

Minutes for the Town of Sutton's Special Council Meeting - July 15, 2025

Call to Order

9:02 am

June 15, 2025

- Pledge of Allegiance by all attendees
- Opening Prayer by Laurel Petolicchio

Roll Call report of attendees

a.	Carolyn Hoover	Present	e.	Darrell Pierson	Present
b.	Debbie Pierson	Present	f.	Thomas Gates	Present
c.	Laurel Petollichio	Present	g.	Shelly Sutphin	Absent
d.	Jonathan Crum	Present			

Mayor's Report

- Shelly Sutphin took it upon herself to get her oath given to her yesterday morning by Judge Asbury much to my surprise. She didn't have permission to do that but she did it just the same? But she's absent today because she has to work, is that what she sent in a text, she has to work today, so therefore her name is not listed and we will have to count her absent? She is officially now on council. (Recorded Position 01:20)

Approval of July 10, 2025 minutes

(Recorded Position 01:50)

Discussion

Do I hear a motion to adopt the minutes of July 10, 2025?

Laurel Petolicchio moves to adopt the minutes of the July 10, 025 Minutes.

Thomas Gates seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - 5 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it

Motion Carried

Jonathan Crum – Formal Protest

(Recorded Position 03:35)

Jonathan Crum, I am entering a protest into the official minutes in accordance with Ordinance §1-211 .

Now comes councilman, Jonathan Crum, pursuant to Ordinance §1-211, and endorses a formal protest to be included in the adopted minutes:

Allowing the **Mayor** in her sole discretion to employ an additional police officer without a majority vote violates merit-based hiring practices and is unethical. Also, a majority vote of Council is first required to employ public personnel, and determine officers per Ordinances §2-103 and §2-401. Employing personnel not approved by Council is a misappropriation of Tax Funds. This hiring is bias and lacks transparency and fairness as the position was not publicly posted as required by W.V. anti-discrimination and equal opportunity laws. Signed **Jonathan Crum** dated today July 15, 2025.

Mayor: Deb will you put that in the record please.

Debbie Pierson: Yes

Mayor: We will come up with a legal response to that as soon as possible.

2025/2026 Budget Revision

(Recorded Position 04:57)

Mayor: Take time, if you would, to look over the budget and see if there is a point of contention that we need to address.

Discussion:

Mayor: Do I hear a motion to adopt the revisions for the 2025/2026 budget

Thomas Gates made a motion to adopt the minutes as modified after reviewing the budget.

Jonathan Crum seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - 5 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

Position for the Municipal / Town Clerk

(Recorded Position 14:40)

Mayor: We have two candidates who will be present, and we have one via the computer where she did her resume. Interviews were conducted with two candidates and the third candidate brought her resume by video. Each candidate was asked, and responded, to the same questions.

Discussion concerning the acceptable wage for this position was discussed. (Recorded Position 1:08)

Laurel Petolicchio made a motion that we consider \$14.00 an hour for the first 90 days for any new hires for the town clerk..

Thomas Gates seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - 5 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

A special meeting will be held on July 23, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Sam Harold, our legal representative for the town, from Mountain State Law, will be attending that meeting. *W. Va. Code § 6-9A-4*

Legal Issues

Mayor: Do I hear a motion to go into executive session to discuss the lawsuit against the town by Jonthan Crum.

10:50 am - Begin Executive Session (Recorded Position 1.50)

Darrell Pierson made a motion to go into the executive session.

Thomas Gates seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - 5 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

Jonathan Crum recused himself from the execution session.

Discussion

11:10 am - End Executive Session (Recorded Position 2:10)

Laurel Petolicchio I make a motion to adjourn the execution session at 11:10 am.

Thomas Gates seconded the motion.

All in favor say Aye - 4 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it. **Motion Carried**

Mayor: At 11:11 am We are out of executive session; we are going to open session.

Adjourn

Mayor: Do I hear a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Laurel Petilicchio makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Thomas Gates seconds the Motion

All in favor say Aye - 5 'Aye's and Those opposed - 0 'No's' The ayes have it

Motion carried. We are adjourned.

Attachments:

1. Revisions to the 2025-2026 Budget
2. Applications for the Police officer and the Municipal Clerk position.
3. Special meeting ordinances