

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## June 10, 2024

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Council President Matt 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 Matt DeCamp, Mike Wood, Rhonda Pearson, Rachel Smith and Louis Prevost, Chief Chad Boyce, Mayor F. Craig West, Junior Council member Ellie Largey, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Janice Hughes, Jill McCarthy Patt, Brandy & Michael Hirsh, Tim Cole, Lewis & Linda Covert, Mrs. Thomas, Brian Burket, Anne Miranda and Linda Spencer.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith Made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 29, 2024 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

- Brandy Hirsh & Jill McCarthy Patt – Concerns regarding Packer Pool funding and willingness to help with efforts. They were referred to Brian Kennedy, Parks & Recreation Director.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilor Prevost made a motion to make the following changes to Ordinance 713 and then have the ordinance reviewed by the Planning Commission.

- Add Borough Manger to section 14.22.2.12
- Remove the items in parenthesis in section 14.22.2.13

The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **HARB**

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve updated signage for the Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce at 114 Main Street as recommended by HARB. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

#### **Committee Reports:**

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### **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 Prevost and carried.

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

Council President DeCamp opened the floor to nomination for Council Vice President. Councilor Smith nominated herself for the position and Councilor Prevost nominated himself for the position. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilor Smith – Councilor Smith  
Councilor DeCamp – Councilor Smith  
Councilor Pearson – Councilor Smith  
Councilor Prevost – Councilor Prevost  
Councilor Wood – Councilor Prevost

Councilor Smith won the vote with a tally of 3 to 2. Councilor Smith will hold the position of Council Vice President.

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

Mayor's Report –

- Mayor West thanked the Council for his recent appointment.
- Mayor West was pleased with the events over the weekend (Children's Fair/Pet Parade)
- Mayor West encouraged visiting the Laurel Festival activities. This weekend.

Police Report – Chief Boyce reported the following:

- The PD has had 4 interested parties for the open position within the department and hope to move forward once the application period closes.

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

### **Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center**

Pool Update – Pool will be opening this Thursday. Further action will be discussed at the Parks & Recreation meeting tomorrow located at the Wellsboro Area School District Administration Building at 5pm.

### **Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training**

Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry attended the 2024 PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey on June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and was recognized for her completion of the Certified Borough Officials Program.

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Councilor Smith made a motion to hire Tiffany Thomas as Administrative Assistant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

### Other Business

### Public Comments

- Anne Miranda – Anne has concerns regarding short-term rentals and their place in residential neighborhoods. She is interested in attending further meetings on the topic.
- Julie Henry - Julie is happy with the updates to the ordinance for short-term rentals and thinks the Council has done their due diligence on the matter.
- Tim Cole – Tim had the following concerns:
  - Quality of meeting minutes on the website. Public comments should be detailed and not just be an overview.
  - The Borough needs to realize that safety is much more important than appearances. Instead of focusing efforts on poorly maintained properties, the concerns should be sidewalks, cinders (composite of/air quality) and water quality
  - Complaints are not being recognized and the Borough needs to “do their job”
  - The Council made a poor decision in the appointment of the Mayor position. The other candidate was more qualified and would have been an asset to the position. He saw his resume.
  - Mr. Cole’s concerns regarding hydrant flushing were addressed by Councilor Wood, who has volunteered to coordinate a meeting with Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and the Fire Department to enlist help with the flushing.
- Linda Covert – Linda would like to see the storm drains along the parade route cleaned before the parade this weekend. They are filled with mud and weeds.

**Adjourn** – Councilor Prevost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm. The Next Borough Council Meeting is July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by

  
Secretary/Treasurer