

Regular Meeting of Summersville City
Council held on August 10, 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 (phone)
BJ Smith, Councilman Ward III
Eugene Underwood, Councilman Ward IV
Chuck Shaw, Councilman Ward IV

VISITORS: Ray Corbin, The Nicholas Chronicle
Julie Wingard, SCTV
Sam Young
Amy Grose
Annabeth Anderson
Aaron Beam
Scott Arthur
Jeremy Nicholas
Linda Hayes
Cathy Nicholas
Arnold Nicholas
Jeremy Deitz
Don L. Adkins
Richard Caplinger
Kyle Lehman
Sarah Brown
Wes Brown
Zakk McClung
Abby Merritt
Cassandra Lawson
Jessica Lehman
Mark Shankoff
Todd Swanson
Michael Griffith
Bruce Ferguson
Clint Ferguson
Ted Sentz
Robert Sigler
Ryan Nutter
Mike Lucas
Debbie Andrews
Deana Barber

Mayor Dave Harper called the meeting to order at 6:18pm.

A motion was made to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on July 27, 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
BJ Smith	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

Brandon Waters was absent for this portion of the meeting.

The Mayor noted no one signed up for public comment.

The Mayor presented the approval of the Second Reading and adoption of the proposed Water Rate Ordinance Article 935.01. The Mayor asked General Manager of Utilities, Jeremy Nicholas, to come forward and address some of the issues mentioned during the public hearing. He spoke about a new Webster Road project to put an 8" pvc main line from United Bank down through Main Street and over to McKees Creek Road. It will also include putting a new tank on Bright Mountain. He said the rate increases will help improve the water system. The Mayor then spoke about how City money cannot be comingled with utility money; the utilities have to be self-sufficient.

Mark Shankoff with Potesta came forward to discuss the wastewater system. Potesta was hired by the City of Summerville in 2025, and they came up with a list of immediate needs. He said there are some mains in need of repair. One piece needs upgraded to a 16" line. He spoke about the lift stations, saying 9 of 17 need to be upgraded. There are 12 lift stations that don't have telemetry. 10 lift stations need emergency generators. They will put equalization basins in for the treatment plant. They estimated the work to be \$13.5 million.

Cassandra Lawson with Region 4 Planning and Development Council came forward and said 10% of the water rate increase is called "going level" which is what you must have come in to pay for what is going out. The other 10% is related to project costs. She said we will still have the lowest minimum bill in Nicholas County. She said when water systems are not taken care of, they tend to end up being under the operation of West Virginia American Water.

Michael Griffith, CPA, came forward. He spoke about how we're running on a deficit. If rates don't get to a certain point, we'd be rejected for grants. He discussed how the rates will be staggered and how we have to be self-sustaining.

Todd Swanson with Steptoe & Johnson came forward. He said they've been helping with the legal requirements and all the required notices.

Cassandra Lawson came forward again and reviewed some of the new rates and discussed how they compare with some of the surrounding utilities' rates. BJ Smith asked when the new projects will start and she said currently, we are nowhere near qualifying with the funds, if the new rates don't pass. Jeremy Nicholas spoke about the maintenance costs and some of the issues people don't see, such as 4" line going into an 8" line and bottlenecking. A motion was made to approve the Second Reading and adoption of the proposed Water Rate Ordinance Article 935.01. Moved by Stevie LeRose.

Seconded by Wayne Halstead.

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 approval of the Second Reading and adoption of the proposed Sewer Rate Ordinance Article 935.02. A motion was made to approve the Second Reading and adoption of the proposed Sewer Rate Ordinance Article 935.02. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

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.

The Mayor presented the approval of the Resolution for the TAP Grant Fund Application for Phase 4 of the Webster Road Sidewalk Improvement Project. The Mayor said this will be 100% grant financed. It will go from North Street to West Webster Road. A motion was made to approve the Resolution for the TAP Grant Fund Application for Phase 4 of the Webster Road Sidewalk Improvement Project. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

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.

The Mayor presented the approval of the 2026-2027 Coal Severance Budget Revision # 1. Finance Director Scott Arthur came forward to present the item. The 2026-2027 Original Budget was \$40,164 but there is a decrease of \$8,289 for a revised budget of \$31,875. The Coal Severance Tax is \$10,000 making a Subtotal Change in Revenue of \$41,875. In Budget Expenditure, there is a decrease of \$8,289 in Public Safety making the Subtotal Change in Expenditures \$41,875. The Net Change is 0. A motion was made to approve the 2026-2027 Coal Severance Budget Revision # 1. 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 Recorder's Report. Recorder Gary Withee said there will be a Summersville Planning and Zoning Meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:00pm.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Report. He announced that the Fall flushing of the hydrants will be August 31- October 12. He spoke about the success of Music at the Pavilion and thanked everyone who helped make it a success. Lastly, the Mayor spoke about the regret of having to raise water/sewer rates but spoke about how well it will help with the future of the City's water.

During Council Reports, Stevie LeRose and BJ Smith thanked everyone for coming to the council meeting and listening and giving their input. They spoke about the utility maintenance crew and how they are always there to keep our system going.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

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.