

Berkeley County Council Meeting
400 W. Stephen Street, Suite 205
Martinsburg, WV 25401

August 12, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Present:

Douglas E. Copenhaver, Jr., President

James P. Whitacre, Vice President

Dan Dulyea, Councilperson

James R. Barnhart, Councilperson

G. Edgar Gochenour, Councilperson

Alan J. Davis, County Administrator

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator

Also Present: The Honorable Larry Hess, Assessor; Anthony Delligatti, Legal Director; Matthew Umstead, Director, Policy & Strategic Planning

Re: Call to Order

President Copenhaver called the August 12, 2021 Berkeley County Council Meeting to Order at 9:35 A.M.

Re: Items from the Public

Darrell Palmer appeared before the Council and stated that Animal Control came onto his property yesterday and had never been there before and made his partner sign a waive for animal cruelty and turn over all his puppies to Animal Control. He stated that his yard is fenced in and he has never abused his animals. Mr. Palmer was advised to speak with Sheriff Harmon.

Re: Agenda

Vice President Whitacre made a motion to approve the Agenda for the August 12, 2021 Berkeley County Council meeting. Councilperson Gochenour seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Consent Agenda

1. Purchase Order Log

There were no questions regarding the Purchase Order Log.

2. Internal Budget Revisions

There were no internal budget revisions received.

3. Changes in Status

President Copenhaver stated that a change in status was received from Sheriff Nathan Harmon for Sergeant Yoder to receive a temporary increase to Lieutenant's pay while performing Lieutenant's duties effective August 1, 2021 with a pay increase from \$59,066 to \$69,214.

President Copenhaver stated that a change in status was received from Tim Czaja, Community Corrections Director for Beau Baker to increase his salary for becoming PRSS certified effective August 1, 2021 with a salary increase from \$34,099 to \$34,599.

President Copenhaver stated that a change in status was received from Will Lorensen, Fiduciary Supervisor to transfer Christina Isenberg from the Assessor's Office to the Fiduciary Office to fill the vacancy of Fiduciary Coordinator effective August 23, 2021 with a salary change from \$35,000 to \$40,000.

President Copenhaver stated that a change in status was received from Jennifer Swisher, 9-1-1 Director for Paula Wilson, 9-1-1 Deputy Director for an increase due to years of service effective August 6, 2021 with a salary change from \$65,201 to \$66,455.

President Copenhaver stated that a letter of resignation was received from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office from Casey Putney, who was a summer intern effective August 6, 2021.

4. Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the July 29, 2021 Berkeley County Council meeting minutes.

5. Council Calendar

President Copenhaver reviewed the Council calendar for the month of August.

Alan Davis, County Administrator advised the Council that they had six (6) Board of Assessment Appeal Hearings which would need to be scheduled in the month of October and asked if the Council wanted to do those on Thursday afternoons as the staff was looking at the afternoon of October 14 and October 21st.

6. Board and Commission Calendar

President Copenhaver reviewed the Board and Commission calendar for the month of August.

Councilperson Dulyea stated that this month would be the last meeting that Randy Lewis would attending before stepping down. Alan Davis, County Administrator reminded the Council that the State Legislative Re-Districting meeting would be held next Tuesday, August 17th at 6:00 P.M. and also the Department of Highways was holding a meeting on Wednesday, August 18 at 1:00 PM.

7. Cancelled Check Request – County Clerk's Finance Office

Re: Consent Agenda Approval

Vice President Whitacre made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the August 12, 2021 Berkeley County Council meeting. Councilperson Gochenour seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Correction of Assessments Log, Apportionment of Assessments, Deconsolidation and Consolidation of Properties Applications – Assessor’s Office

The Honorable Larry Hess, Assessor appeared before the Council and presented seven (7) personal tax exonerations for reason of tax payer error totaling \$4,818.96.

Councilperson Barnhart made a motion to approve the seven (7) personal tax exonerations for reason of tax payer error totaling \$4,818.96. Councilperson Gochenour seconded the motion. The motion failed with a vote of zero to five.

Mr. Hess presented sixteen (16) personal tax exonerations for reason of office error totaling \$2,796.86.

Councilperson Dulyea made a motion to approve the sixteen (16) personal tax exonerations for reason of office error totaling \$2,796.86. Councilperson Barnhart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hess presented eight (8) real estate exonerations due to office error totaling \$6,870.48.

Vice President Whitacre made a motion to approve the eight (8) real estate exonerations due to office error totaling \$6,870.48. Councilperson Dulyea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hess presented two (2) consolidation of properties applications.

Councilperson Dulyea made a motion to approve the two (2) consolidation of properties applications. Councilperson Barnhart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Board Meeting Reports

Councilperson Barnhart reported that he attended the Public Service Water District meeting where they approved design plans for Tabler Station and discussed the payment for the Tabler Station water main. He also reported that they discussed last year’s operational budget.

Councilperson Dulyea reported that he attended the Development Authority meeting and stated that they are working on job descriptions for new employees.

Vice President Whitacre reported that he had no meetings this week.

Councilperson Gochenour reported that he had no meetings this week.

President Copenhaver reported that he had no meeting this week.

Alan Davis, County Administrator stated that Elected's and Department Heads are working together more than he has seen in many years. He stated that all are busier than they have ever been, but working together collectively to get things done.

Re: Board and Commission Vacancies

Councilperson Dulyea requested to have Timothy Johnson scheduled for an interview as a candidate for the Roundhouse Authority.

Councilperson Gochenour made a motion to reappoint Marty Roberts to the 9-1-1 Advisory board. Vice President Whitacre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Re: Deb Nichols, Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Authority
Exonerations – Month of June**

Deb Nichols, Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Authority appeared before the Council and presented nine (9) exonerations for the month of June totaling \$600.00.

Councilperson Gochenour made a motion to approve the nine (9) exonerations for the month of June totaling \$600.00. Councilperson Barnhart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Re: Board and Commission Vacancy Interview
Michael Withrow – Candidate – CVB**

Michael Withrow appeared before the Council and was interview as a candidate for the CVB.

**Re: Jennifer Piercy, Executive Director, CCAWV
Discussion of Berkeley County Legislative Priorities**

Jennifer Piercy, Executive Director of the County Commission Association of West Virginia (CCAWV) appeared before the Council and reviewed the legislative priorities for the CCAWV stating that they typically follow Berkeley County's priorities. Ms. Piercy distributed a hand out of the CCAWV's 2022 legislative priorities and reviewed them with the Council.

Re: Recess

Councilperson Barnhart made a motion to Recess the August 12, 2021 Berkeley County Council meeting.

Submitted by: Penny Shewell

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator