

Regular Meeting of Summersville City
Council held on July 13, 2026

PRESENT: David Harper, Mayor
Gary Withee, Recorder
Wayne Halstead, Councilman Ward I
Stevie LeRose, Councilman Ward I
Jim Epling, Councilman Ward II
Brandon Waters, Councilman Ward III
BJ Smith, Councilman Ward III
Eugene Underwood, Councilman Ward IV
Chuck Shaw, Councilman Ward IV (phone)

VISITORS: Ray Corbin, The Nicholas Chronicle
Julie Wingard, SCTV
Amy Grose
Annabeth Anderson
Aaron Beam
Scott Arthur
Makayla Evans
Andrea Cook
Michelle Short
Martha Lake
Jeremy Nicholas

Mayor Dave Harper called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

A motion was made to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on June 22, 2026. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor noted no one signed up for public comment.

The Mayor presented the approval of Draw Request #7 for the City of Summersville CDBG-MIT Stormwater Project. Amanda Smarr with Region 4 Planning and Development Council came forward to present the request. She said this is payout # 4 to Open Range Resources, LLC for the amount of \$158,740.73. She said the fund is about 70% expended. A motion was made to approve Draw Request #7 for the City of Summersville CDBG-MIT Stormwater Project. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Eugene Underwood.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the WV Goes Purple Proclamation. Makayla Evans, Nicholas County Ambassador, came forward. Mayor Dave Harper read the proclamation aloud and signed it. Ms. Evans said WV Goes Purple is a statewide movement dedicated to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and supporting individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder. They are asking everyone to wear purple and display purple lights and purple ribbons during the month of September. Pictures were then taken with the Mayor holding the signed proclamation.

The Mayor presented the discussion of the term for the upcoming 2027 municipal election. Recorder Gary Withee discussed WV Senate Bill 50. It has passed and says all municipal elections must align with primary or general elections by July 1, 2032. We will have to decide if we want a 1 ½ year or 3-year term after the 2027 municipal election, to align with the county. Then an ordinance will be created, and a public hearing will be held. He thinks this will make it easier on the citizens and taxpayers by holding one election instead of several. The cost of the election will be shared with the county.

The Mayor presented the introduction of the new Finance Director, Scott Arthur. Current Finance Director, Aaron Beam, came forward and said that Mayor Dave Harper, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Annabeth Anderson, and himself were all part of the hiring committee for this position. He said Scott's resume stood out. He said he performed well in the interview and asked them questions about the City's budget, which he had already studied. They were impressed with him. He spoke well of Scott and his performance already. Scott then came forward and said he's had 8 ½ years of experience with the City of Huntington. He was the Senior Accountant. The Council thanked Aaron Beam for all his hard work and all he's done.

The Mayor presented the approval of the 2026-2027 Summersville Water Works Water/Sewer Budget. Finance Director Aaron Beam came forward. He spoke about the debt covenants and how they must be at least 115%. He reviewed totals on the 2026-2027 budget. The Operating Revenues are: \$2,365,030 for Water, \$1,664,256 for Sewer, and \$4,029,286 Consolidated. The Total Operating Expenses are: \$2,239,838.34 for Water, \$1,316,651.24 for Sewer, and \$3,556,489.57 Consolidated. The Total Nonoperating Revenue (Expenses) are: (\$56,792) for Water, \$6,933 for Sewer, and (\$49,859) Consolidated. The Net Income (Loss) is: \$68,399.67 for Water, \$354,537.76 for Sewer, and \$422,937.43 Consolidated. A motion was made to approve the 2026-2027 Summersville Water Works Water/Sewer Budget. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes

Eugene Underwood Yes
Chuck Shaw Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the discussion of the water and sewer utility rate increase by Jeremy Nicholas, General Manager of Utilities. Jeremy Nicholas came forward and said no one wants to raise rates, but there are a lot of needs and projects coming up. There are some deficiencies in the system that need taken care of. He spoke about the age of our infrastructure and the need to keep it up. He's been working with Michael Griffith, a CPA that works in conjunction with the Public Service Commission. He done a study and presented rates that he feels we need to be at. The rates would be a 20% increase in water and a 34% increase in sewer. Jeremy requested to do a step tier rate which would do a partial increase this year and the remaining increase next year. He reviewed rates from some surrounding utilities and showed how our rates will still be very competitive. He spoke about keeping our water and sewer affordable, while providing a safe, reliable infrastructure for future generations.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Report. He said this Friday, July 17 at 6:30pm will be the final round of "Summersville Showcase". The last 5 contestants will compete for \$1,000. The 101st Nicholas County Fair will be held July 22-25, 2026. Admission is \$10/person. The next "Music at the Pavilion" will be held Friday, July 24, 2026.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 6:53pm under authority of West Virginia Code A. §6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9) and (b)(12) to discuss a. Legal, personnel and deliberative matters; b. Matters not considered public records; c. Matters related to construction planning, commercial competitions matters, the purchase, sale or lease of property, and/or the investment of public funds. Moved by Brandon Waters.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor invited Annabeth Anderson and Jeremy Nicholas in to the Executive Session.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 7:35pm. Moved by Jim Epling.

Seconded by BJ Smith.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm. Moved by Brandon Waters.

Seconded by Jim Epling.

The vote was as follows:

Gary Withee	Yes
Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.