

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

Council President Matthew DeCamp called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending were Councilors F. Craig West, Matt DeCamp, Mike Wood, Joan Hart, Kevin Clark and Louis Prevost, Mayor John Wheeler, Chief James Bodine, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette) and concerned citizens Julie Henry, Deb Bigley, Cindy Copp, Jeanne Rich, Arline Buchman, Gabe Hakvaag, Dawn Avery, Ellen Bryant, Wayne Gray, Christina VanDergrift and Marc Rice.

Councilor West made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Clark made a motion to construct a task force of 7 to 9 individuals from the community, Council and the Planning Commission to gather information in regards to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance and report findings to the Planning Commission for recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

HARB

Councilor West made a motion to approve New Business Signage for 63 Main Street as recommended by HARB Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve Digital Display for 64 Main Street as recommended by HARB Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

Committee Reports:

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

Councilor Hart made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the January, 2023 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

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Safety, Police, Fire, Protective Inspections, Codes, EMA

Mayor's Report

Halloween Parade will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 6pm with trick-or-treat to follow until 830pm.

Police Report

Chief Bodine reported the following:

- The new Dodge Durango has been received and is in full service.
- He has been in discussion for updates to the camera systems at both Woodland and Packer Parks.
- He has also been busy with audits this past month.

Public Works, Solid Waste, Highways, Parking, Water, Sewer

Councilor West made a motion to authorize a request for proposals for a bank loan in the maximum amount of \$650,000 for a term not to exceed five years to finance road improvements in the Borough. Requests for proposals would have a deadline of March 8, 2023 and it would be advertised as an Ordinance for Council to enact on March 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark and carried.

Community-wide Yard Sales will be held on May 12th and 13th and October 13th and 14th in 2023.

Spring Cleanup will be the week of May 15th on your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day.

Fall Cleanup will be the week of October 16th on your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve the 2023 Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce Events Schedule as presented with the addition of June 12, 2023 Road closure of Pearl Street from Central Avenue to Norris Street and Charles Street from Main Street to Pearl Street for an Antique Motorcycle Expo. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and carried.

A meeting will be held February 20, 2023 with members of Council and the Wellsboro Area School District Board to discuss the formation of a Parks & Recreation Authority. Council representatives will be Lou Prevost, Kevin Clark and Craig West.

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Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

All DPW and Sewer/Water employees will be attending a 4hr classroom/hands on Confined Space training on February 23rd held in the Firehall meeting room.

Councilor West made a motion to approve the removal of Scott Tanner from probation status as of March 4, 2023 contingent on no disciplinary issues before that date. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark and carried.

Other Business –

Penn Wells will be painting the front side of building starting April and will be complete by Memorial Day. Sidewalk will be closed during construction hours.

The fuel tax refund for 2021 has been issued to the Borough from United Refining. We are still in the process of appealing the 2022 fuel tax.

The Sears Street Stormwater Project has been approved by DEP.

Public Comments

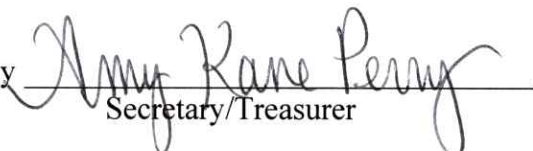
Jerry Curreri – Jerry expressed his elation at the success of Winterfest last weekend. His business saw a significant increase in patrons. He gave his thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for organizing these events and stressed the importance of events such as these to local businesses.

Jeanne Reich – Jeanne stressed the importance at looking into past decisions regarding zoning and why they were made. Sometimes a lot can be learned from why things were put in place originally.

Gabe Hakvaag/Arlene Buchman – Mr. Hakvaag and Ms. Buchman appealed to Council regarding the current state of sidewalks in the Borough and the danger they present to handicap individuals. They have researched and reached out to other communities and state organizations regarding funding opportunities. They have found a grant that would provide funding of between \$100,000 and \$3,000,000. They have offered their services to help write the grant on behalf of the Borough.

Adjourn – Councilor Clark made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:36pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is March 13, 2023 at 5pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer