

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF CAMERON,
CITY COUNCIL, SPECIAL SESSION, JANUARY 20, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Cameron met in Regular Session January 20, 2016, in council chambers of the Benedum Community Building. Mayor Julie Beresford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Tom Hart, Ron Walker, Jack Hart, Sr., Wayne Simmons, Helen McMasters and Mary Leichter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Tommy Hart

Scheduled on Agenda:

- a) A motion to approve Tim Flint contract was made by Jack Hart, Sr., seconded by Tom Hart. Motion carried.
- b) Judy Hunt presented council with some proposals that she had worked up for them to look over to help make a decision on the City finance's.

FINANCE REPORT: Wayne Simmons read the Finance Report – General Fund - \$63,966.71, Water Fund – (\$23,227.71), and Sewer Fund - \$23,759.25, total \$64,498.25.

POLICE REPORT: none

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE: Everything is running good.

STREETS/ALLEYS/LIGHTING: Good

WATER/SEWER: Both plants are running smoothly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve minutes from the December 21, 2015 meeting was made by Helen McMasters, seconded by Wayne Simmons. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A motion to approve the purchase of 2 metal cabinets from the Event Center by Joan Gardner was made by Ron Walker, seconded by Helen McMasters. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Council was presented a letter from Columbia Pipeline Group that there would be a new 6" plastic pipe on top of the ground at the Cameron Baseball Fields, after longwall mining activity and subsidence is completed the new 6" plastic pipe will be offset and buried. It will not affect the actual fields themselves.

Jack Hart, Sr. stated that the Board of Education called about the possible selling of the Baseball fields and they would like to have first chance at them. Also, the Baseball Association would like to have a chance to purchase them, if the fields would come up for sale.

Jack Hart, Sr. said that if the Event Center would come up for sale that there is a land agent in Wheeling that would be interested in putting a bid in for it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Greg Galentine was signed up for public comments: He questioned the council as to why, when you are provided these figures how can any of you say that you didn't know this was happening. Council Person Helen McMasters stated that for the past 3 years Mayor Julie Beresford has told us to watch the budget and we didn't. Greg Galentine: If it was stated to you 3 years ago to keep an eye on the budget why did you not do that, now a year later we are in a crisis. It is everybody's fault. Now you want to raise revenue and cut jobs.

Greg also asked council to consider closing the Event Center the gas budget for it monthly is \$2,050.00. Councilperson Jack Hart, Sr. told him that would be looked at.

Greg stated that the businesses are declining around here that B & O taxes are not what they used to be. He asked that we do not consider changing to the 1% City tax. That we monitor businesses that do pay B & O taxes, that there was one business that only paid \$0.11 cents, Mayor Julie Beresford corrected him and told him that it was \$11.00, not 11 cents.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Julie Beresford read the following:

It has been an honor to have been chosen twice to serve as Mayor. Together we have accomplished many great things, and yet there remain daily challenges. It is a continuous passing from one administration to another, picking up where the other leaves off. I encourage everyone to get involved in your City Government. Don't take our community for granted. A small hometown is not about politics. It is about working toward developing a nurturing environment for our next generation. It's easy to sit in the bleachers and criticize, but even more exciting to work at trying to make a difference, I know that we have here. We can see all around us the good that has been done. I ask that you support and encourage one another. I regret that at my Doctors advice, due to my own health issues along with my husbands, my family at this time must come first. I want to thank all of you who have supported me. Again it has been my honor.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY ITEM REPORTS:

a.) **Ron Walker** – none

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Tom Hart – City crew, Fred & Davey did a great job the last time on snow removal, they had the streets in good shape. Issues at hand my thoughts are to look into selling water to the residents outside city limits that have to haul water. Look into getting an appraisal for the Event Center, it is a great facility we tried to keep it going for the community. We have to try to maintain the basic governing services for our city. If the Baseball Association is interested in the baseball fields, I would like to keep it local. Thank you Judy for all of the proposals you have done to try to help us out with this.

Helen McMasters – E-Squad is looking for a new place; it has a year to find one before it has to move from its location on Green Valley.

Mary Leichter – None

Ron Walker – Agreed with what Tom had to say.

Wayne Simmons – Wanted to say thanks to Judy for all her help.

Jack Hart, Sr. – We haven't been audited for the past 3 years due to state being behind on audits, but our audit is set for the end of February.

ADJOURNMENT: Helen McMasters made a motion at 8:00 pm to adjourn the meeting, Tom Hart seconded. Motion carried.

Debbie Hall, City Clerk

Julie Beresford, Mayor