

Berkeley County Commission Special Meeting

June 17, 2025

400 W. Stephen Street, Suite 205

10:00 A.M.

Martinsburg, WV 25401

Present:

G. Edgar Gochenour, President

R. Stephen Catlett, Vice President

James P. Whitacre, Commissioner

John Hardy, Commissioner

Gary A. Wine, County Administrator

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator

Commissioner Boyd was not present for the meeting.

Also Present: Chad Winebrenner, Deputy County Administrator; Brian Ross, Community Development Director; Laura Hoffmaster, Deputy Community Development Director

Re: Call to Order

President Gochenour called the June 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting to Order at 10:00 A.M.

Re: Agenda

Vice President Catlett made a motion to approve the Agenda for the June 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Impact Fees. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gochenour stated that the record should reflect there was only one person from the public and they did not wish to speak.

Commissioner Whitacre made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 10:30 A.M. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gochenour declared the Commission on break until 5:00 P.M.

President Gochenour called the meeting to Order at 5:00 P.M.

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Impact Fees. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Danny Steward appeared before the Commission and stated that he felt the impact fees were going to hurt a lot of people in WV. He stated it would be better to wait to implement in six months and

should have a waiver for veterans. He further stated that there needed to be an incentive for people to stay in Berkeley County.

Lee Watson appeared before the Commission and stated that he thought the impact fees were to keep the developers at bay but not impact the homeowners.

Daniel Gantt appeared before the Commission and stated that everybody who builds a house will pay an impact fee which will raise the value of everyone's homes and everyone's taxes. He further stated that he didn't disagree that the county needs the money for parks and recreation, fire and police, but thinks there's a better way to do it. He stated that the bigger the building the smaller the impact fee and thought this needed more thought put into it.

Justin Henry appeared before the Commission and stated that the impact fee is right for Berkeley County but needs a right size impact fee. He stated that the impact fee would not help with state roads or water and sewer and feels the fee is necessary, but it was important to know what the fees would be used for before the fees are set.

Cory Rodriguez appeared before the Commission and stated that the need for the revenue for the county is now, and the Commission has the ability for impact fees and TIFs. He stated that impact fees are needed for police, fire and the schools and the Commission needed to use the tools available to them. He further stated that there is nothing to support the parks without the impact fees.

Daniel Gantt reappeared before the Commission and stated that real estate taxes have double since last year and wanted to know what portion came back to Berkeley County. Gary Wine, County Administrator, advised that 78% went to the school board with only 21% coming back to the county.

With no more comments from the public Commissioner Hardy made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 5:35 PM. Vice President Catlett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Recess

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to Recess the June 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting.



Submitted by: _____

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator