

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

Council President Matthew DeCamp called the regular meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending were Councilors Rachel Smith, F. Craig West, Matt DeCamp, Mike Wood, Rhonda Pearson, and Louis Prevost, Mayor John Wheeler, Chief James Bodine, Junior Council member Ellie Largey, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Kristie Bowles (Wellsboro Gazette), Mark Thompson, Kathy Eastridge, Julian Stam, Ellen Bryant, Julie Henry and Wayne Gray,

An Executive session was held Monday March 11, 2024 from 4:05pm until 4:28pm for legal and personnel issues.

Councilor West made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS –

- Mark Thompson/Kathy Eastridge – Planning Commissions concerns regarding proposed survey
 - Not in the scope of Planning Commissions authority
 - Lack of consensus
 - Concerns regarding term usage and comprehension
- Julian Stam/Julie Henry/Ellen Bryant – STR Concerns
 - Continued housing concerns

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

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

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the February 2024 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to disregard the suggested short-term rental survey. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and passed with a vote of 4 to 2 with the descending votes being cast by Councilors Smith and West.

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Councilor Prevost made a motion to advertise Ordinance 713 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to advertise Ordinance 713 after approval from Borough Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and did not carry with a vote of 2 to 4. The descending votes were cast by Councilors Smith, West, Decamp and Pearson.

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

Mayor's Report – none

Police Report - Chief Bodine reported the following:

- April 13th Keep Church's Safe training.
- April 20th Little League Parade.

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

Construction for the Banik Well Transmission Line Project should be completed by the end of March.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Aquatic Facility Design, Inc is scheduled to begin pool evaluation and core sampling the week of March 18th.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

All DPW, Water/Sewer and Office staff have completed CPR, AED & Basic First Aid training. Training was provided by instructors' Steve and Kathy Kreger from American Health and Safety Institute.

Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Police Chief Jim Bodine will be attending the 2024 Pelras Conference in State College March 13th – 15th.

Councilor West made a motion to accept the formal retirement notice of Chief of Police James Bodine with a retirement date of April 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

Other Business

Welcome Junior Council member Ellie Largey.

The Borough Office will be closing at noon Friday March 29th and remain closed Monday April 1st in observance of the Easter Holiday.

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Public Comments - none

Adjourn – Councilor West made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is April 8, 2024 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Kane Perry
Secretary/Treasurer