

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

Council President Matthew DeCamp called the regular meeting to order at 5:10 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, Chief James Bodine, Junior Council member Ellie Largey, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Chad Boyce (Wellsboro PD), Jeremy Cook (Wellsboro PD), Colleen Krise, Holly Hoover, Linda & Lewis Covert and Tim Cole.

An Executive session was held Monday April 8, 2024 from 4:00pm until 4:17pm for personnel matters.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

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 March 2024 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to advertise Ordinance 713 revising the Short-Term Rentals. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and a rollcall vote was taken.

Councilor Smith – No
Councilor West – No
Councilor DeCamp – No
Councilor Pearson – Yes
Councilor Prevost – Yes
Councilor Wood – Yes

Due to the tie vote and the absence of the Mayor the motion will be tabled until next month.

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Councilor Smith suggested new construction would have the right to apply for short-term rental conditional use to allow for growth in the community. The topic was not discussed any further.

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

Mayor's Report – none

Police Report - Chief Bodine reported the following:

- April 10th – Police Department will participate in the Head Start Day of the Child event.
- April 12th – PennDOT License Plate Replacement event at the Annex
- April 16th – Prescription Drive
- April 20th – Little League Parade
- This will be Chief Bodine's last meeting as acting Chief and he would like to thank the community and let them know it has been an honor to serve as their chief.

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

Construction for the Banik Well Transmission Line Project is completed and fully operational.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Aquatic Facility Design, Inc. is waiting for better weather to commence Parker Pool evaluation.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to pass Resolution 2024-01 Wellsboro Canopy Management Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Police Chief Jim Bodine attended the 2024 PELRAS Conference. The conference was very informative and educational.

Councilor West made a motion to hire Chief of Police applicant Chad Boyce with the acceptance of his resignation as Fire Chief for the Wellsboro Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor West made a motion to hire Water/Sewer applicant Kelsey Logan. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor West made a motion to retain James Bodine as an Administrative Assistant temporarily until the replacement Chief is trained. His position as Administrative Assistant will begin May 1, 2024 and may be held for up to one year. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

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Other Business

Presentation by Janet Geykis – Wellsboro Art Club

Janet was unable to attend, in her place were Holly Hoover and Colleen Krise. The Wellsboro Art Club would like to hold an event in September called Wellsboro Wilds Plein Air. This event would bring artists to Wellsboro to paint the downtown and surrounding area. They are going to bring more information for the Council to review at the May meeting.

The Wellsboro Borough has been awarded a \$200,000 Multimodal Grant. The grant intends to make Main Street safer overall for the community and bring the Borough closer to ADA compliance. The Council would like to thank Senator Yaw and State Representative Clint Owlett for their continued support and Residents Arline Buchman and Gabe Hakvaag for their time and assistance with this grant.

Public Comments – none

- Linda and Lewis Covert/Time Cole – Residents of English and Bodine are concerned with the amount of dust produced from street sweeping. The sweeper needs to use more water to reduce dust. They are also concerned with the use of brick in the cinders. This must also be disposed of in a proper manner.

Adjourn – Councilor West made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is May 13, 2024 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer