

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

Council President F. Craig West called the regular meeting to order at 5:00p.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, John Sticklin, Mike Wood, Matt DeCamp, Lou Prevost, Joan Hart, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Mayor John Wheeler, Chief of Police Jim Bodine, Wellsboro Junior Council Person Hayne Webster, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, Ethan Chabala from the Wellsboro Homepage, Borough residents Taylor Nickerson, Amy DeCamp, Jennie Lusk and Tom Walrath.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021, Council Meeting. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Taylor Nickerson – As owner of the property housing West End Café and the First Position Dance Studio, Taylor stressed the importance of parking for the parents of her dance studio. The studio teaches children around the county and parents frequently wait for their children during classes. She does stagger classes with parking in mind and has policies regarding parking and drop off. She suggests instead of taking away parking spots with a no parking zone the following options:

- Enforced speed limit of 25
- Install a crosswalk to make it easier for students to cross from the opposite side of the street
- Mark designated parking spots to help with the parking issues
- During snow events, plowing closer to the curb to ensure vehicles do not encroach on the roadway
- Place a speed limit on the shared driveway

Tom Walrath – As a neighbor to the First Position Dance Studio, he has never been inconvenienced by the dancers or the parking of the parents along the street. He does not see the need to eliminate spots. He has noticed a problem with the speed of vehicles entering the boulevard area that may not be aware that it is a congested area with children possibly crossing the road. He also stated that the property located behind the studio has a rear driveway allowing them an alternative if the front driveway is congested.

Amy DeCamp – As a parent whose children attend First Position Dance Studio, she sees the importance of parking spots close to the studio entrance. She has personally experience vehicles entering the boulevard at high rates of speed endangering the children crossing from he opposite side. Her primary concern is the safety of the children attending the classes and to ensure they have safe options for dropping them off and picking them up.

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Jennifer Lusk – As a parent of a student at First Position and as a small business owner, she knows the importance of parking to any small business. She confirmed that the dance studio has policies in place regarding parking and most parents do follow them. She feels that the elimination of parking spots is not the solution.

OLD BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS

HARB:

Junior Council Member, Hayne Webster asked for a motion to approve the request for new signage, including a hanging sign, and lighting by Highland Chocolate at 82 Main Street with the condition that the existing light support and chains be removed to avoid redundancy with the new lighting proposed. The motion was made by Councilor Sticklin, Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

Committee Reports:

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

Councilor Hart made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the January, 2021 Treasurers Report. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to appoint Amy Kane Perry Assistant Zoning Officer and Assistant Right-to-Know Officer for Borough of Wellsboro. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to authorize a Borough Northwest credit card to Amy Kane Perry with a limit of \$2,000. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to renew the contract with Muirfield Energy for electric pricing at \$0.066610 per kwh for a term of 30 months effective May 1, 2021 for all borough electric accounts. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Air Brake Update – Councilor Prevost announced that an article will be featured in next month's Borough News which is distributed by the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs. He has also been in contact with Spotlight PA to see if they can do a feature to reinforce the importance of

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air brake regulation. He has also discovered from his contacts at Senator Dush's office, that as of 2007 there is an ordinance that states that all trucks must have jake break mufflers. He is hoping that that ordinance will help get signage on Route 287.

Mayor's Report – Mayor John Wheeler has nothing new to report.

Police Report – Chief Jim Bodine announced that as of March 18th they will be increasing their aggressive driver/DUI enforcements. He also recently spent three days updating the software and hardware on the parking kiosks.

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

Councilor Wood made a motion to authorize Borough Manager and the Police Chief to review and recommend changes to No Parking zones at Main Street and West Avenue intersection. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

The Borough has received \$1,360.00 in Turn Back funds and \$108,118.31 in Liquid Fuels monies from the state

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Woodland Park Update

1. Grant contract date has been extended to February 28, 2023 – the target opening date remains Memorial Day, 2021
2. The new playground equipment has been delivered and the new upper pavilion kit will be delivered this week.
3. The first reimbursement of \$135,800 was received today.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Other Business

Public Comments - none

Adjourn – Adjourned at 5:22 p.m. Next Borough Council Meeting is April 12th, 2021, at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer