

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
10/09/18**

Mayor Maxson offered a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order in council chambers at 6:32 pm.

Attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Recorder Charlene Louk, Councilors William Benincosa, Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, and Brenda Riley. Treasurer Julia Foley, Police Chief Ron Godwin, Fire Chief Jeremy Haddix and Code Enforcer (CE) Keith Kesling.

Absent: Councilor Donald "Duck" Webster and Public Works (PW) Super., Taylor Keith.

Guests: John Barnes, Linda Blake, Janet Conrad and Jan McNemar.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 11th meeting (attached) were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Foley spoke to the WV State Tax Dept., about 302 West Virginia Ave. No one bid on the property at the public auction on September 13th. Now, anyone can bid on the property online, with a starting bid of \$10.00. Council agrees the house is in deplorable condition and needs torn down for numerous reasons.

>The Audit will be finished mid next week. An exit review will be held next Thursday or Friday. Council is welcome to attend. Mrs. Foley will let us know the date/time.

- Accounts payable (attached) were approved after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Charlene Louk.

Unfinished business:

- The 2nd reading on an ordinance increasing wages for the police department passed after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Brenda Riley.
- 2nd reading on an ordinance dealing with wages and benefits in regard to certifications/position types, passed after a motion by Natalie Haddix and second by Brenda Riley.

New Business:

- Thrasher Engineering planned to be here this evening, but is still gathering information on proposed rates for the upcoming sewer project. Thrasher and Sheena Hunt from Region VI will be at the November meeting.
- Home Rule as a permanent program did not make it through the Legislature last year. The Municipal League asks we consider the Resolution (attached) in support of Home Rule. We could benefit from Home Rule, seeing how it has helped Municipalities who were part of the pilot program. Resolution passed after a motion by Charlene Louk and a second by Karen Phillips.
- Natalie Haddix moved to set Trick or Treat for Oct. 31st from 6-7. Motion passed after a second by Karen Phillips. The annual party hosted by the Fire Dept. will follow.
- Council decided to host a Christmas event on Dec. 12th. Chief Haddix recommended an event involving the Fire Dept., Police Dept. and Santa Clause. He will work with Ronnie, and is open to ideas. An alternative to the small, live tree beside City Hall was discussed. We will discuss further next month.

- Deloris and John Barnes of 204 Bagwell Ave. were awarded October *Yard of the Month*. Mayor Maxson and Linda Blake presented a certificate and gift to Mr. Barnes.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept: Chief Godwin reported the site visit by the State for the Juvenile Justice Committee went well. They looked at our policies and shared regulations, for example, no cuffs for juveniles and also required signage. We installed the required sign during their visit, and met all other requirements.

>The dept. has been very busy. Some days they make numerous trips to the regional jail. The positive of this is 90% of the arrests do not involve residents, but result from traffic stops and other calls regarding non-residents.

>Officers are still in the process of returning stolen property that's been recovered.

>Meth and heroin usage is much higher and drug overdoses are higher. This occurs everywhere, including parking lots, residences, the park, and parked cars. The Mexican meth, which is here now, is much stronger causing users to overdose with smaller amounts. It takes more Narcan to reverse them because 1) they are used to the drug, so it takes more to get high, and 2) drugs are now more potent. The general public isn't aware of all this. Chief Haddix added, if we get any complaints, he is very stern with them when he has to administer Narcan for the person to survive an overdose.

Fire Dept: Chief Haddix reported the divers were unable to complete Cold Water dive training. Their suits were for swift water, not cold water. Five are certified in Advanced, two in Open Water and all 7 certified in Full Face Piece. In the spring, they will work on Rescue Diver and Public Safety Diver certifications.

>The Dept. was awarded the Fire Act Grant for \$204,000.00. The Fire Department's portion is \$10,000.00 for a total of \$214,000.00. The grant is for 30 for new breathing apparatus at the cost of \$7000.00 each, which will cover all the trucks.

>They are having a Federal grant written, hoping to get 75% funding for the ladder truck. The grant is due the end of the month. It will take a year to hear the outcome.

Maintenance Dept: Taylor Keith provided a written report as of 10/9/18 (attached):

>J.F. Allen began milling Monday and will continue to prepare for paving. Paving is scheduled to begin Monday. Notices will go out to residents. PW crews also continue prep work by locating and raising water meters, valves and sanitary sewer lids to prevent blacktopping over them, which was done in the past.

> 57 of our 72 hydrants have been flushed and flow tested. Three of the 1960 model hydrants failed testing and had to be replaced. Nine hydrants have been replaced this year. While testing, weak spots were found in main lines and repaired. Flushing will resume in early spring, along with painting.

> Storm drain repairs/replacements on Gorby Lane will be finished in time for paving.

>Dominion completed the work on Pennsylvania Ave, Jacobs St. and Washington St. in time for paving of those streets. Work on Ohio Ave. will begin in the next couple of days.

>The mini excavator will be delivered within the next week.

>Mayor Maxson added, the water loss report shows an 8% loss, which is very good and is favorable for the budget.

>Brenda Riley reported a resident asked about repairs to School Street, which is poor condition. Mayor Maxson said it is on the paving schedule for next week.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Kesling reported that Sam's Shears passed inspection.

>Charges against a resident seen in municipal court last month were dropped. The property has been cleaned up.

>Jan McNemar spoke for her parents, Walter and Frances Lanham, who own the house at 126 Maryland Ave. They want to demolish it and place a modular home there. If the house faces Maryland, it will be too close to the property lines by 2 ½ feet on both sides, per ordinance. If the house is turned to face Nutter St., the width will not require a variance. She is asking for permission for the house to face Nutter St. and keep the Maryland Ave. address. Mr. Keith sees no problem with it, and added precedence has been set by other properties in town. Council has no problem with this and no action is required.

Beautification: Linda Blake reported the island has been decorated for fall. They will be winterizing the Community Garden. She will be getting a committee together to put the fence up. The posts and gate are already installed.

Public Comment: None

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor