

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017, 7:00 PM**

**AGENDA ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER & MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Pierson called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Stacey A. Dodson Pfaltzgraff reported all Council Members present: Donnie Haines, Tony Grant, Scott Coulter, and Mike Anderson with the exception of Dave Cheshire and Jay Watson. Also present were City Manager Andy Blake, Chief William Roper, Assistant City Manager Edward Erfurt, and Finance Director Lori Nice.

**AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2, 2017, Regular Meeting**

Minutes of the **May 2, 2017**, Regular Meeting was presented for approval. There were no objections to the Minutes. Minutes was accepted as submitted.

**AGENDA ITEM III – CITIZEN'S PRESENTATIONS/PETITIONS**

Amanda Stroud – Citizen Amanda Stroud expressed concerns about receiving two notices via USPS regarding the Outside Warranty Service Line Program from Service Line Warranties of America. She requested that a third notice not be received. Mayor Pierson stated that Council agreed to allow the company to distribute said notices, and agreed to no other action at this time.

**AGENDA IV - CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER**

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK:**

This week is National Police Week. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.

**FOUNDRY:**

Public Works has been grading the foundry site, removing rocks and will be planting grass. The City's Land Remediation Specialist is currently working on documents to obtain the Certificate of Completion.

**RANSON FESTIVAL:**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ranson Festival will be held on Saturday, June 3.

**PUBLIC WORKS ACQUISITION:**

The City followed through with its acquisition of Pete Lloyd's property adjacent to Public Works. The property will be incorporated into the City's Public Works facility.

**SHENANDOAH SPRINGS:**

K-Hovnanian has started its model home in Shenandoah Springs and has submitted the various plans it intends to offer for sale for review.

**CITY ELECTION:**

The City Clerk has conducted poll worker training and has scheduled poll workers to work both the early election period and Election Day. Early voting begins on May 24 with hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday voting will take place on May 27 and June 3. Election Day is June 6.

**CANDIDATE FORUM:**

The Jefferson County NAACP will be holding a Candidate Forum for candidates of the City of Ranson. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. at 411 S. Lawrence Street.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

The City's Code Enforcement continues with issuance of warnings for high grass and other violations. The City's inspector has been successful in voluntary compliance.

**CIVIC CENTER EVALUATION:**

Last week Dario Savarese, president of Full Circle Marketing conducted a site visit and evaluation of the Ranson Civic Center. His visit focused on discussing the City's, what resources the City has, ideas for events, best use of the dollars the City currently has available. Mr. Savarese will write a one/two page overview of bullet points about our discussion and provide an overview of some ideas and suggestions. This is more of a fact- finding mission and discussion to determine next steps.

**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT:**

The Jefferson County Commission has reappointed me to serve on the Jefferson County Development Authority as Ranson's appointee.

**WEST VIRGINIA BUDGET:**

CHARLESTON, WV (WOWK) The special session of the West Virginia Legislature resumed, with some new revenue ideas from the Governor. He reduced his requested sales tax hike to 6.85 percent; and the 20 percent income tax reduction will now be over two years in stated of all at once. And telecommunications and broadband

companies, may soon have to collected sales tax. While The Governor and Senate were in general agreement on the last plan, the new ideas may change that

"There's some new elements to it that may have to be worked over. Because you are bringing in some taxable events in this particular plan that are new, and you know I am already hearing some opposition to those," said State Sen. Mike Hall, (R) Chairman, Finance Committee.

The special session is costing taxpayers \$35,000 a day. The Senate did pass the original revenue plan the Governor proposed.

"But unfortunately leadership in the House didn't think so. So here we are back, hopefully getting results done and not simply waiting taxpayers money," said Del Shawn Fluharty, (D) Ohio.

But critics say the latest stalemate is the Governor's fault.

"How can you ask the legislature to vote on tax increase when you have no idea where he wants to spend them. That's just wrong. He needs to gives us a budget, give us a budget quickly so we have an idea where he wants this money spent," said Del. Gary Howell, (R) Mineral.

In the meantime, there remains sharp division on whether to raise the gas tax to build and fix roads.

"Our roads are in bad shape right now. We all know that. I tell people I'm from McDowell County and our nickname is 'the patch' because all we do is patch the roads. We don't fix any roads; we don't pave any roads. We just simply patch them," said Del. Ed Evans, (D) McDowell.

The budget deficit stands at \$500 million.

"With so many issues still uncertain, there's no way of telling just how long this special session of the legislature will last," said Mark Curtis 13 News Chief Political Reporter.

#### **VALLEY HEALTH RIBBON CUTTING:**

Valley Health ribbon cutting has been set for June 26, 2017, at 11:30 at 100 Oak Lee Drive, Ranson.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION EXPIRATION:**

Commissioner Gaskins' planning commission appointment expires on June 30, 2017.

#### **RANSON BIKE-TO-SCHOOL DAY:**

On May 10, Ranson Elementary held its annual Bike to School Day. Ranson Elementary was 1 of 3 schools in West Virginia to participate. 2,884 schools in 49 states registered events on the official Bike to School Day website.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING:**

On Friday, Department Heads will be attending a training at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College titled "Breaking Barriers with Great Leadership." The class is designed by managers, supervisors and HR professionals. The class is from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**MCDONALD STREET MOBILE HOMES:**

The mobile homes on McDonald Street that burned and/or condemned are currently being demolished. One mobile home has already been removed.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN DEDICATION:**

On May 12, 2017, Ranson Old Town Community Gardens held a High Tunnel Dedication and Celebration.

**CASA LA GONZALEZ:**

Casa La Gonzalez has been sold. It is temporarily closed for renovations. The new owners will be opening a new Korean/Mexican restaurant.

**TWO RIVER TREADS:**

Two River Treads has opened its doors at 400 S. Mildred Street, adjacent to City Hall.

**HOME2SUITES:**

Construction continues and opening is scheduled for mid-2017.

**Regular Council Meeting** - Due to City Hall offices being closed for official business July 4, 2017, in observance of Independence Day, staff recommended cancellation of the July 4, 2017, Regular Council Meeting and a Special Meeting be scheduled for June 27, 2017, at 7:00 pm. Motion was made by Council Member Haines to cancel the July 4, 2017, **Regular Council Meeting**. Motion was seconded by Council Member Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Commission Appointment** – City Manager Blake presented for discussion applications are now being accepted for a reappointment to the Ranson Planning Commission. Mayor Pierson requested City Manager Blake contact Chris Gaskins and confirm his willingness to serve another term.

**City Hall Business Hours** – City Manager Blake presented for discussion a recommendation to consider changing City Hall Business Hours from 9:00 am-5:00 pm to 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Mayor Pierson recommended, if the hours are going to be changed, a public announcement must be made to the public prior to making the change. City Manager Blake will consider the impact on business and determine, if this will be a positive long-term affect, while conducting business and providing services to the citizens of Ranson and the public as a whole.

## AGENDA ITEM V – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Reappointment of City Manager Andy Blake to the Jefferson County Development Authority Board of Directors for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2017 and expiring June 30, 2020
2. Letter of Appreciation - Marine Toys for Tots Foundation
3. Valley Health Urgent Care Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Monday, June 26, 2017 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – 100 Oak Lee Drive, Ranson, WV

## AGENDA ITEM VI – COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. **Special Activity Permit** - Relay for Life – Heather Fauble requested Council's approval to have a boot drive Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Mildred Street and Beltline Avenue. Motion was made by Council Member Haines to approve said **Special Activity Permit**. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coulter. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Resolution #2017-023** - A Resolution of the City Council of Ranson, West Virginia Approving 2017 Street Paving Projects and Bid Documents - Ranson's Public Works Department recommended to the City Council certain streets to be asphalted in 2017. A copy of the bid document was provided to Council for review, which included the project scope of work. Motion was made by Council Member Grant to approve **Resolution #2017-023**. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coulter. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Resolution #2017-024** - A Resolution of the City Council of Ranson, West Virginia approving Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI's) for Architectural and Engineering Services - Staff has determined it is in the best interest of the City to publish and advertise a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for architectural and engineering services. All (EOI's) Expressions of Interest must be received no later than June 30, 2017, at 11:00 am. A copy of the RFQ was provided to Council for review. Motion was made by Council Member Grant to approve **Resolution #2017-024**. Motion was seconded by Council Member Anderson. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Resolution #2017-025** - A Resolution of the City Council of Ranson, West Virginia Cancelling the June 6, 2017, Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting and Scheduling a Council Meeting for June 13, 2017, to Conduct the Canvassing for the 2017 Ranson Municipal Election - Due to the 2017 Ranson Municipal Election held June 6, 2017, the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on June 6, 2017, was cancelled. A City Council meeting will be held June 13, 2017, at 7:00 pm to conduct the canvassing for the election. Motion

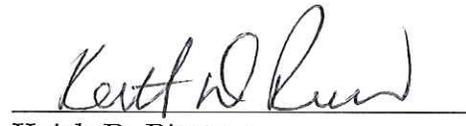
was made by Council Member Haines to approve **Resolution #2017-025**. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coulter. Discussion was held. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Financial Report - April 2017** – Finance Director Lori Nice provided a General Fund Budget Revenues and Expenditures Report as of April 30, 2017, to Council for review.
6. **Fairfax Boulevard Update** – Assistant City Manager Edward Erfurt provided a detailed road construction update for Fairfax Boulevard

#### AGENDA ITEM VII - ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Coulter to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Anderson. The Regular Council Session adjourned at 7:50 pm. A Special Council Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 7:00 pm.

  
Stacey A. Dodson Pfaltzgraff  
City Clerk

  
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Keith D. Pierson  
Mayor