

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2024

Council Vice 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. A moment of silence was held for Mayor John E. Wheeler who passed May 5, 2024. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending were Councilors F. Craig West, Mike Wood, Rhonda Pearson, Rachel Smith and Louis Prevost, Chief Chad Boyce, Acting Mayor Matt DeCamp, Junior Council member Ellie Largey, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Jon Voght & Andrew Moore (Wellsboro Homepage), Jason Gehman (PRSM Healthcare), Julian Stam, Wayne Grey, Brock Repard, Jerry Curreri, Julie Henry, Sharon & Gary Goodreau, Tom Rudy, Mellisa Wilt, Ellen Bryant, Mark Thompson, Jant & Kerry Gyekis, Matt Peterson & Krista Peterson and Tim Cole.

Councilor Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS –

- Jerry Curreri – Jerry gave a thanks to the PD for the services they provide to the community and addressed concerns with food trucks at First Friday events and the effect on local businesses.
- Brock Repard & Gary Goodreau – Concerns about speeding on McInroy Street. Their concerns were addressed by Chief Boyce.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

HARB

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve updates and signage for East Avenue property owned by Prism Healthcare. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson 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 April 2024 Treasurer Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

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Councilor Smith made a motion to approve C & N Bank as the new depository for Borough accounts. Dirt & Gravel Account will remain at First Citizens. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the closure of the Northwest Savings Visa Credit card and opening of a new C & N Visa Lifetime Business Rewards Card with a maximum credit limit of \$30,000 with the following card holders:

- Louis Rachiele
- Amy Kane Perry
- Chad Boyce
- Ray Statts
- Mike Pierce
- Rob Cleveland
- Jeremy Bencus
- Brian Kennedy

The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the lot addition at Woodland Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2 Appointing Chief Administrative Officer for Borough Pension Plans. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 Eliminating Employee Contributions to the Police Pension Plan for 2022,2023, and 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor Smith made a motion to acknowledge that the Management Pension Plan held with Citizens & Northern Bank was closed effective 12/31/21. The Management Pension Plan is now in the preexisting defined benefit plan held by Principal Financial services through R.J. Hall Company, Inc. The plan was effective 1/1/1971. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Ordinance 713 Amending Short-Term Rentals – Discussion/Consideration

Councilor Prevost made a motion to submit the revised ordinance and revised Bed and Breakfast definition to the solicitor to draft a final ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and a rollcall vote was taken.

Councilor Smith – No
Councilor West – No
Councilor Pearson – Yes

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Councilor Prevost – Yes
Councilor Wood – Yes

The motion passed and will be sent to the solicitor for review.

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

Mayor's Report -

It is with great sadness we notify the public of the passing of Mayor John Wheeler. Mayor Wheeler passed away peacefully on May 5, 2024.

Mayor Wheeler served as a Wellsboro Patrol Officer starting on March 1st, 1971 and reached the rank of Sergeant. He became the Wellsboro Police Chief on February 9th, 1987, and served in that capacity until his retirement on December 31, 2001.

Mayor Wheeler became Mayor on January 1st, 2014, and served in that capacity until his passing. His dedication and service to our community was invaluable and he will be greatly missed.

Mayor discussion/appointment – Two parties have shown interest.

Councilor Wood made a motion to table the appointment until more applicants have an opportunity to submit letters of interest. A special meeting will need to be held for the appointment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

Police Report – Chief Boyce reported the following:

- PD has numerous upcoming events
- The Police Departments phone number was recently spoofed. Citizens need to be aware of scam calls.

Safety Concerns concerning speeding on McInroy Street

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

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve the sale of monthly parking passes to be used in Municipal lots only. Monthly passes will be sold for \$40 and available only at the Borough Office. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4 Update of Borough Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Roy Street dumpster update – New dumpster will be placed tomorrow.

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Parking spots next to the Deane Center on Central Avenue to be marked no parking for the FFA Chicken BBQ to be held June 1st

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Councilor Prevost made a motion to partner with the Partnership for Community Health to establish a tax-deductible donation account for Packer Pool Fundraising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and carried.

Pool Update – Pool evaluation has been completed. A completed report should be available in June or July. It was determined that the concrete is viable, and the pool will be opening this season.

Pool passes on sale – Pool passes are now on sale and are available online or at the Borough Office.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Councilor Pearson made a motion to begin advertising and interview process for the new Administrative Assistant position. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry will be attending the PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey on June 2nd – 5th.

Other Business

Public Comments

- Janet Gyekis – Janet gave testimony regarding her experiences with Short-Term Rentals and strongly suggested they stay owner occupied.
- Tim Cole – Tim had the following concerns:
 - Availability of meeting minutes on the website
 - Continued concerns for outdated SDS sheets provided by the supplier of the cinders used by the Borough. He has reached out himself as well to the supplier.
 - Condition of sidewalks in the Borough and lack of enforcement
 - Lack of scheduled flushing of hydrants – suggested annual schedule
- Wayne Grey – Short-Term Rental concerns about onsite supervision and enforcement to be at the owner's expense.

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- Julie Henry – Believes STR Ordinance is going in the right direction.

Adjourn – Councilor Wood made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm. The Next Borough Council Meeting is June 10th, 2024 at 5 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer