

Regular Meeting of Summersville City
Council held on September 28, 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

VISITORS: Ray Corbin, The Nicholas Chronicle
Julie Wingard, SCTV
Amy Grose
Jeremy Nicholas
Scott Arthur
Brad Reed
Nancy Thomas
Benjean Rapp
Joseph Strickland
Terri Kiser
Tammy O'Dell

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 September 14, 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 discussion of the Old Main Arts & Heritage Center. Joe Strickland came to the podium first. He introduced their board members. Benjean Rapp is President, Nancy Thomas is Vice-President, and Terri Kiser is Treasurer. He said they are requesting City stewardship. He said they have a proven foundation of leaders and volunteers, but their average age of membership is 75. He then gave a history of the building. It was originally a high school from 1913-1978, a junior high school from 1978-1991, and in 1991 became the Nicholas Old Main Foundation. It has a 250-seat auditorium, flexible event space, two dining areas, kitchen, reception rentals, and 4 rental spaces downstairs. They were also

donated an exotic animal collection worth approximately \$300,000. He then discussed the condition of the building. He said the roof is in the process of being repaired and the building is in good, preserved condition. He said the transfer of the building to the City would provide historic preservation, community access, economic activity, tourism growth, cultural experience and identity, grant potential, an educational tool, active rentals, and long-term stability.

Terri Kiser came forward with financial information. She said they have two ongoing projects right now. One is roof repair with Platinum Roofing, which costs \$30,400 and is fully funded. The second is the windows need repaired and they have \$15,000 towards the repair. She said they are in the process of getting estimates. \$35,000 is their budget for this year. They have one checking account with \$50,000, but more than half is already designated money from grant funding and donations for specific projects. Benjean Rapp came forward. She said they want to see Old Main stand and continue how it is. She said they are not begging for the City to take it but wanting to hand Old Main over to be preserved. They received \$33,000 in grants for 2026 and discussed other possible grants that may be coming in. The annuity is over \$100,000 and they only withdrew from it one time- \$14,000 for the roof, at no penalty. The Mayor and Council asked Finance Director, Scott Arthur, to review the financial information. Benjean Rapp discussed some of the history of the building and encouraged everyone to take a tour.

The Mayor presented the update on the status report of the Summersville Hydroelectric Project. He said Jim Price sent the report but couldn't attend the meeting. The report covers the period from March 26, 2026 through September 19, 2026. The first portion discusses the higher level of the winter pool, due to drought concerns. It was 40 feet higher than normal. They are still working on the study to see if we can raise the winter pool, but it has not been approved by USACE Headquarters in Washington, DC. The City has a joint account with Noah Corp. that contains \$1,046,404. The City receives 51% and was distributed \$83,155. He said we are negotiating with Gauley River Power Partners (GRPP) for a new Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). He said we are negotiating with some power companies and hopefully before the contract is up, we will have a new one signed. We will also be working to see if we can get some of the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), under the new agreement. Jim Epling asked if Council can review the independent contract and the energy agreement. Finance Director Scott Arthur will let them review the original documents.

The Mayor presented the approval of the Summersville Water Works vehicles to scrap:

-2011 Chevrolet Silverado VIN # 1GTR2TEBZ288423 and

-2010 Ford F-150 VIN# 1FTMF1EWXAKC36552.

The Mayor noted these items will not be resold but will be taken away to a scrapyard. A motion was made to scrap the two Summersville Water Works vehicles. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

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 a Summersville Planning and Zoning Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00pm. He said the veterans' parade and ceremony will be held at the Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day, November 11, 2026.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Report. He said the NCHS Homecoming Parade will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 6:00pm. Hotdogs will be served at the City Pavilion. On October 9th and 10th, the Gold Star Mothers Bridge Ride will take place. 131 riders have registered so far, but it could be as many as 300 riders. He asked everyone to come by and honor them. October 9-11, 2026, the Big Foot Festival will be held at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park.

During Council Reports, Jim Epling discussed the large crowds that will attend the Big Foot Festival.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm. 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.