

**Council Meeting
Town of Nutter Fort
8/14/18**

Mayor Maxson invited attendees to join in prayer offered by Natalie Haddix, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Maxson called the meeting to order in council chambers at 6:32 pm.

Attendance: Mayor Sam Maxson, Recorder Charlene Louk, Councilors Natalie Haddix, Karen Phillips, Brenda Riley, and Donald "Duck" Webster, Police Chief Ron Godwin and Public Works (PW) Supervisor Taylor Keith.

Absent: Councilor William Benincosa, Treasurer Julia Foley, and Code Enf. Keith Kesling.

Guests: Sheena Hunt, Dennis Dutchess, Twyla Snodgrass, Linda Griffith, Fred Locasto and Ron Robinson.

Minutes: Minutes of the July 10th, 2018 Council meeting (attached) were approved after a motion by "Duck" Webster and second by Brenda Riley.

Treasurer's Report: Mayor Maxson read a report from Mrs. Foley (attached): there will be a ribbon cutting for Locasto Piano and Instruments, 100 Burton Ave. on August 16th at 11 am. Mr. Locasto was present and Mayor Maxson welcomed them to Nutter Fort. Vacant property letters were sent to RG Motors, WV Business College and Grandma's House. They had 14 days to respond and complete the application, which has expired. Further action will be taken to impose fines in accordance with the ordinance. Mr. Oliverio from Grandma's House stated his building is not empty, that he and his daughter have offices in the building. See attached signed document that says business has closed. 302 WV Ave. property will be sold at auction on Sept. 13th at 11 am.

The street improvement fee has been implemented and is doing well. See attached report. July monies were deposited into the WV St. Treasury Investment Fund earmarked for street paving. August bills will be mailed tomorrow.

- Questions were answered regarding accounts payable (attached). Mr. Keith reported \$368.78 of the \$2822.99 Blackberry Festival costs listed, are wages for his staff. The remaining PW hours will be on the next bills. \$2454.21 is Police wages. He estimates the total for both departments will be around \$4300.00. Mr. Keith utilized the part-time and summer help the most, to keep costs down. He had full staff there late Saturday to cut down on the time it takes at the end of the festival. Other times there were 4 men at once with a little overlap. Chief Godwin reported his hours are about the same each year. Mrs. Haddix added the \$2700.00 budgeted may have been too low. The spreadsheet she made following the festival in 2016, showed an average of \$3200.00 per year in festival wage expenses. Following discussion, the bills were approved after a motion by Karen Phillips and second by Brenda Riley.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- Terry Tresize of 302 Norma Ave. received *Yard of the Month* for August. He was unable to attend tonight. Brenda Riley will deliver a gift and certificate.
- Sheena Hunt from Region VI reported on the Sewer Project Administration Service Contract Agreement (attached). Thrasher has been selected as the Engineer. They

submitted our application to the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council by July 10th. It will now be reviewed for funding on August 28th, then hopefully approved. We should receive a letter of approval by Mid September. Region VI will work with our financial agency (probably DEP), write our checks as funds are available, and other functions we request of them, as allowed. Region VI cost is \$115,500.00, which is 2.75% of the total, and is part of the total project cost. Mr. Dutchess asked if this will address storm water runoff in the alleys. Mr. Keith explained the project is not designed for this purpose. The priority is to correct areas with combined sewer and storm drains, so we are not paying to treat rainwater. This is the second of three phases. Plans are to borrow \$3,676,00.00 from DEP at 0.5% interest, plus one million in debt forgiveness (a grant) from DEP, for total project cost of \$4,676,00.00. Project costs will likely be paid for by three incremental increases of 4% on the monthly sewer rate. 4% is \$1.42 of our minimum monthly rate of \$35.44.

Natalie Haddix moved to accept the Region VI Sewer Project Administration Service Contract Agreement. Motion approved after a second by "Duck" Webster.

- Mayor Maxson reported the DEP is starting Monday morning to correct mine water drainage at the top of Bagwell Ave. This engineer saw it as a priority, instead of the four-year wait we were told before. It must be repaired before paving the street.
- Dominion is starting on the gas line replacement tomorrow. This affects parts of Ohio, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Elkins.
- Chief Haddix offered the idea of using the milling generated from our upcoming paving to surface the empty lot beside the fire department. We could then rent the lot to food trucks, farmers' markets, possibly lease as extra parking for Subway and other possible uses. He asked council to consider as an idea for extra revenue.
- Personnel matter, possible wage adjustment-tabled to executive session at the end of meeting.

Committee Reports:

Police Dept. No report

Fire Dept: Chief Haddix reported 7 of our firefighters plus one Police officer are becoming certified divers. They all passed the first phase. The 2nd phase is 8/25-26, with the advanced class in Sept. Then the Rescue/Public Safety class is in the spring. After that, they plan to approach the Harrison Co. (HC) Commission to re-establish a dive team. HC hasn't had a dive team in several years. The FD is paying the \$450 per person class fee. Each diver is paying for their own equipment. Council voiced support of their efforts.

Public Works (PW) Dept: Mr. Keith reported their summer help ended last week. PW installed pipe along 3rd Street as part of the correction for the mine drainage on upper Bagwell. They repaired sidewalk in front of the school and across from Speedway. Both sections were ruined by digging to repair water breaks. Taylor spoke to the DOH District IV Engineer. They cannot install a crosswalk without a stoplight. It creates a false sense of safety. They did place advanced, larger crossing signs near Speedway and the island. If we install crosswalks our own, we assume liability if something happens.

The bids went out for our paving project. They are due back in time for Council to open at the next meeting. Mr. Dutchess asked if the alleys will be ditched or curbed when they are paved to help with runoff? Mr. Keith said alleys will be curbed. PW will do everything they can to correct water drainage issues in the alleys before paving.

Code Enforcement: Mayor Maxson reported Mr. Kesling has been very busy. There is still no progress on the Old Go Mart. He is meeting with Amy Wilson from the HC Economic Development Corp. on Monday about promoting businesses in town. He has already contacted 71 potential businesses.

Public Comment: Ron Robinson asked why our sewage rate is so much higher than Clarksburg's? He has property in town that connects to Clarksburg sewage, and some that connects to Nutter Fort's. Taylor explained it's because of the way the utilities are set up underground. Also, Clarksburg has a plant to treat their sewage. Nutter Fort pays Clarksburg for that service, and this is passed onto our residents in their sewage cost. Mr. Robinson owns the building that Papa Johns rented. He wanted to explain why they moved. They were here 21 years and felt he was very fair to them. Mr. Robinson negotiated with corporate in Kentucky to keep them here. They were very hard to deal with, and felt they were considering moving to Bridgeport for a while. They grossed one million in sales per year here, and thought that would be three million in Bridgeport. Mr. Dutchess asked why businesses are assessed more than residents for the new paving fee? He has heard complaints about the fee for businesses. Several points about the fee structure were presented to him from the Mayor, Mr. Keith and Councilors.

"Duck" Webster moved to enter into executive session for a personnel and wage issue. Motion passed after a second by Karen Phillips.
The regular meeting re-convened at 7:38. No guests returned.

Natalie Haddix moved to promote Kenneth Friend to Assistant Supervisor of PW. He is to receive an additional \$1.50 per hour, reimbursement of cell phone charges and use of a PW vehicle in the supervisor's absence. This shall not affect the pay of Thurman Wolfe, current Assistant PW Supervisor. Motion passed after a second by Brenda Riley.

Natalie Haddix moved to accept Chief Godwin's proposal (attached) to permanently abolish the position for a 6th officer, and using the funds budgeted for this position to divide evenly between the 5 current officers, beginning with the next pay period. This gives each officer an approximate \$3.00 per hour raise (an additional \$6000,00 per year per officer). Motion approved after a second by Brenda Riley.

Rationale: Our officers are continually sought after and tempted to leave for other jobs. Chief Godwin is very pleased with the current Police force, who are well trained, experienced, loyal and work well together. All of his officers are in agreement with making this move. He is hopeful the action will help retain his current staff. Our current pay rate is well below other Police departments in our area. Abolishing one position also saves on benefits and the need for one Police vehicle.

Having no further business, meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Louk, Recorder

Sam Maxson, Mayor

