

March 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fairmont was held at 7:00 p.m. on the 10th day of March, 2026, at the Public Safety Building located at 500 Quincy Street in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Mayor Bolyard called the meeting to order.

Roll call of members was taken by the City Clerk.

Councilmembers present were:

First District	Joshua D. Rice
Second District	Anne E. Bolyard
Third District	Rebecca Moran
Fourth District	Anthony T. Horton
Fifth District	Donna Wade
Sixth District	Daniel "Dan" Weber
Seventh District	Julia "Julie" Sole
Eighth District	Bruce McDaniel
Ninth District	Kandice "Kandi" Nuzum

Also present were:

City Manager	Travis L. Blosser
City Clerk	Janet L. Keller
City Attorney	Kevin V. Sansalone
Finance Director	Priscilla A. Hamilton
Communications Manager	David A. Kirk

IN RE: OPENING CEREMONIES

Rev. Roger Thrower of City Church gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Councilmember Horton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IN RE: MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24 , 2026 REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Bolyard noted that each member of Council had received a copy of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2026. She asked if there were any corrections, deletions, or amendments.

Councilmember Sole moved to approve the February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade.

The Mayor declared the minutes approved as submitted by voice vote of Council.

PUBLIC HEARING S

IN RE: FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Pursuant to a notice duly published in the Times West Virginian on February 27, 2026 and March 6, 2026, a public hearing was convened to obtain citizen input on the 2026-2027 City Budget.

The Mayor asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposed budget.

PRISCILLA HAMILTON, Director of Finance, spoke in favor of the budget. She said as stated in the City Manager’s budget message, the property valuations were received after the City had finalized its budget. She mentioned that the numbers were received on March 3rd and the Ad Valorum and the Contingency expenses items were adjusted \$9,162.00 to reflect a slight decrease in the anticipated Ad Valorum Revenue. The City of Fairmont’s FY26-27 budget will be submitted to the State at \$22,025,888.00 and the Coal Severance Budget will be submitted for \$70,100.00. She thanked City Council, the City Manager, and Department Heads for all of the many hours it took to bring this budget together.

There being no one else to speak, the public hearing was called to a close at 7:05 p.m.

IN RE: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE FAIRMONT CITY CODE

Pursuant to a notice duly published in the Times-West Virginian on February 27, 2026, a public hearing was convened to obtain citizen input on an ordinance to approve and adopt replacement pages to the City Code.

The Mayor asked if anyone present desired to speak to the proposed ordinance.

There being no one to speak, the public hearing was called to a close at 7:06 p.m.

IN RE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT PROVIDING FOR AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN THE CITY OF FAIRMONT, MARION COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, NAMELY:

<u>CERTIFICATION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TAX MAP/PARCEL</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
2022-C-000098	PT LS 125-126 Spence St Fairmont Fairmont Corp	33/0020 0000 0000	204 Spence St.
2022-C-000086	LT 279 Bailey Circle Fairmont Fairmont Corp	30/0061 0000 0000	105 Bailey Cr.
2022-C-000108	PT LT 21 Chicago St Fairmont Fairmont Corp	34/0092 0000 0000	325 Chicago St.

2022-C-000109	LT Chicago St Fairmont Fairmont Corp	34/0093 0000 0000	323 Chicago St.
2022-C-000110	LT 5 Monroe St Fairmont Fairmont Corp	28/0111 0000 0000	640 Monroe St.
2022-C-000118	BLK S LT 5 Jackson Add Fairmont Fairmont Corp	36/0065 0000 0000	409 Holbert Ave.
2022-C-000132	PT LT 2 Pierpont Fairmont Fairmont Corp	34/0199 0000 0000	603 Jamison St.
2022-C-000190	LT 2 (OR 0.28 AC Merchant St Fairmont Union Corp	10/0013 0000 0000	735 Merchant St.

BY THE CITY OF FAIRMONT FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AUDITOR AS A RESULT OF THE NON-PAYMENT OF THE REAL ESTATE TAXES AND PROVIDING FOR AND AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE AND TRANSFER OF ONE OR MORE OF SAID PARCEL(S) OF REAL ESTATE FROM THE CITY OF FAIRMONT TO SUBSEQUENT PURCHASER(S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF FAIRMONT'S APPROVED HOME RULE PLAN AND THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED THEREUNDER; RATIFICATION.

Pursuant to a notice duly published in the Times-West Virginian on March 13, 2026, a public hearing was convened to obtain citizen input on an ordinance providing for and authorizing the purchase of certain parcels of real estate situate in the City of Fairmont.

The Mayor asked if anyone present desired to speak to the proposed ordinance.

Discussion:

Councilmember Weber said that years ago he brought up the idea that the City could probably get loan interest loans to help some of these people who need to repair their homes and bring it up to code. He said that he noticed these come from Area 3, 4, and 5, except for Merchant Street, and those are the areas that these homes are in. He wondered if the City has ever thought about helping these people in some way with low interest loans.

Mr. Blosser replied that there is a program that is funded for Mon Valley Habitat for Humanity for about \$1.2 million grant they received and some of that is to help with repairs to folk's homes. He explained that they just received the award for that and it is specifically focused around Fairmont, however, the meetings have not been scheduled yet to determine exactly the flow of how all of that is going to work. The Code Enforcement Department helped them with surveying residents, which was necessary in order for them to apply for that funding. He thought it came through the Federal Home Loan Bank, and he thought there was a program getting operational and once we have more details on that, he will share with Council.

Councilmember Weber asked if anyone on this list in the ordinance would be eligible for that.

The Manager replied that the folks on this list in the ordinance, technically these are either existing vacant structures that no one is in, and no one is claiming ownership of them, and we are essentially ratifying the purchase at the tax sale. The individual who already had it had already left it to allow it to go to the tax sale process so there is no existing residents within these structures and some of them may be an existing vacant lot that we may have already removed the structure from through eminent danger as well.

There being no one else to speak, the public hearing was called to a close at 7:11 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN RE: COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Councilmember Moran said that she was challenging the community to pick up 30 pieces of trash in 30 days which is about one bag of trash. She said that she would be willing to go with anyone that wanted to participate if they were feeling lonely to go by themselves and they can pick up trash together.

IN RE: SPEAKER AT FSU

Councilmember Moran announced that the Rev. Dick Bowyer series at the Falcon Center, titled Discipling Democracy, will be held on Thursday, March 26th at 12:15 p.m. The speaker for that event will be Rev. Kendal McBroom.

IN RE: NEW SOFTBALL TEAM

Councilmember Wade mentioned that there is a newly-started girls softball league. It is for all girls ages 4-18 and all of the games will be based out of Windmill Park.

IN RE: COUNCILMEMBERS THANKED

Councilmember Weber thanked all of the members of Council while he was absent from the last few Council meetings. He noted that he was in the hospital for two weeks with Covid and it is nothing to mess around with.

IN RE: SPORTS TEAMS

Councilmember Sole wished good luck to several local teams:

- East Fairmont High School Girls Basketball team will represent Fairmont at the State tournament this week.
- Fairmont Senior and East Fairmont Boys basketball teams are playing now for a chance at the State tournament.
- North Marion and John Marshall

- Fairmont State Fighting Falcons who will be travelling to play Indiana University in the Regional NCAA Division II tournament.

IN RE: UNION MISSION NIGHT OF HOPE

Councilmember Nuzum mentioned the Union Mission “Night of Hope” fundraising dinner for Saturday, March 21st at 4:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge.

IN RE: FAIRMONT CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Mayor Bolyard announced that she extended her appreciation to Maika Merriman from Fairmont Catholic. She invited Chief Shine, Captain Lambert, and herself to kick off Dr. Seuss week at the school. They got to share their love of reading to the students.

CITIZENS PETITIONS

IN RE: CHILD WATCH VISITATION

TIFFANY DIXON, a student support coordinator for the Middle College and Rise Program at Fairmont State University addressed Council regarding Child Watch. She invited Council to a public event, “Child Watch,” on Tuesday, April 7th at 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. She noted this is an opportunity coordinated by CASA Marion County Child Advocacy Center, the WV Department of Human Services and Fairmont State University for a deep insight and understanding of the experiences of children and youth entering care. She then encouraged Council to consider attending this event.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

IN RE: CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING REQUEST SUBMITTED

Mr. Blosser reported that the City submitted for FY27 our first Congressional Directed Spending request with Congressman Moore’s Office. He noted that the process moves very quickly once those offices begin to roll that out. He said that we submitted for \$2.4 million which the submission was related to the rehabilitation and dredging of the raw water reservoir at the Water Treatment Complex.

The Manager announced that he is currently working on submissions for the Senate offices for Senator Capito and Senator Justice but those have not been released yet. He noted those will be coming out shortly and probably due toward the end of the month. Their offices will be submitting that \$2.4 million but we will be focusing on their offices for a larger submission related to Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades that has been discussed with Council and have been talked about publicly.

IN RE: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The City Manager thanked the Public Works Department for starting to clean up the cinders from the winter. He said that the afternoon shift has shifted to midnight shift and

they are working to clean up high traffic areas of the City. They will be blowing off sidewalks with the salt and cinders from the heavy winter and then the street sweeper will begin to work in those areas as well. He noted that this winter was significantly harsh in terms of the amount of salt and cinders that were utilized by both us as well as the Department of Highways so it will take some time to clean those areas up.

IN RE: OPIOID APPLICATIONS

Mr. Blosser then highlighted that the Opioid Ad-Hoc Committee met today and graded applications and has recommended several for funding to City Council. He reported that those applications will be placed for Council’s consideration at the March 24th meeting and they will be in resolution format and will be approved or denied at that meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

IN RE: ADOPTION, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE FAIRMONT CITY CODE.

The Mayor entertained a motion for the adoption of an ordinance approving the current replacement pages to the Fairmont City Code.

Motion:

Councilmember McDaniel moved for the adoption of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk.

The Mayor declared the ordinance adopted by unanimous vote of Council and the ordinance designated as Ordinance No. 2097 was duly adopted.

IN RE: ADOPTION, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT PROVIDING FOR AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN THE CITY OF FAIRMONT, MARION COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, NAMELY:

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The Mayor entertained a motion for the adoption of an ordinance providing for and authorizing the purchase of certain parcels of real estate situate in the City of Fairmont.

Motion:

Councilmember Rice moved for the adoption of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Moran seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk.

The Mayor declared the ordinance adopted by unanimous vote of Council and the ordinance designated as Ordinance No. 2098 was duly adopted.

IN RE: INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, SET PUBLIC HEARING, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF FAIRMONT PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF THOSE CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE SITUATE IN THE CITY OF FAIRMONT, GRANT ANNEX DISTRICT, MARION COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, BEING PARCELS 12, 12.1, 14, 15, AND 48 OF MARION COUNTY TAX MAP 04-02 AND PARCEL 97.2 OF MARION COUNTY TAX MAP 04-07 SAID TRACTS OR PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE BEING REZONED FROM "GENERAL RESIDENTIAL (GR)" TO "NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL (NR)" AND PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT.

The City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by synopsis for the first time.

Mayor Bolyard entertained a motion for the introduction of an ordinance providing for the rezoning of parcels of real estate in Grant Annex from General Residential to Neighborhood Residential.

Motion:

Councilmember McDaniel moved for the introduction of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Sole seconded the motion.

The Mayor declared the public hearing set for April 14, 2026.

IN RE: INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, SET PUBLIC HEARING, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 2074, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE CITY OF FAIRMONT'S PRIVATE OUTDOOR DESIGNATED AREAS (PODA) TO ACCOMMODATE CHANGES TO THE ENABLING LEGISLATION AND INCREASE THE PODA BOUNDARY.

The City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by synopsis for the first time.

Mayor Bolyard entertained a motion for the introduction of an ordinance supplementing the Private Outdoor Designated Areas (PODA) to accommodate changes to the enabling legislation and increase the PODA boundary.

Motion:

Councilmember Nuzum moved for the introduction of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion.

The Mayor declared the public hearing set for March 24, 2026.

IN RE: INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, SET PUBLIC HEARING, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRMONT AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 2095 DULY ADOPTED FEBRUARY 10, 2026, WHICH ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE CITY OF FAIRMONT'S CURRENT PAY PLAN AND LIST OF OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES FOR ALL CLASS TITLES AND EMPLOYEES, AMONG OTHERS, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN INCREASES, CHANGES, MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS DESCRIBED.

The City Clerk read the proposed ordinance by synopsis for the first time.

Mayor Bolyard entertained a motion for the introduction of an ordinance providing for certain increases, changes, modifications, and additional compensation to the current Pay Plan.

Motion:

Councilmember Sole moved for the introduction of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Weber seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Blosser noted that the ordinance set for public hearing is in alignment with the budget that is before Council as well for passage. The budget would be passed this evening, and this ordinance would be adopted after a public hearing but did want to make clear these changes are what were incorporated within the budget document that would be approved this evening.

The Mayor declared the public hearing set for March 24, 2026.

IN RE: ADOPTION, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF FAIRMONT'S FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 CITY BUDGETS: GENERAL FUND AND COAL SEVERANCE

The City Clerk read the proposed resolution by synopsis for the first time.

Mayor Bolyard entertained a motion for the adoption of a resolution to approve the 2026-2027 Budget for the City of Fairmont.

Motion:

Councilmember McDaniel moved for the adoption of the proposed resolution. Councilmember Moran seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk.

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted by unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor entertained a motion for adjournment.

Motion:

Councilmember Rice moved at 7:27 p.m. to adjourn this meeting to Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in order to approve the Levy Rates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sole.

The Mayor declared this meeting adjourned until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, 2026 by unanimous vote of Council.