

# MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Weirton

2023  
PROGRESS  
REPORT


West Virginia  
Municipal Home Rule Board  
P. O. Box 11360  
Charleston, WV 25339-1360  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov)  
304.558.3356

**West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:**

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at [MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).

<b>A. General Information</b>		
Name of Municipality: City of Weirton		
Certifying Official: Michael A. Adams	Title: City Manager	
Contact Person: Michael A. Adams	Title: City Manager	
Address: 200 Municipal Plaza		
City, State, Zip: Weirton, WV 26062		
Telephone Number: 304-797-8500, Ext. 1003	Fax Number: 304-797-8598	
E-Mail Address: citymanager@cityofweirton.com		
2020 Census Population: 19,163		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
<b>C. Attest</b>		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
Michael A. Adams		
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 1786. An Ordinance Creating Probationary Employment of Uncertified Building Officials**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☒ or a plan amendment ☐?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On April 13, 2015, Ordinance No. 1786, Creating Probationary Employment of Uncertified Building Officials was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

**SUCSESSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The implementation of this initiative has allowed the City to hire and train Probationary Building Inspectors that enforce the International Property Maintenance Code while waiting to pass certification examinations.

The current Probationary Building Inspectors are utilized to reduce the open case backlog.

By having Probationary Building Inspectors, the department can keep up with the property maintenance violations, review inspections on new construction, and carry out the inspections implemented in the City's Rental Registration Program. Since the implementation of the initiative, the City has hired ten (10) Probationary Building Inspectors.

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

As the exams are difficult to pass, retaining the Probationary Building Inspectors has been a challenge. There are currently three (3) building inspectors hired under this initiative that work for the City. Two (2) of the three (3) building inspectors are certified Property Maintenance & Housing Inspectors and only one (1) inspector hired under the initiative has obtained any certifications beyond the Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector.

The exam and certification process are time consuming.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 1787. An Ordinance Enacting Article 560 – Enforcement Provisions and Citations in Regard to External Sanitation, Weeds/Grass and Common Nuisances**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☒ or a plan amendment ☐?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On April 13, 2015, Ordinance No. 1787, Enacting Article 560 – Enforcement Provisions and Citations in Regard to External Sanitation, Weeds/Grass and Common Nuisances was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

**SUCCESSSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

This Ordinance streamlined the process of addressing simple property maintenance issues. Through the initiative, Code Officials have issued hundreds of citations for common nuisance conditions. By permitting the Code Official to assess a fine via citation, the number of cases before the Municipal Court has dropped, as many property owners address the conditions and pay before a court date.

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

The City is still able to effectively resolve common nuisances, with written citations or service of a summons without prior notification for property owners/tenants with repeating violations.



Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 1791. An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Weirton to Submit Municipal Home Rule Plan Amendment to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board – Proposed Amendment # 1 – Municipal Sales Tax**

**Subsequent Ordinance to Ordinance No.1791: Ordinance No. 1987. An Ordinance Imposing Municipal Sales and Service Tax and Municipal Use Tax in Accordance with West Virginia Code § 8-1-5a**

Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☐ or a plan amendment ☒ or N/A ☐

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On August 24, 2015, Ordinance No. 1791, Authorizing the City of Weirton to Submit Municipal Home Rule Plan Amendment to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board – Proposed Amendment # 1 – Municipal Sales Tax was enacted.

On February 17, 2016, Ordinance No. 1987, Ordinance Imposing Municipal Sales and Service Tax and Municipal Use Tax in Accordance with West Virginia Code § 8-1-5a was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

**REVENUES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.

The total 1% Sales Tax collected for the period of July 1, 2016, through November 5, 2023, is \$21,751,984.72. At the initiative's onset, the pensions for police and fire were severely underfunded, and, while still underfunded, significant progress has been made toward full funding.

**SUCCESSSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

With the police and fire pension funds being severely underfunded, the City was saddled with a large financial challenge. To date, the Police Pension is 33.9% funded and the Fire Pension is 85% funded. Approximately 50% of the Sales Tax is being used to make the required contributions to the pension funds.

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

To the extent possible, pension fund contributions should be current. The importance of having a revenue stream to dedicate to these contributions cannot be understated.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 1792. An Ordinance Implementing Police Officers Enforcement Provisions in Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) Establishments**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☒, or a plan amendment ☐?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On September 8, 2015, Ordinance No. 1792, Implementing Police Officers Enforcement Provisions in Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) Establishments was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

**SUCSESSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The initiative has been instrumental in giving the Weirton Police Department legal expeditious means to enter ABCC establishments in order to deter crime. Officers have responded to multiple calls for service to ABCC establishments, ranging from underage consumption complaints to other more serious violations. Rapid responses help with the preservation of evidence and the prosecution of individuals

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

The initiative has helped with providing safety and security to the citizens and businesses of Weirton.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 1793. An Ordinance Giving Municipal Authority to Place Restrictions on Streets and Highways Within City Limits**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☒, or a plan amendment ☐?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On September 8, 2015, Ordinance No. 1793, Municipal Authority to Place Restrictions on Streets and Highways Within City Limits was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

**SUCSESSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The Ordinance allows our Public Works Department to work closely with the Police, City Council, and Traffic Commission to quickly address traffic related issues to promote public safety and address emergency situations within the City for the safety and welfare of our citizens.

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

The ability to quickly address potentially hazardous traffic conditions or circumstances is vital to traffic safety.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

**Initiative: Ordinance No. 2057. An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Weirton to Submit to the Municipal Home Rule Board a Proposed Amendment, Attached Hereto as Exhibit A, to the City of Weirton's Municipal Home Rule Plan Consistent with West Virginia Code § 8-1-5a, Requesting Approval to Allow the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages by Certain Alcohol Beverage Control Administration Class "A" License Holders Beginning At 10:00 A.M. on Sundays**

**Subsequent Ordinance to Ordinance No. 2057: Ordinance No. 2116. An Ordinance Implementing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages by Certain Alcohol Beverage Control Administration Class "A" License Holders Beginning At 10:00 AM on Sundays in the City of Weirton in Accordance with West Virginia Code §8-1-5a**

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☐ or a plan amendment ☒?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

On February 11, 2019, Ordinance No. 2057, allowing our Home Rule Plan to be amended to include the initiative was enacted.

On January 13, 2020, Ordinance No. 2116, implementing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages by Certain Alcohol Beverage Control Administration Class "A" License Holders Beginning At 10:00 A.M. on Sundays in the City of Weirton in Accordance with West Virginia Code §8-1-5a was enacted.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)

**SUCCESSES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

On February 11, 2019, City Council passed Ordinance No. 2057 amending our Home Rule Plan to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages by Class "A" license holders beginning at 10:00 AM on Sundays. This amendment to our Home Rule Plan was approved by the Home Rule Board on April 16, 2019.

In 2019, WV SB 561 was passed allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages beginning at 10:00 AM on Sundays. Should WV SB 561 be rescinded, Council passed Ordinance No. 2116 implementing the sale of alcoholic beverages by Class "A" license holders beginning at 10:00 AM on Sundays. Ordinance No. 2116 was approved on January 13, 2020.

**LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

Uncertain if State Law would be rescinded, the City implemented its law allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages by certain alcohol beverage control administration Class "A" license holders beginning at 10:00 A.M. on Sundays in the City of Weirton pursuant to the Home Rule Act.