

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2019

Council President Craig West called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attending were Mayor John E. Wheeler, Councilors Craig West, Mike Wood, Matt DeCamp, Dr. Bill Yacovissi, Lou Prevost, and John Sticklin, Junior Council Member Katarina Swendrowski, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan L. Keck.

VISITORS – Joshua Allen from the Wellsboro Home Page, Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, Kevin and Jenny Connelly from the Deane Center, and Warren Berg, a resident of Buena Vista Street.

Minutes of the October 14, 2019 Council Meeting were approved by motion of Councilor Sticklin, seconded by Councilor Prevost, and carried.

Minutes of the October 28, 2019 Special Council Meeting were approved by motion of Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor DeCamp, and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items- none

OLD BUSINESS – An executive session was held on October 28th, 2019 from 10:05 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. for personnel matters. No decisions were made at this meeting. An executive session was held at 5:00 p.m. today until 5:15 p.m. for personnel matters. No decisions were made at the meeting.

HARB: UPMC-Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve all signs changing the name from Susquehanna to UPMC except on the monument sign facing Central Avenue which would remove the Soldiers & Sailors name from the sign. In consideration of the people of Wellsboro and the history associated with this name Council requests this sign be left as a monument to the past. The sign is not directional, and is far removed from the street. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried with Matt DeCamp abstaining.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the C&N request for their logo change on all exterior signage at 90-92 Main Street, excluding any with internal lighting. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried with Matt DeCamp abstaining.

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve Ordinance #695 changing four lots, 46 49, 51, and 52 Bodine Street from Town Residential to Rural Residential. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to advertise Ordinance 696 adding sheep and llama to the ordinance allowing certain animals to be kept in the Borough. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report for September, 2019. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to adopt the 2020 Budgets as follows:

	Revenue	Expenditures
General	\$2,971,970.00	\$2,971,970.00
Water	\$843,500.00	\$843,500.00
Sewer	\$658,890.00	\$658,890.00

There is no increase in borough water, sewer, or garbage rates.

Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to adopt Ordinance #694, fixing the Real Estate tax rate for 2020 at 7.133 mills; this is an increase of 0.00083 to the previous millage. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. This is the first tax increase in nearly ten (10) years.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to appoint John Sticklin to Grand Canyon Airport Authority as an alternate to Thomas Rudy Sr. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to accept William Karschner and Sons Property and Liability Insurance Package (for \$49,741.00) and Public Officials Insurance Package (for \$13,423.00) for borough insurance coverage; this switch provides the Borough over \$20,000 savings on insurance premiums. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to appoint William Karschner & Sons as Broker of Record for Property and Liability Package and Public Officials Package. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilor Yacovissi made a motion to sign the Fire Protection Agreement with Wellsboro Fire Department for an annual rate of \$70,000 for the years 2020 to 2024. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Police Report – Chief Bodine reported the Halloween Parade and Trick or Treat went very well. The movement of the date made it more enjoyable for everyone, given the rain and high wind in the forecast. The department participated in drug endangered children training, and will be attending a medical marijuana update and training this week. They are also involved in the Dicken's festival preparation.

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

The Borough and the Parking Authority is offering free parking from November 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020.

The Borough has received its annual PA One Call review and has a 100% response rate to PA One Call tickets – the borough council would like to thank the Department of Public Works for this achievement.

Garbage pickup on Thanksgiving Day will occur as regularly scheduled.

Wellsboro's Wastewater Treatment Plant ended the year with 10,552 Nitrogen credits for sale.

Councilor Wood made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-06 A Resolution in Support of HB 1775 and SB 101, Stormwater Facilities on State Highways. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve Schuylkill River Runners' request to hold a 5K race on Saturday, July 25th, 2020 at 8am, with the provision that the Runners provide staffing at intersections and at barricades. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Hamilton Dam inspection for 2019 is complete and has been submitted to DEP.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to sign a contract with Luke Patt for timber harvesting at Woodland Park for the amount of \$2,500.00. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to remove David Statts, a laborer in the Department of Public Works, from probationary status, effective November 12, 2019. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Other Business

Public Comments

Kevin Connelly spoke about the many events throughout the Borough and within the Deane Center, and how the Deane Center being open all day promotes heavy public bathroom use during these events and on a daily basis, as well. He asked that the Council consider funding \$2500 each 6 months to assist in the janitorial labor and in return, a member of Council would be appointed to the Board of Directors. Many other community arts centers have county, chamber,

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and or grant funding through their municipalities and he would like to see the same scenario here, as all Borough businesses prosper from the increase in pedestrian traffic.

Councilor's comments included; voicing concerns about the flood of like requests the Borough would get if this request was approved; asking if Mr. Connelly had made the request of the Chamber and other possible local sponsors; and, if sales would decline if the rates were raised to bridge the gap.

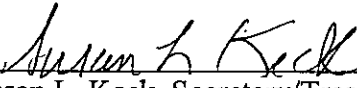
Mr. Connelly asked for consideration of his request.

Council will take the request under advisement.

Warren Berg, a Buena Vista Street resident, asked for an update on the promised street improvements. The Borough Manager responded the contractor is still scheduled, but has not given a firm date when the work will be done.

6:42 Meeting adjourned by motion of Councilor Sticklin, seconded by Councilor Prevost.

Minutes respectfully presented by


Susan L. Keck, Secretary/Treasurer

Wellsboro Borough Council Public Hearing Minutes

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Solicitor William Stokes, III opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street.

Attending were Mayor John E. Wheeler, Councilors Craig West, Mike Wood, Lou Prevost, Matt DeCamp, Dr. Bill Yacovissi, and John Sticklin, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan L. Keck.

Also attending: Glenn Kline, Lori Trostle, Ward Baker, George Brill, Simon Shaw, Skip Shaw, and Kristine Shaw.

Mr. Stokes entered the following into the record for the request of four property owners on Bodine Street to change Zoning Districts from Town Residential to Rural Residential: Proof of publication of the meeting, property owner letter, current zoning map, County Planning Department letter, Wellsboro Planning Commission minutes, zoning map with changes.

Mr. Kline asked that 6-8 farm animals be allowed to be kept on the 49 Bodine Street property, including steers, sheep and a llama. The request is also to include 49, 46, 51, and 52 Bodine Street in a change from Town Residential Zoning to Rural Residential Zoning.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve the request. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Stokes will prepare an adjudication with details on the District and map change, and the Ordinance to add sheep, llamas, and cattle to the horse ordinance using the same acreage.

Mr. Stokes entered the following into the record for the application of Dr. Kristine Shaw to Expand the veterinary practice into another building and allow boarding and grooming services: Proof of publication of the meeting, Conditional Use Application, Survey and Map of the property location, Tioga County Planning Commission comment letter, draft minutes of the October 23, meeting of the Wellsboro Planning Commission recommending approval, Dr. Shaw's letter responding to Zoning Ordinance sections, a top down view of the survey map, architectural plans for the new building.

Dr. Shaw described her proposal to expand into grooming and boarding services in a new 60' x 20' building adjacent to the veterinarian office. Soundproofing and glass kennels placed in the middle of the building will buffer noise. There would be no free access to a dog run, as dogs will be leash-walked. Sewer and water hookups would be required. Same egress and ingress, and parking will be used as the vet office.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the Conditional Use request. Councilor Yacovissi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Mr. Stokes will prepare an adjudication to that effect.

Minutes respectfully presented by *Susan L. Keck*
Susan L. Keck, Secretary/Treasurer