

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020

Council President F. Craig West 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 F. Craig West, John Sticklin, Mike Wood, Matt DeCamp, Lou Prevost, Joan Hart, Mayor John E. Wheeler, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief of Police Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan L. Keck.

The WASD candidate for Junior Council Person, Hayne Webster, Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, and Andrew Moore from the Wellsboro Homepage were also present, as well as Wellsboro residents Ryan Jones, Anna Wales, Raquel Rogers, Lou Covert, Tim Cole, Shirley Langs, Jean Pier, and Steve Gastrock. Kevin Connelly, Director of the Deane Center was in attendance.

Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Council Meeting and August 17, 2020 Special Meeting
Motion was made by Councilor Sticklin to approve the minutes of the August 10th, 2020 and the August 17, 2020 Special Meeting with corrections. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items-none

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS – An Executive Session was held on September 14th from 4:00 pm until 4:22 pm for personnel and legal matters. No decisions were made during the executive session.

HARB:

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the final color scheme submitted at 61 Main Street by Northwest Bank – work includes re-skinning the façade with brick veneer, spandrel windows, and EIFS band and coping, and new signage. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and it carried.

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

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

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the July, 2020 Treasurers Report. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-05, setting the fee for a zoning map change at \$500.00, and increasing the cost of Conditional Use, Special Exception and Variance requests to \$750.00 to cover legal and advertising fees incurred by the Borough. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

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Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the 2021 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for police and non-uniform pensions. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to appoint the following as Voting Delegates to the Tioga Tax Collection Committee:

Primary Voting Delegate – Scot Boyce Jr.
First Alternate Voting Delegate – John Sticklin
Second Alternate Voting Delegate – Susan Keck

Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to authorize the Solicitor and Borough Manager to move forward with enforcement proceedings against owner of 10 Grant Street for violations of the Property Maintenance Code. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to appoint Mr. Hayne Webster to the position of Junior Council Person on the Wellsboro Borough Council. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried. Mayor John E. Wheeler swore in Hayne Webster to the position.

Councilor Hart made a motion to purchase a Kyocera Copier for \$7,476.29, with the purchase being split among the general, water and sewer rainy day funds. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Police Report

Bikes on Sidewalks in the business district are making for possible accidents with most restaurants currently having sidewalk dining. Councilor Wood made a motion to procure signage prohibiting bikes and skateboards in the business district. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and it carried.

We thank the Tioga County Probation Department for contributing \$2,500.00 towards the rehab of the shooting range. Mansfield Police Department will also be contributing money to this rehab.

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

Community-Wide Yard Sales will be held in October on the 16th and 17th, residents are reminded that no permits are needed for this weekend. Yard sale signs are not to be hung on gaslights, boulevards, street signs, or utility poles.

Fall Cleanup will be the week of October 19th on your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day.

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The Borough has submitted an application to the Tioga County Conservation District's Dirt and Gravel Road Program for a Low Volume Road grant in the amount of \$81,979; the submitted project is Phase 2 of the stormwater system on Buena Vista Street.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve the request from LOTUS Pals car club to block 12 parking spots on Charles and Main Streets on the Green on October 2, 3, and 4th, 2020. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

The Borough has received the \$150,000 commitment from the Wellsboro Community Foundation for the new playground equipment at Woodland Park. The Borough is grateful for the funding.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve closing Water Street from Central Avenue to the Penn Wells Hotel parking lot and blocking off parking spaces on Main Street from Central Avenue to East Avenue if an alternate layout to Dickens of a Christmas is needed, as requested by the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

The Halloween Parade will not take place this year due to current Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings. Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 6-8 p.m. Residents who want to participate should turn on their porch lights. Those who don't should turn off their porch lights.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to extend the approval of Central Avenue closure for Deane Center outdoor events to October 17th, the closure is between Main Street and Water Street. Also, the outdoor events will continue on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th Saturdays in October from 3-5 p.m. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

The Borough is seeking applications and resumes for the position of Borough Treasurer. Duties include all human resource tasks and involvement in borough financial matters and reporting, and other duties as assigned by Borough Manager. Candidates must live within ten miles of the borough. Applications should be addressed to the Scot Boyce, Borough Manager, and are due September 30th at 4pm.

Other Business

Public Comments

1. Mr. Kevin Connelly – Deane Center- Mr. Connelly gave an update on how the Deane Center's outdoor events have been going. There have been many concerts and no incidents of any kind. They intend to have a Deane event for kids soon- a master storyteller will be scheduled to entertain soon.

Mr. Connelly asked that Red Skillet deliveries be able to park for a short time on Main Street to unload on 3 weekday mornings. This was generally agreed to.

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Tim Cole, a resident on Bodine Street, complained that many sidewalks need repair, the hospital is storing vehicles on their property, and that the Borough has no rental ordinance. He was advised that 12 residents had taken advantage of the sidewalk program this year, that there is no ordinance about storing vehicles with current registrations on landowner property, and that rental ordinances have been ruled unconstitutional.

Lou Covert, a resident of English Street, was glad the landowners fixed the sidewalks on Bodine Street, but complained there was a step involved; no handicap accessibility. He was advised that because of the topography in our Borough, there were a few places where steps were utilized to connect sidewalks. He also complained grass blown in the street was not being policed. He was advised that he could call the police any time to have this violation addressed.

Ryan Jones from Bodine Street requested Council consider limiting the number of fowl to so-many per acre.

Anna Wales from Bodine Street asked if the map changes approved earlier in the evening were going to apply to their request. Borough Manager Boyce explained that the new fees would only apply to any new applications.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. by motion of Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Sticklin, and carried. The next Borough Council Meeting is October 12th, 2020 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by 
Secretary/Treasurer