

# Minutes for the Town of Sutton's Special Council Meeting - July 23, 2025

## Call to Order

Time: 4:02 pm

June 23, 2025

- Pledge of Allegiance by all attendees
- Opening Prayer by Laurel Petolicchio

## Roll Call of attendees

a.	Carolyn Hoover	Present	e.	Darrell Pierson	Present
b.	Debbie Pierson	Present	f.	Thomas Gates	Present
c.	Laurel Petollichio	Present	g.	Shelly Sutphin	Present
d.	Jonathan Crum	Present			

## Mayor's Report

### Ordinance regarding the need for a Special Council Meeting.

(Recorded Position 0:00:45)

**Mayor:** During the meeting of July 10, 2025, we failed to reference the ordinance supporting the need for a special meeting to be held on July 15, 2025. We also failed to reference the ordinance in the follow-up special meeting in the July 15, 2025, special meeting, scheduling the July 23, 2025, special meeting. These ordinances will be referenced and added to the final minutes to be presented to the council for approval on August 10, 2025, in the regular council meeting. *W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4*

## Attachments 1

### Vote for the Ratification of hire.

(Recorded Position 0:01:45)

**Mayor:** I am asking for ratification of the hiring of the Police Officer.

In the meeting of July 15, 2025, Johnathan Crum went on record as to protesting the mayor's decision to use her authority to hire a Police Office citing the *Town Ordinance §1-211, §2-103, and §2-401*.

I, as mayor, used *Ordinances §2-204, and §2-205* to hire a police officer. These ordinances (*§2-103, and §2-401 and §2-204, and §2-205*) seem to contradict one another, and it makes it very difficult to interpret. In my wisdom, I had the authority and duty to appoint a special police officer.

As I call your name, tell me if you ratify the choice that I made in hiring the police officer. (Recorded Position 0:03:21)

Did you agree that I hired the police officer?

(Recorded Position 0:03:35)

**Thomas Gates:** Yes

(Recorded Position 0:03:37)

**Darrell Pierson:** Yes

(Recorded Position 0:03:39)

**Jonathan Crum:** Yes (*I agree that you hired the police officer, but what I don't agree with is that it was hired in accordance with our ordinances.*)

(Recorded Position 0:03:42)

**Laurel Petolicchio:** Yes (*I would agree that it is according to 2- 204.*)

(Recorded Position 0:03:52)

**Debbie Pierson:** Yes

(Recorded Position 0:05:19)

## Discussion

**Johnathan Crum:** Ordinance 2-103 states that such police officers as the Council may deem necessary and of which that the decision deeming the necessary need for a police officer had not been determined by the Council at the time in which we were having an unsolicited interview of a of a potential officer. (Recorded Position 0:09:02)

**Mayor:** Shelly Sutphin was not in the meeting of July 15, 2025, she may have to abstain. (Recorded Position 0:09:45)

**Thomas Gates:** Yes

**Debbie Pierson:** Yes

**Darrell Pierson:** Yes

**Shelly Sutphin:** Abstain

**Laurel Petolicchio:** Yes

**Johnathan Crum:** No

## Attachments 2

### Vote for the Position of Municipal / Town Clerk

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**Mayor:** We are going to move on hiring a municipal clerk.

(Recorded Position 0:10:06)

Once again, I think we should go into executive session so that we can discuss and come to consensus, then come back into the open meeting and make a motion to hire a clerk.

(Recorded Position 0:11:46)

Do I have a motion that we can go into executive session to discuss the hiring of a town clerk? *Ordinances §2-204, and §2-205*

**4:14 pm - Begin Executive Session** (Recorded Position 0:12:26)

**Laurel Petolicchio:** I make a motion according to *Ordinances §6-9A-4 A we go into executive session.*

**Thomas Gates:** I'll second that.

All in favor say Aye **6** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

### Discussion

**4:29 pm - End Executive Session** (Recorded Position 0:27:16)

**Shelly Sutphin:** I make a motion to go back into open meeting.

**Laurel Petolicchio:** I seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye- **6** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

### Vote for the Position of Municipal / Town Clerk

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(Recorded Position 0:28:48)

**Johnathan Crum:** I make a motion to offer employment to Rosalie Brooks at the rate determined by the council.

**Laurel Petolicchio:** I seconded the motion.

Individual votes were taken: **Thomas Gates:** Yes **Shelly Sutphin:** Abstain **Darrell Pierson:** Yes

**Jonothan Crum:** Yes **Laurel Petolicchio:** Yes **Debbie Pierson:** Yes

It's been properly moved and seconded that we hire Rosalie Brooks as our town clerk at the starting salary that we agreed on during our special meeting last week.

### Legal Issues

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**Mayor:** Do I hear a motion to go into executive session to discuss the lawsuit against the town by Jonthan Crum.

**4:36 pm - Begin Executive Session** (Recorded Position 0:30:29)

**Thomas Gates:** I make a motion to go into the executive session on *Ordinances §6-9A-4 B7*

**Laurel Petolicchio:** I seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - **6** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it

**John Crum:** I would like to recuse myself in matters concerning the lawsuit.

**A Discussion followed.**

**Shelly Sutphin:** I make a motion to adjourn the execution session.

**Darrell Pierson:** I seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye\_- **5** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

**Jonathan Crum** returned to the open meeting of the Town of Sutton Council.

**Mayor:** We are going back into open session at 5:10 pm.

(Recorded Position 1:09:55)

**Thomas Gates:** I make a motion to authorize the city attorney to represent the lawsuit against the Town of Sutton by Jonathan Crum and to work with the mayor.

**Laurel Petolicchio:** I'll seconded that.

All in favor say Aye **5** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it. **Jonathan Crum** abstained. **Motion Carried**

Discussion followed concerning the hiring of an additional Street Maintenance worker.

It was agreed to update the website and Facebook with a hiring post.

**Adjourn**

**TIME: 5:18 pm**

(Recorded Position 1:12:00)

**Mayor:** Do I hear a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Shelly Sutphin** makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Jonathan Crum:** I seconded the Motion

All in favor say Aye\_- **6** 'Aye's and Those opposed - **0** 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion carried.** We are adjourned.

**Attachments:**

1. Statement and ordinances for calling a special meeting.
2. Ordinances relating to the hiring for the police officer's position.
3. Goals for the Municipal Clerk position.