

WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 12th 2024

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

Councilors Matt DeCamp, Rachel Smith, Rhonda Pearson, Mike Wood, Louis Prevost, Julie Henry, Mayor Craig West, and Borough Manager Louis Rachiele attended.

Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Jim Bodine, Wayne Gray, Cindy Copp, Jerri Curreri, Tim Cole, Lewis & Linda Covert, and Barabra St. John White were also attending.

Councilor Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 8th, 2024 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items –

- Jerri Curreri welcomed and thanked Council Member Julie Henry and Mayor Craig West for their service. Mr. Curreri commented on Comic Con success and expressed his concern about food trucks being allowed during special events, such as the Hometown Science Festival, and their financial effect on local businesses and employees. Examples of lost revenue were given as well as the impact of the recent tax reassessment.
- Barbra St. John White spoke and answered questions regarding the Home Town Science Festival scheduled for September 7th from 12-4 PM on the Green.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

HARB – none

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 Wood and carried.

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

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

Mayor's Report –

- Comic-Con was a success and went well.

- The two applicants for the vacant police officer position(s) have passed all Civil Service requirements.

Police Report –

- Chief Boyce called for an Executive Meeting to discuss personnel matters.

An Executive Session was held from 5:19PM until 5:35PM for personnel matters.

Public Works, Solid Waste, Highways, Parking, Water, Sewer, Parks & Rec, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Pack the Park event was a success and was enjoyed by many. \$3,000 was raised for pool repairs. A movie night is scheduled for August 17th from 6-9 PM at Packer Park. Please join us for a night of fun.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Councilor Wood made a motion to extend an offer of employment to the 2 cadets currently attending Act 120 training. The offer will include a \$5,000 schooling assistance provided all training and criteria are met. An employment contract will be required. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Amy Kane Perry will attend the 42nd Annual PAMA Convention in Erie, PA from August 11th to the 14th.

Other Business

Councilor Henry made a motion to approve the agenda of the Hometown Science Festival scheduled for September 7th, 2024 with the exception of food trucks. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

UPMC representatives will attend the September 3rd, 2024 Committee meeting to discuss plans for their residential properties and answer resident questions/concerns. Councilor Prevost recommended the Borough present UPMC with an agenda prior to the meeting.

Public Comment

Tim Cole – Mr. Cole has the following concerns:

- All sidewalks in the borough need addressed and Council needs to follow through and hold people accountable.
- The road surface sealant applied last year isn't holding up and the contractor needs to be contacted and held accountable.
- The DPW crew was observed cleaning the stormwater basin at 15 Bodine Street but, failed to clean surrounding stormwater basins. He would like to know why and believes the supervisor should be held accountable. He would also like to see more productivity and better time management.

Linda & Lewis Covert – Mr. & Mrs. Covert expressed concerns with the drainage pipe located at the end of English Street. During the recent storm water was unable to drain properly due to the condition of the drainage pipe. Mr. Covert asked about maintenance plans.

Wayne Gray – Mr. Gray asked about the borough creek(s) retaining walls and the status of the Army Corp's evaluation that was scheduled a few years ago.

Cindy Copp -- Mrs. Copp wants to thank Parks & Rec Director Brian Kennedy for removing hazardous tree branches at Hamilton Lake. Mrs. Copp also had the following concerns:

- On June 27th, 2024 a fire event occurred at Pinnacle Towers. During the event residents with disabilities on elevated floors were left in the stairwells for 90 minutes exposed to hazardous conditions and improper ventilation.
- The airflow is shut down from 7 AM-8 PM daily leaving residents without proper airflow.
- Asks the borough to consider adopting the 2018 International Fire Code.
- Asks the borough to reach out to the Tioga-Bradford Housing Authority on behalf of the residents of Pinnacle Towers.

Councilor DeCamp suggested a letter to the housing authority from the borough on behalf of concerned residents.

Councilor Prevost suggested the borough reach out to schedule a meeting with the housing authority.

Councilor Wood – wanted to show appreciation to our town's predecessors and former council members for their efforts and dedication to constructing our 3 local dams. These dams saved this town during the recent weather events. He would also like to explore grant opportunities for ongoing maintenance and possible dredging of the lakes.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor DeCamp – The motion carried and adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by _____


Borough Manager