

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## October 9, 2023

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Council President Matthew 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 F. Craig West, Matt DeCamp, Mike Wood, Joan Hart, Rachel Smith and Louis Prevost, Mayor John Wheeler, Chief James Bodine, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Cindy Copp, Walt Colton, Kerry Gyekis, and Wayne Grey.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2023 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – none**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

An Executive Session was held on Monday October 9, 2023 from 4:23pm until 4:28pm to discuss personnel matters. No decisions were made during this meeting.

Councilor Hart made a motion for the Civil Service Committee to start the hiring process of a new police officer under the direction of the Wellsboro Borough Manager and the Chief of Police. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

Councilor West made a motion for the Borough Solicitor to draft a Memorandum of Understanding eliminating the residency restriction within 10 miles of the Borough line and changing the residency requirement to within Tioga County, Pennsylvania. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel**

Councilor Hart made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the September 2023 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to advertise the 2024 Budgets for adoption as follows:

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	Revenue	Expenditures
General	\$3,177,730	\$3,177,730
Water	\$1,032,450	\$1,032,450
Sewer	\$1,059,285	\$1,059,285

The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to advertise the 2024 Ordinance Amending Penalties, Sewer Rates, Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste and Water Rates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried. Motion was amended to include “which is not to include any tax increases” by motion of Councilor Wood. The amending motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve Ordinance Prohibiting Riding and Parking Pedalcycles on Sidewalks along certain Streets as presented and advertised by Cox, Stokes and Lance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to advertise bids for overhead doors at 28 Crafton Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried.

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

Mayor’s Report – Nothing to report.

Police Report – Chief Bodine reported the following:

- Chief Bodine attended a Crime Prevention Symposium in State College during the month of September.
- October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm the Attorney Generals Office will be hosting a presentation on Fraud Prevention at the WAHS Auditorium.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a Veteran’s Appreciation Ride Along to schools who will have children lined up showing signs with their appreciation.
- PD has been busy investigation counterfeit bills and preparing for Dickens of a Christmas.

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

Councilor West made a motion to set free parking in the Borough from November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Tar & Chip Sealing project is completed.

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

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Councilor Prevost made a motion to purchase a replacement truck for Parks & Rec through CoStar's program. The truck will be purchased using reserve funds designated for vehicle purchases. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

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

Councilor West made a motion to hire Jerney Bencus as Assistant Sewer Operator with a starting salary of \$55,000 per year plus benefits. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

All Borough Employees completed Annual Core-Ex Safety Training.

### **Other Business**

Reminder –

- Community Wide Yard Sales will be October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Clean-Up Week is October 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comments**

Walter Colton – Mr. Colton addressed the Council regarding the repairs needed to the curb located at his residence.

Kerry Gyekis – Mr. Gyekis provided information regarding the water issues that led to the flooding issues at the Colton property.

Wayne Gray – Mr. Gray resides near Mr. Colton and also has experienced issues with water runoff and pooling.

Councilor Wood made a motion to recommend the Borough pay for repairs. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost. A vote was taken resulting in a tie vote with Councilors Wood and Prevost voting in favor of the motion, Councilors West and DeCamp voting not in favor of the motion and Councilors Smith and Hart abstaining from the vote. At the direction of Councilor Wood, Mayor Wheeler asked that the tied motion be given consideration before the tie breaking vote was cast.

**Adjourn** – Councilor Hart made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor West and carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:32pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is November 13, 2023 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Kane Perry  
Secretary/Treasurer