

WELLSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 9th 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, Chief Boyce and Borough Manager Louis Rachiele attended.

Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Jerri Curreri, Tim Cole, Marc Rice, Andrew Moore, and Annabelle Johns were also in attendance.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 18th, 2024 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 18th, 2024 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 29th Special Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items –

- Jerri Curreri discussed the success his business experienced during the 2024 Dickens event and thanked the council and borough for their above-and-beyond performance and dedication. Mr. Curreri commended the paving crew for the excellent job they did on the alleyway paving. He also expressed concern with the creation of the part-time code enforcer and heeded the Council to be cautious and thorough when choosing the right candidate for the position.
- Tim Cole shared his concerns on sidewalk safety and expressed that all borough sidewalks that are not in compliance need to be addressed.

He also questioned Mr. Curreri's suggestions on how the code enforcement officer approaches their duties.

- He also stated he has been bringing this to the council's attention since 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Prevost inquired about an update from PennDOT regarding the crosswalk survey needed for Central Ave and Main St. A list of approved engineers has been received and will be presented to the Council soon.

NEW BUSINESS – none

HARB

Councilor Wood made a motion to reappoint Jay Erb as the Building Inspector to the Historical Architectural Review Board for a 4-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried

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 Prevost and carried.

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

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 Authorizing the Disposition of Public Records. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 718 Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Borough of Wellsboro for the Year 2025 with the

millage rate set at 4.1138 which does not reflect an increase in the tax revenue. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the 2025 Borough Holiday Schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 appointing Tioga County Tax Collection Committee Voting Delegates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to reappoint John Sticklin to the Grand Canyon Airport Authority for a 5-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to reappoint Dave Robinson to the Wellsboro Planning Commission for a 4-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to reappoint John Sticklin to the Wellsboro Planning Commission for a 4-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to reappoint Kyle Bower to the Wellsboro Planning Commission for a 4-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Part-Time Code Enforcer discussion/consideration. Interviews will be held in the upcoming weeks.

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

Councilor Wood made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Scott Tanner Jr. effective December 4th, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Wood made a motion to begin the hiring process for a Full-Time Officer. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry. The motion was passed by a 5-1 vote with Councilor Pearson casting the descending vote.

Mayor's Report –

- Mayor West estimates over 20 thousand people attended the Dickens Event. The event went smoothly and was enjoyed by many.
- The Santa Parade will be held December 15th, 2024 at 4PM.
- Accepting Applications for Police Officer Position.
- Mayor West would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season

Police Report –

Councilor Wood made a motion to reappoint James Daugherty to the Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term starting 01/01/25. After some discussion by Mayor West and the Council, the motion failed to get a second. Motion failed.

Councilor Wood requested the Civil Service Commission Chair be notified.

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

Councilor Prevost made a motion to reappoint Edward Owlett to the Wellsboro Municipal Authority for a 5-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to reappoint Tim Gooch to the Wellsboro Authority for a 2-year term starting 01/01/25, The motion was seconded by Councilor Henery and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to reappoint Tim Morey to the Shade Tree Commission for a 4-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to reappoint James Paxson to the Wellsboro Parking Authority for a 5-year term starting 01/01/25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

New employee Eric Kosek will begin his employment with the borough on January 6th, 2025.

Other Business

Dickens was a great success and enjoyed by all. The council would like to thank all borough crew members and residents for their continued support, time, and willingness for this event and Holiday Season.

The Borough office will close at noon on December 23rd and remain closed till December 27th in observance of the Christmas Holiday and January 1st, 2025 for the New Year Holiday.

Public Comment

Tim Cole – Mr. Cole has the following concerns/comments:

- Mr. Cole asked if borough employees are allowed to use borough equipment on the weekends for personal use.
- Asked is the road sealing company had been contacted.
- Asked if the boroughs water system had been flushed.
- Asked why only one catch basin was cleaned and not all on his road.
- All sidewalks in the borough in violation of borough code need addressed.
- Council and management need to be held accountable for their actions.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Pearson and seconded by Councilor Prevost – The motion carried and adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by _____


Borough Manager

Special Meeting Minutes
Wellsboro Borough Council
December 9th, 2024

Council President Matthew DeCamp called the special meeting to order at 4:45 pm in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street.

Attending were Councilors Matt DeCamp, Julie Henry, Rachel Smith, Mike Wood, Rhonda Pearson, Louis Prevost, Mayor Craig West, Chief of Police Chad Boyce, and Borough Manager Louis Rachiele.

Also, in attendance were Jerri Curreri and John Johnston.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Items

Transferring of Liquor License R-20386

Councilor Henry made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 as presented and advertised. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Public Comments – none

The motion to adjourn was made by Counselor Pearson and seconded by Councilor Prevost, the motion carried and adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by _____


Borough Manager