



MINUTES

**Town of Weaverville
State of North Carolina**

**Town Council Workshop
Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met for a regularly scheduled workshop on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers within Town Hall at 30 South Main Street, Weaverville, NC with remote access via zoom.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons, Vice Mayor Jeff McKenna and Councilmembers Doug Jackson, John Chase, Catherine Cordell, and Michele Wood. Councilmember Andrew Nagle was absent.

Staff members present: Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Public Works Director Dale Pennell, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Randall Wilson, Town Clerk/Planning Director James Eller, Finance Officer Tonya Dozier, Deputy Town Clerk and Communications Coordinator Grace Keith, and Zoom Room Coordinator Lauren Ward.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Review of Action Plan

Town Manager Coffey presented an update to the action plan for addressing the Resolution regarding Water System Recommendations that Town Council approved 06-27-2022. The update included the progress that has been made towards the Action Plan Steps. Specific information was provided on the interconnection with Mars Hill, Woodfin, and Asheville as follows:

- Interconnection with Mars Hill: No capital improvements are needed for a bi-directional flow of short-term emergency water between the Weaverville water system and the Mars Hill water system. It was noted that Mars Hill does not have enough capacity within its system to provide Weaverville with any supplemental water. The previous agreement concerning emergency water expired in 2015, so a new intergovernmental agreement is needed. A staff draft was presented to Town Council for consideration which, if approved, will be effective on January 1, 2023. Mars Hill may have some suggested revisions, but those are anticipated to be minor in nature. Under the agreement neither jurisdiction would pay anything unless emergency water is actually purchased. *Vice Mayor McKenna made a motion to approve the proposed intergovernmental agreement with minor changes approved at staff level. Councilmember Chase seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed 6-0.* Staff will request that Town Council set an emergency water rate at Town Council's December regular meeting.
- Interconnection with Asheville: Currently there is no interconnection between Asheville's water system and Weaverville's water system. Asheville representatives have advised Town staff that Asheville will not approve the reestablishment of the interconnection without improvements to their transmission line and other significant improvements. The Town is, therefore, unable to obtain emergency or supplemental water from Asheville unless a large and costly capital project is undertaken at the Town's expense. If the Town decides to move forward with the Asheville interconnection project, it would take 4-5 years to complete and cost the Town approximately \$17 million total. In addition to the cost of the capital project, Weaverville would then have to expend a significant amount of money on an annual basis to reserve the capacity and purchase water.
- Interconnection with Woodfin: There is currently no interconnection between Woodfin

Water District's water system and the Weaverville water system. The interconnection between Woodfin Water District and the Asheville water system is operational and an agreement between those two entities allows Woodfin Water District to purchase 1 million gallons per day (GPD). They are currently purchasing approximately 500,000 GPD. Woodfin Water District also operates its own water treatment plant and have advised that it is agreeable to the reestablishment of an interconnection to provide water from its system to Weaverville. A moderate capital project and an interlocal agreement will be needed for this interconnection. If the Town pursued this option, the project would take 1-2 years to complete and cost the Town approximately \$750,000. Woodfin Water District representatives have also indicated that detailed hydraulic modeling is needed to confirm available flow quantities. It was also noted that Woodfin Water District's agreement with Asheville expires in 2029.

3. Review of Ivy River Reliable Yield Study Proposal

Town Manager Coffey presented council with information concerning the engineering firm CDM Smith and their proposal to investigate the reliable yield study for the Ivy River Water Intake. The time frame for this project to be completed is approximately five weeks. This investigation would cost approximately \$29,800. *Councilmember Jackson motioned to proceed with the Ivy River Reliable Yield Study Proposal and the related Budget Amendment. Councilmember Cordell seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6-0.* It is expected that the results of the study should be available in January or February 2023.

4. Review and Discussion of Summary Options

A summary of options document was included in the agenda packet and briefly discussed.

5. Town Council Action and Direction

- a. Decision on Interlocal Agreement with Mars Hill for Emergency Water – see above
- b. Decision on proceeding with Woodfin Interconnection - *Councilmember Cordell motioned to direct Town staff to proceed with discussions with Woodfin Water District on re-establishing the interconnection between Weaverville water system and the Woodfin Water District system with details to be agreed upon at a later date. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6-0.*
- c. Decision on proceeding with Asheville Interconnection - *Councilmember Chase motioned to pause on proceeding with the Asheville interconnection until the Ivy River Reliable Yield Study results come back and the results of discussions with Woodfin Water District are known. Vice Mayor McKenna seconded the motion. All voted in favor of this motion. Motion passed 6-0.*
- d. Decision on Ivy River Reliable Yield Study Proposal and Budget Amendment – see above.
- e. Direction on other information needed for decision on WTP Expansion. – Vice Mayor McKenna noted that it would best if the reliable yield study results provided more than a “yes” or “no” answer to the question of whether the Ivy River could support a withdrawal of 3.0 million GPA. McKenna also suggested that Town staff work on materials regarding water conservation to share with the public. *There was consensus to wait on the results of the Ivy River Reliable Yield Study before a decision is made on the WTP expansion.* No additional information was identified as being needed by Town Council and appreciation was expressed at the information provided.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, Mayor Fitzsimmons declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05pm.

James Eller, Town Clerk