

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF CAMERON,
CITY COUNCIL, REGULAR SESSION, FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

The City Council of the City of Cameron met in Regular Session on February 3, 2014 in council chambers of the Benedum Community Building. Mayor Beresford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Rock Guzek, Wayne Simmons, Helen McMasters, Tom Hart, and Ron Walker. Jack Hart, Sr., absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Helen McMasters.

SCHEDULED ON AGENDA:

- a) **Proposed Fire Service Fee Increase:** Ron Walker discussed his proposal to raise the current fire service fees within the City. Currently those residences/businesses that have water service are the only ones who pay a fire service fee. The current rate is \$12.50 per year for residence, which would increase to \$25.00 per year. Commercial customers would increase from \$25 per year to \$50 per year. He felt that the vacant houses and businesses need to be addressed and should pay a higher rate since they are the most at-risk for fire. In addition, he indicated that the apartments at the lower end of town are currently paying a flat \$25 fee and felt that that structure in particular should pay a minimum of \$250.00. He indicated that residents from the City of McMechen currently pay \$5.00 per month every month for fire protection, and that Moundsville's rate is based on square footage. In addition, Mayor Beresford provided council with a copy of a recent State Journal in which it was reported the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the City of Bridgeport, West Virginia, to allow them to charge a fire service fee to those residents who live outside of the City limits but are serviced by their fire department. This is something to consider for the Cameron VFD as well. Ron Walker indicated that the VFD services the areas of Beeler Station, Williams Hill, up Green Valley Road to the state line, and out Cameron Ridge to Mason's. After a general discussion, council decided that the issue needed further investigation and, upon Motion by Rocky Guzek, and Seconded by Tom Hart, the matter was tabled pending further investigation.
- b) **Mountaineer Gas Right-of-Way:** Council was presented with a standard Mountaineer Gas Right-of-Way agreement with suggested changes made by City Attorney, Rosemary Humway-Warmuth. They are seeking a right-of-way up the driveway of the water plant and in return will install a new service line and meter. After review of the agreement, Rocky Guzek made a Motion to approve the agreement, Seconded by Tom Hart.

FINANCE REPORT: Wayne Simmons read the Finance Report – General Fund \$214,709.00, Water Fund - \$24,305.64, and Sewer Fund - \$1,176.58, Total \$240,191.22.

POLICE REPORT: Officer Younger provided Council with police reports for the months of December and January. In addition, Mayor Beresford advised that a new police officer, Gary Myers, had been hired.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE: Mayor Beresford indicated that the red truck had been thoroughly cleaned today. In addition, the police cruiser would be going to Robinson's for a recall issue.

STREETS/ALLEYS/LIGHTING: Mayor Beresford indicated that the City crew had been working very hard given the severe weather we have been experiencing, and have been staying on top of things pretty well.

WATER/SEWER: Tim Flint advised that Swiss Valley Associates have approximately one-half of the telemetry in place and will be back once the piping work is done. In addition, Brad Hess had stopped in for testing which had passed, and despite the recent leaks we are at full capacity. Wayne Simmons inquired regarding the leak across from the American Legion and was advised that Freddie Reynolds had been called and immediately addressed the problem. Wayne indicated that he was not sure who he should call in that situation and a general discussion among council was had. It was decided that all council members should be provided with a list of names and phone numbers for the City workers. The list will also be provided to Marshall County 911.

Mayor Beresford indicated that the sewer plant is running well and has no problems.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve minutes with a correction was made by Tom Hart, seconded by Helen McMasters.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Hook has recently been contacted and Mayor Beresford advised that if she did not hear from him by the end of the week she would give him another call. She also said she would ask him who our contact person would be with Murray Energy.

The historic marker which was ordered for the swimming pool is done and will be at District 6 in Glen Dale on February 10th, at which time we can go and pick it up. The Mayor also advised that this year would be the 75th anniversary of the Cameron Pool and a 75th anniversary celebration is planned for opening weekend. The band Left of Center has already agreed to play at the pool on Sunday of Memorial weekend for the opening.

The Mayor advised that a new policy of having employees sign in and sign out when they arrive, go to lunch, and leave, has been implemented with the City workers. She felt that this was a good thing and that it held the employees accountable.

The Mayor also advised that we had received a new list from the West Virginia Department of Highways which indicated which streets were owned by the City and which were owned by the State. The list is available for the public to view.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Beresford indicated that M&T had fixed the computers downstairs in the Police Department. TEPCO has also been contacted regarding the repairs that need to be made at the booster station on North Avenue.

Mayor Beresford also advised council that the West Virginia Municipal League Mid-Winter Conference has been re-scheduled to February 16th and 17th in Charleston. She also advised that the Governor is scheduled to be present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: The Mayor advised that the leak on Rt. 250 going out of town had been temporarily repaired. This will need to be re-done and fixed correctly once the weather breaks. She indicated that the line had been split due to heavy truck traffic, and that Matt from West Virginia Rural Water Association was called and could not find the leak. It took approximately 7 hours for the City crew to find and repair the split pipe. The Mayor indicated that we have a timeline prepared as to when the events took place, and also indicated that Senator Yost would help us to try and get some emergency funding to assist with the leaks and waterline repairs. We will be submitting the costs for these repairs to the State along with bids and an engineering assessment of the problem. There is also another repair that needs to be made at the Blue & Gold Center.

Mayor Beresford indicated that we did not receive the Evan G. Roberts grant for the Cameron Events Center, however, we did receive \$20,000 for the pool. In addition, she advised that Chelsie Reid had purchased a volleyball set and, as well, Greg Cassis had purchased two very nice ping pong tables for the area youth to use at the Cameron Events Center. She also advised that Tom Hart had opened the gym last week for a couple of evenings for the boys to practice basketball in, and that the girls' softball association was still utilizing the gym every Sunday evening. The Mayor also proposed that since the swimming pool fund was in a very good place right now, that we divert \$6,361.70 from that fund to the Cameron Events Center fund to get us through the winter utility bills. Helen McMasters made a Motion to approve this transfer, Seconded by Tom Hart.

Mayor Beresford also advised that we currently have a wrestling event scheduled for February 28th at the Cameron Events Center gym beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sheila Cottrell advised that a group of professional wrestlers will be putting on the show and that they have agreed to a 50/50 split at the door on the admissions. The Cameron Events Center Committee will also be selling concessions and holding a 50/50 raffle the night of the event to raise additional funds. The wrestlers will also be seeking donations during the event for a Valley High School student who will be traveling to Australia for an international track meet. The cost of admission for the event will be \$5, with reserved ringside seats being sold for \$12.

A general discussion was had concerning the possibility of still utilizing the Cameron Events Center as an emergency shelter during a disaster. Tom Hart indicated that this would serve the northern part of Wetzel County as well as Marshall County and that if we put this in place, he would be able to get cots, etc.

COUNCIL COMMUNITY ITEM REPORTS:

- a) Emergency Services/Publicity: None.
- b) Community Clean-Up Issues: None.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Tom Hart – None.

Helen McMasters – Helen McMasters praised Pozell Contracting for cleaning the city parking lot and indicated that they have done a very nice job.

Rock Guzek – None.

Ron Walker – None.

Wayne Simmons – Wayne Simmons inquired regarding the PERT system we are trying to put in place.

Mayor Beresford indicated that Noble Energy had contributed \$20,000 to the project, and we already had a \$5,000 donation as well. Consol had made a verbal commitment to \$100,000.

Mayor Beresford felt that it would be beneficial to the community if we put together an Oil and Gas Expo to be held at the Cameron Events Center gym inviting all of the oil and gas companies to come in. This would be similar to the task force meeting that she and Tom Hart attend in Wheeling.

Jack Hart, Sr. – Absent,

ADJOURNMENT: Rocky Guzek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Walker seconded.

Sheila A. Cottrell, City Clerk

Julie Beresford, Mayor