

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF UPSHUR, CITY OF BUCKHANNON, TO WIT:**

The City of Buckhannon Building Commission was held on November 20, 2024 at 4:30 pm in City Hall with the following in attendance (GTM-GoToMeeting):

Building Commission Member	Erica Byrd	Present
Building Commission Member	Kelly Queen	Present
Building Commission Member	Jane Godwin	Present-GTM
Building Commission Member	Justin Dynes	Present-GTM
Building Commission Member	Daniel Williams	Absent
City Recorder	Randy Sanders	Present
Assistant Recorder & Director of Finance	Amberle Jenkins	Present
City Attorney	Thomas O'Neill	Absent
Steptoe & Johnson PLLC Bond Counsel Attorney	Thomas Aman	Absent

**City of Buckhannon Building Commission  
4:30 pm in Council Chambers  
Meeting Notice and Agenda for Wednesday, November 20, 2024**

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*GotoMeeting Option:* Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://meet.goto.com/998683501> You can also dial in using your phone: United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3121](tel:+13127573121)  
Access Code: 998-683-501

**CITY OF BUCKHANNON BUILDING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Board of the City of Buckhannon Building Commission will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:30 pm at Buckhannon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 70 East Main Street, Buckhannon, West Virginia. The agenda for the meeting is set forth below.

**CITY OF BUCKHANNON BUILDING COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 AT 4:30 pm  
AGENDA**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Finalize the Termination of the Stockert Youth & Community Center Multipurpose Building Project- Approval of Letter to the USDA De-Obligate of Funds
- C. Adjournment

Posted 11/15/2024

**A. Call to Order:** Chairperson Byrd called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and pledge to the flag.

**B. Finalize the Termination of the Stockert Youth & Community Center Multipurpose Building Project- Approval of Letter to the USDA De-Obligate of Funds**

USDA requires a formal letter signed by the Building Commission Chairperson to be submitted for de-obligation of the USDA funds.

The following draft letter was submitted:

United States Department of Agriculture  
Attention: Steven Collins- Area Director  
And Stacy Karickhoff – Area Specialist  
24 Gateway Dr  
Weston, WV 26452

Mr. Collins and Ms. Karickhoff:

On Thursday, November 7, 2024 the City Council of the City of Buckhannon made the difficult decision to cease the participation in the project to build a multi-purpose building for the Stockert Youth and Community Center. This decision was not entered into lightly.

The long-term debt this would incur was beginning to concern City Council members for multiple reasons. The tone of WV Legislature toward municipalities ability to obtain revenue from taxes and fees has been a topic for the past few years and they have been successful in eliminating collection of some revenue from license and taxes as well as a few non-monetary regulations were changed. The concern is that larger cuts in these abilities to collect other B&O taxes and sales tax will continue.

Also, City Council members were insistent that the project could not exceed \$4 million dollars. The rising cost of construction was observed by our Engineers and Architects. They feel certain that the base bids would come in well over \$4 million dollars. Additive alternates were then going to be added to the base bid, if the budget would have allowed it. The City Council would not be able to add additional amenities to the project and remain under the four million project dollar budget threshold.

There were multiple other concerns that the City Council began to have. The ultimate decision was made to protect the future of the city's finances for the citizens and taxpayers.

The City of Buckhannon Municipal Building Commission and the City Council certainly appreciates all the help that your staff provided the City and Building Commission through this process and hopes that you understand the decision that was made.

Therefore, the City of Buckhannon Building Commission is requesting the USDA Rural Development to de-obligate the funds in the amount of \$4,000,000 that were dedicated toward this Stockert Youth and Community Center project.

Respectfully,

Erica Byrd, Chairperson  
City of Buckhannon Municipal Building Commission

**Motion Queen/Godwin to approve the letter to be submitted to the USDA and Chairperson Byrd to sign it. Motion carried.**

**C. Adjournment:** There being no further business to be transacted, meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

**Chairperson Erica Byrd**

**City Recorder Randall H. Sanders**