

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021

Council President F. Craig West called the regular meeting to order at 5:00p.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, Matt DeCamp, Joan Hart, Mike Wood and Louis Prevost. Junior Council Member Hayne Webster, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr, Mayor John Wheeler, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, Officer Brad Wilson from the Wellsboro Police Department, Borough Residents Janet Gyekis, Fern Zeafla, Cindy Copp, Skip Shaw, Simon & Christine Shaw, and Business Owners Todd & Jessica Webster.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

HARB:

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve the request from Ms. Jessica Webster for placement of an awning, awning signage, and wall signage for Hillstone Farms at 76 Main Street. The second floor paint will be refreshed with the same color, with the first floor door and trim painted in dark charcoal gray. The sign and awning are proposed dark green in color. Wall sign lettering to be 15" in height and white in color, with awning lettering to be 9" in height. HARB recommends this request be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin 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 Sticklin and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the September, 2021 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion on request to add Animal Hospital as a Conditional Use in the Town Residential Zoning District. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

The Borough office will be closed on Friday, November 12th, in observance of Veteran's Day.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve Brian Kennedy for a Northwest Bank Borough credit card with a spending limit of \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

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Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the 2022 Budgets for adoption as follows:

	Revenue	Expenditures
General	\$3,068,953.00	\$3,068,953.00
Water	\$861,900.00	\$861,900.00
Sewer	\$663,500.00	\$663,500.00

There is no increase in borough water, sewer, or garbage rates. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to adopt Ordinance #705 fixing the Real Estate tax rate for 2022 at 7.133 mills; this rate remains the unchanged from 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor Wheeler gave the following updates:

- The Tahoe is waiting for a side light before it is ready to be put in service for the Police Department.
- The Identity Theft Awareness event at the High School went well. There was low attendance but the presenter is willing to come again if there is additional interest in the topic.
- Chief Bodine recently attended a week-long training.
- Officer Christman presented information about Halloween safety to the Wellsboro Head Start.
- The turn out for Halloween was exceptional. Officers Cook & Wilson gave out glow sticks to trick or treaters.
- There has been an increase in the number of mental health calls in the Borough.

Police Report – Officer Brad Wilson gave the following updates:

- The Department is happy to have an extra vehicle. It has helped them respond to complaints quicker and limited the need to double up in a vehicle.
- There has been an increase in the number of mental health calls in the Borough. Unless a crime has been committed, they cannot force them to stay and seek medical attention.
- The PD are now required to investigate any hang ups to 911. There have been a number of calls investigated.
- There is an increase in DUI stops.

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

Councilor Wood made a motion to set free parking in the Borough from November 20, 2021 through January 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and carried.

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The Department of Public Works has completed directional flushing of the water system, flushing 322 hydrants

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve request to close Central Avenue between Main Street and Water Street on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 6a to 8p for the Mammoth Endurance Bike race. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Councilor Prevost motion to decline renewal of 25-year maintenance agreement with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regarding the Nessmuk Lake recreation area. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried 5-1 with Councilor Wood casting the opposing vote. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Councilor Prevost motion to authorize Borough Manager Borough Secretary to open a special account to allow for the transfer of Park and Recreation funds from the school district to the Borough until the time, the Parks and Recreation Authority is created. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Councilor Wood made a motion to accept the ratification of new contract for term of 2022 to 2024 for the Police Department and Department of Public Works. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Other Business

Public Comments

1. Cindy Copp & Fern Zeafla -Fern and Cindy came to address the issue of sidewalk safety for the residents at Pinnacle Towers. Many of the residents like to walk downtown to the stores and many of the do not drive. The main concerns are tripping hazards from uneven and broken sidewalks and snow and ice accumulation during the winter. Ms. Zeafla has circulated a petition and presented it at the meeting. Borough Manager Scot Boyce Jr. has reached out to PennDot regarding the lip on the bridge near McDonald's. However, the Borough has decided to have a contractor come in and fix the tripping hazard to ensure it is fixed and no longer presents a tripping hazard.
2. Kevin Clark – Kevin came in to give a follow up for the Wellsboro Community Garden. While it was a great year for tomatoes and they were able to provide bumper crop to the Wellsboro Food Pantry, weather did not cooperate for the Harvest Festival they had planned on hosting in October. They would like to double the size of the garden for next year and thank the borough for providing the space for them to do so.

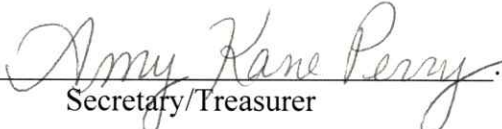
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3. Janet Gyekis – Janet wanted to thank the Borough for recent patching on King Street. She is very pleased with the results.

Adjourn – Councilor Sticklin made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Wood seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is December 13th, at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer