

REGULAR MEETING OF WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Joan Hart called the regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council for the Borough of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, to order with a quorum of five members present at 6:00 p.m., Monday May 23, 2011, in the council room of the John E. Dugan Fire Station Municipal Building, 28 Crafton Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

PLEDGE TO FLAG- The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was given by all present.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The following elected officials of the Borough of Wellsboro were present

First Ward Council Member- Michael Wood

First Ward Council Member- Rudolf Scharf

First Ward Council President- Joan Hart

Second Ward Council Member- John Sticklin

Second Ward Council Member- Terry Bryant

APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

The following appointed officials of the Borough of Wellsboro were present

Superintendent of Public Works- Mark Dieffenbach

Superintendent of Water & Sewer Plants- Daniel Brought

Police Chief- Jim Bodine

Assistant Secretary- Florence Martino

PRESS:

Wellsboro Gazette- Natalie Kennedy, Williamsport Sun-Gazette- Bryan Robinson

VISITORS:

Peter Herres- Parks & Recreation Director, Chris Kozuhowski- Business owner,

Kevin Weiskopff- Chairman Firemen's Carnival

VISITOR- NO SMOKING RESOLUTION AT WELLSBORO PARKS- Peter Herres said he wanted to inform the Council of the Young Lungs at Play Program. This is a program from the PA Department of Health. He presented two resolutions for Council to consider, that would declare certain areas of the parks no tobacco zones. The playgrounds, pavilions, and the pool is included, however the pool is already a smoke free area. Pete Herres said Chief Bodine is very supportive of the resolution, however enforcement would be difficult. Pete Herres said he is asking the people at the parks to police the resolution themselves. Chris Kozuhowski asked if there would be a citation. Pete Herres said the first time offense the person would be asked to obey the resolution, the second offense the person would be asked to leave the facility. Pete Herres said there would be no monetary fine at this time. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the first resolution, seconded by Council Member Wood motion carried 5-0. Pete Herres showed the signs and said the signs are provided free of charge.

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CHIEF OF POLICE- Chief Bodine reported the past two weeks have been very active in the Borough.

BEARS IN BOROUGH- Chief Bodine informed Council the Game Commission has only one game commission officer for the county at this time and has asked for assistance with complaints concerning bears in the borough. He is getting numerous calls for bears in Wellsboro and mostly due to homes with their bird feeders still up. He said it is time to stop feeding the birds and if called he will start issuing citations. Chief Bodine said there is one bear estimated to be 450 pounds and several smaller bears in borough; they are looking for dumpsters and anything else they can find. Chief Bodine asked residents to stop feeding the birds. Council Member Scharf asked whom he should call if he has a bear in his backyard. Chief Bodine said residents should call the Jersey Shore office and they will send someone. Council Member Wood said he did not want to see what happened two years ago happen again. A bear was trying to get away from everyone and get back to the woods and it was killed. Council Member Sticklin said people should bring in bird feeders at night. Chief Bodine said bears could still find seeds dropped on the ground from the birds feeding at the feeders.

POLICE ACTIVITIES- Chief Bodine reported they made three arrests on the break-in at the little league fields. The Senior High students ride along program has started. Chief Bodine said he has been working with Mark Dieffenbach on the timing of the traffic light at East Avenue and Grant Street. The timing will be longer for traffic on East Avenue and Mike Kuharchik will set the time shorter coming off McInroy and Grant Streets. Chief Bodine said one of the officers has been at that crossing at 3 p.m. to assist the crossing guard while the traffic signal was on blinking.

CHAIRMAN OF THE WELLSBORO FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL- Kevin Weiskopff said as chairman of the Fireman's Carnival he was asking permission to have fireworks on Bob McCarthy's property on Fellows Avenue on Saturday, June 18th. He said Mr. McCarthy had offered his property to be used for the ignition site. Kevin said North East fireworks would be setting the fireworks off. North East carries liability insurance and is a fully insured and reputable company. This event would be Saturday around 9 or 9:30 p.m. at the end of the Laurel Festival. Council Member Wood said for years he was the chairman of the carnival and they had thought of fireworks for years. Fireworks would keep the crowd in town for a little longer period of time. Council Member Wood said fireworks would be another event that would add to the Pa. State Laurel Festival. Chris Kozuhowski said fireworks would bring the community together and he felt this was needed at this time in the borough. He said the community needs to come out and see their neighbors and spend some time together. Council Member Wood said the fireworks would be seen all around town, at the carnival lot, on Main Street throughout the town. Chris Kozuhowski said it would be paid totally by donation. Kevin Weiskopff said the fire company is sponsoring the event however the fire department is not paying the expense. local businesses have stepped up and are paying for the event. Council Member Scharf said he likes the idea of it being up on Bob McCarthy's property there would be no danger of anyone getting hurt. Chief Bodine asked if the event would be the size of Mansfield. He said he wasn't against the event just had concerns about parking

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and traffic. Kevin Weiskopff said it would be approximately 30 to 45 minute show. Council Member Bryant recommended the advertising for the event include recommended parking areas, including the High School, the Wellsboro Plaza. Council Member Wood made motion to approve the event, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 5-0. Council President Hart said when advertising for the event it needs to include designated parking areas.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- Superintendent Dieffenbach said the crew had assisted Dan Brought at the treatment plant with the screw pump. He said the crew as also been working to repair potholes and utility cuts throughout the borough. Superintendent Dieffenbach said they put down 18T of material today, 6 T was donated by HRI today. Superintendent Dieffenbach said they had started working on the new restroom facility at Woodland Park. Peter Herres said the park has reservations throughout the holiday weekend. He said the last two weekends there had been four reservations. Peter Herres said it would take seven to ten days to patch the swimming pool.

PLANT SUPERVISOR- Dan Brought said one of the lift pumps at the wastewater plant is going to need parts and the cost is budgeted for. He will be speaking with the Finance Committee when he knows the cost of the repair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 6:25 – 6:30 P.M. Personnel issue- Superintendent Dieffenbach requested Borough Council hire the two new public works employees. Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Council Member Sticklin motion carried 5-0.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT- APPROVE BILLS FOR 5/11th & 5/13th- Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- CREATE NEW ACCOUNT FOR DON KNOWLTON VACATION/SICK TIME PAY OUT AT RETIREMENT- Assistant Secretary Martino explained the Finance Committee is recommending a new account be established to pay Don Knowlton his vacation/sick time upon his retiring. This account would be at the highest interest rate possible at this time. Council Member Bryant made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 5-0.

POLICY TO FOLLOW FOR RESIDENTIAL REQUESTS- This would be policy to follow so each resident would have the same work done by the borough for sidewalk, storm water issues, and any property issues. Council President Hart said each committee should submit recommendations for projects. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to create the policy, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 4-1 Council Member Wood voted against the policy.

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BIDS FOR PACKER PARK TENNIS COURTS- Peter Herres opened the bid from HRI which was for crack repair of \$35,750.00, scratch course of \$12,712.50 and asphalt overlay of \$40,962.50 for a total bid of \$89,425.00. Peter Herres said he had hoped the bid would be between eighty and ninety thousand dollars. Peter Herres said this year's budget was for \$60,000.00 and the foundations had each committed to the project. He said Packer, Sweet and Eckert had each committed \$15,000.00 also the high school was giving to the project. Peter Herres requested the Borough Council to accept the bid. Council Member Sticklin made a motion to approve the bid, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 5-0.

DATE FOR LETTERS FOR JUNK CARS- Assistant Secretary Martino informed the Council that Secretary Keck had requested council approve the date of June 1st for her to send out letters concerning junk cars in the borough and have a 30-day deadline for residents to respond or they would be subject to a fine. Council Member Bryant approved the request, seconded by Council Member Wood motion carried 5-0.

DEP GRANT CHANGE OF SCOPE- Council President Hart informed the members of council to consider changing the scope of the \$200,000 grant. She stated the money could be used for filtering the water coming from Hamilton Lake, or to purchase new water meters or water exploration of new water sources. Council Member Scharf said the first priority should be water exploration. Council President Hart said it could be five years before a new water source, and we may want to think about filtering the existing water supply. Council Member Wood said Hamilton Lake is filled with silt. He said we should remove the silt from the bottom of the lake. Council Member Wood said years ago it would have cost a million dollars an acre to clean the lake. Council President Hart asked what the priority of the change of scope should be. Council Member Scharf said 1st should be a filter screen at Hamilton Lake, 2nd water exploration and 3rd the purchase of new water meters. Council Member Bryant made the motion, seconded by Council Member Scharf motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Council Member Sticklin requested residents be informed concerning the ordinance on mowing grass. He stated Rite-Aid hasn't mowed the grass and there are a number of residents who have not mowed yet. Council Member Bryant requested the media include grass mowing in the same announcement as the junk car ordinance.

ADJOURNED 6:55 p.m.