Absent - Mayor Rezin Hudkins

Public Comment:

- Resident Jennifer Robinson addressed council about her concerns regarding the proposed reallocation of \$30,000 in ARPA funding from a specific property within the AML project to man lift and radio acquisition. It was noted that the 12/31/2024 deadline was the issue with this project and moving forward as-is will potentially create problems in the future, including return of funding. The Treasury Department was contacted for additional guidance regarding next steps.

Minutes:

- *Approval of minutes:* Minutes for the 5/26/2026 Council Meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to approve the minutes and seconded by Karen Phillips.

Department Reports:

- Mayor's Report:
 - Written report provided by the mayor in his absence was read, with the following highlights:
 - Police Department – Continual progress is being made towards reaching the goal of 24/7 police coverage again in the town. Additionally, many upgrades and improvements have taken place to ensure the department has the tools it needs to do their job safely.
 - Public Works Department – The department is performing ongoing routine maintenance throughout the town, including street maintenance, right-of-way upkeep, and municipal property improvements. The replacement truck has arrived to take the place of the truck that was ruled a total loss by insurance during inclement weather this past winter. Bulk pickup continues this week. If your pickup was missed, contact Town Hall.
 - Town Hall – Several HVAC issues at Town Hall recently and, over the past three weeks, resulting in two separate repairs. Will continue to keep council updated.
 - Fire Department/EMS – Continues to provide outstanding service to our residents through emergency response, training, and community support activities. Appreciate for all of the volunteer firefighters for their dedication and commitment to protecting our community.
 - It has been almost one year since the mayor was sworn in. Meaningful process made for a solid foundation for the future. He remains “committed to serving the residents of Nutter Fort with transparency, accountability, and a focus on moving our community forward”.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held 6/10/2026 at 4:30pm
 - Police Civil Service Commission meeting will be held 6/15/2026 at 3:00pm
 - The Treasurer will be in training all day on 6/11/2026 for new PEIA software
 - Town Hall will be closed 6/19/2026 in observance of Juneteenth
 - We have been working on the transfer of the Nutter Fort Fire Fees to our Sage accounting software for the new fiscal year for improved accounting tracking.

- Chief of Police Report:
 - Chief is reviewing departmental operations, staffing needs, equipment inventories, and policies to restore consistent 24/7 police coverage.
 - Efforts are underway to acquire essential equipment, including Tasers and ballistic vests.
 - Manpower shortages are being addressed with discussions planned with the Civil Service Commission regarding a hiring process due to a low number of police applicants.
 - Officer Murphy's last day is June 12, 2026, as he returns to Clarksburg Police Department.
 - The department has handled approximately 59 calls since the last meeting.
- Fire Chief Report:
 - The members have been busy with various training classes, drills, and events.
 - Recently had the honor to escort the Robert C Byrd High School Baseball and Softball teams through town on their way to Charleston for state level competition.
 - Getting ready to implement some improvements to the kitchen area of the fire department, as it needs a new paint job.
- EMS/Ambulance Report:
 - None
- Public Works Supervisor Report:
 - Preparing for installation of the traffic cameras, with Senator Ben Queen's assistance. Awaiting a permit from the state to move forward.
 - A resident has asked if there could be another speed bump installed in proximity of the existing speed bump on Burton Avenue. Item will be added to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.
 - Working to paint curbs, crosswalks, and hydrants this summer.
 - Had a bad water break at the Clarksburg City Park and Councilor Shawn Spurlock assisted with repair.
- Engineering Report:
 - None
- Code Enforcement Report:
 - Door hangers were placed in various locations that had violations.
 - Certificates of Occupancy – conducted for Ember Coffee Company, East of 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 ARPA Funding Allocation:**
 - i) **Purchase of radios – FUBAR Enterprises - \$19,300.00 ARPA**
 - ii) **Purchase of manlift – United Rentals - \$35,000.00 total, \$12,700.00 ARPA**

Item was tabled by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk and seconded by Karen Phillips.

b) Consideration of Offer to Lease Oil and Gas Interests (Executive Session Anticipated)

Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Update on status provided. No action necessary, as this was considered in the previous council meeting on May 26, 2026.

c) Update of Police Legal Matter (Executive Session Anticipated)

Executive Session necessary due to nature of agenda item. Update on status provided. No action necessary, as this was considered in the previous council meeting on May 26, 2026.

New Business:

- a **Consideration of FY 2025/2026 General Budget Revision #4** – Approved by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Charlene Louk to accept the item and seconded by Karen Phillips.
- 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 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 b & c under Unfinished Business, pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section 4 of the West Virginia Code, Charlene Louk moved that Council adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters.*
 - o *This motion was seconded by Sam Maxson, with the motion passing unanimously. Executive session was entered into at 6:46p.m.*
 - o *Charlene Louk moved to end the executive session and resume the regularly scheduled council meeting with a second Shawn Spurlock. Motion passed unanimously and executive session was terminated at 6:56p.m. and council chambers was reopened to the public.*

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:57 p.m.

Natalie K. Haddix, Recorder

Rezin D. Hudkins, IV, Mayor