

Proposed Minutes

ELKINS COMMON COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS MINUTES

***401 Davis Avenue
Council Chamber, 2nd Floor
November 7, 2019
7:00 p.m.***

Elkins Common Council met in the council chamber of city hall. Present were Mayor Van T. Broughton; Councilpersons R.C. Chenoweth, M. D. Cuonzo, C.H. Friddle, III, J.A. Guye, G.M. Hinchman, C. L. Metheny, D.C. Parker, L.H. Vest, and K.L. Wilmoth; City Treasurer T. Judy; Fire Chief T. W. Meader; Police Chief T. Bennett; Operations Manager R.P. Pingley; City Attorney G. S. Roberts; City Clerk J.R. Sutton (acting as recording secretary); and Inter-Mountain Reporter B. Johnson.

Councilman C.C. Lowther was absent.

Mayor Broughton opened the floor for comment on the following item:

- i. *Ordinance 265: An Ordinance of the City of Elkins Authorizing (i) the Conveyance of the Real Property and all Improvements Appurtenances thereto consisting of the Phil Gainer Community Center to the Elkins Municipal Building Commission (the “Building Commission”), (ii) the Design, Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of Improvements to the Phil Gainer Community Center (the “Project”). (iii) the Leasing of Such Real Property and All Project Improvements and Appurtenances Thereto by the City from the Building Commission, and (iv) the Issuance by the Building Commission of its Lease Revenue Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$750,000 for the Purpose of Financing the Project and Matters Relating Thereto*

No comments were entered into the record. The comment period for this item was closed.

Mayor Broughton opened the floor for comment on the following item:

- ii. *Ordinance 266: An Ordinance to Set Forth Proposed Sewer Collection System Improvement Project and to Amend and Reenact the Rates, Rules and Regulations for Furnishing Sewage and Sewage Disposal Service at Elkins and Vicinity, Randolph County, West Virginia by Increasing the Rates Charged Therefore*

The following individuals entered comments into the record:

Proposed Minutes

Mandy Wierich spoke on behalf of her mother Linda Young who resides at 25 Shelton Lane. She is a lifelong resident and senior citizen who lives on a fixed income and does not receive any public assistance. A larger percentage of our population, 70% in Randolph County, are seniors and a large percentage of them have incomes under the poverty level. Ms. Weirich is very concerned about how her mother and others like her will be able to afford the increase in sewer rates. She does not believe that the poor and the elderly should have to bear the burden of this infrastructure project. Ms. Weirich encourages council to go out into the community and talk with seniors about how this increase will affect them.

Mike Elza, 1311 S. Kerens Ave, asks council to consider voting no on this issue. He has been an accountant his entire life and after reviewing a copy of the ordinance today has questions. Mr. Elza doesn't understand why other communities are only raising rates by ten percent, but Elkins increase is twenty-one and a half percent. He also believes that the stormwater/rainwater is the County's problem and wonders why commissioners or state representatives aren't present.

Mary Rose of 100 Tallman St. states that having a population where 70% of individuals live with a fixed income is a real challenge and believes that something should be coming down the pike from the Federal government.

Beverly Wamsley, a resident of 1713 Lavalette Ave, recognizes that the problem needs to be fixed. She has paid \$2600 just this year in response to floodwater issues at her home.

Douglas Lewis of 7 River St. wants to know why the City is raising the water and sewage rates.

Bonnie Webb of 1709 Lavalette Ave. thinks the project should be done but would like to see the City pay for it without raising rates. She recommends issuing citations for people speeding down Lavalette Ave and applying money collected from fines to pay for the project.

Patrick Varchetto, a resident of 217 Sylvester Drive commented that 666 is a very interesting number, which is what this rate increase is going to be. He advised council there is a significant problem on Sylvester Drive and wonders why the City can't look into using the proceeds from the municipal sales tax to pay for these improvements.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor V. T. Broughton **CONTINUED THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 266 TO NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The hearing adjourned at 6:26 p.m.