

Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020

Council 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In the meeting room were Councilors Craig West and Mike Wood, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief of Police Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Susan L. Keck. Attending the meeting by call-in on speaker phone were Mayor John E. Wheeler, Councilors Matt DeCamp, Lou Prevost, John Sticklin, and Joan S. Hart, Junior Council Member Katarina Swendrowski, Kevin Clark, a resident of Water Street, and Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette. The meeting was held in this manner due to the Corona Virus and the Governor's mandate not to meet in groups.

The Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Council Meeting were approved by motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Wood, and approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West- (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood – (2)

Public Comments on Agenda Items -none

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

Councilor West made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- (2)
Councilor DeCamp-yes
Councilor West- (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report for March, 2020. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp yes
Councilor West- (1)

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Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- (2)
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to distribute the Borough Resident Survey of Services on the back of next months' water bill. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart (2)
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to distribute the Community Services Initiative on the website. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart-yes
Councilor Prevost- (2)
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-03, agreeing to extend the face period of Real Estate Taxes to December 31, 2020, with the ten percent (10%) late penalty waived. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin (2)
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to deny the request to consider allowing chickens in the Borough. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost (2)
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to deny the request from American Tower to reduce the rent escalation clause in the lease from 3% per year to 2% year, or accept a lump sum buyout of

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\$310,000. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin (2)
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

The Borough Office re-opened to the public today. Anyone entering the office must be wearing a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. The borough asks that residents dropping off payments still use the drop box on the front of the building.

Councilor West made a motion to approve the LST (Local Services Tax) payment to the Wellsboro Fire Department in the amount of \$15,000.00 and to the Wellsboro Police Department in the amount of \$21,000.00. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin (2)
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

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

Mayor's Report- Mayor Wheeler extended a big 'Thank You' to the borough employees for their work keeping everything up and running during the COVID-19 emergency.

Police Report – Chief Bodine gave some clarity to the rumors about 'The Roost' front door- the door was damaged, but nothing was stolen from the business, and the 'Stained Glass Reflections' front door was also damaged and nothing stolen from inside.

Zara Johnson, co-responder from project Concern, has been called out two times to assist with mental health issues. She has been a huge asset to the P.D. Domestic violence has been on the rise lately. There has also been a lot of speeding within the borough limits.

Sue Sticklin, from 'Communities That Care' group, has been providing masks to the public

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

Councilor Prevost made a motion to adopt Ordinance #698, adjusting water and sewer rates as follows:

Water:

1,000 gallons - \$17.77 (remains the same)
2,000 gallons to 33,000 gallons - \$6.41/1,000 gallons
(Increase of 0.25¢ for residential customers)

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After 33,000 gallons - \$5.00/1,000 gallons
Flat Rate at bulk filling station - \$7.00/1,000 gallons

Sewer:

Flat Rate - \$40.00/month (for users with sewer only)
All other rates remain the same

Garbage:

No change is proposed in the garbage rate

Councilor Wood seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (yes)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- (1)
Councilor Wood (2)

The Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority's Wellsboro location is now open for trash and recycling drop off during regular hours, including Saturday. Curbside pickup of recycling remains suspended until further notice.

The paving of Grant Street, between Meade St and Central Ave, was supposed to have started today, yet was postponed because of weather.

Reminder to borough residents that the borough does not pick up large brush piles from yards and residents need to make arrangements to deliver the brush to either of the two compost areas available to borough residents.

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

The Parks and Recreation Department is completing annual maintenance for the Packer Park Pool. Once we get into the Green Phase, reducing restrictions on gatherings, it is believed we will be able to open.

The playgrounds at Packer Park and Woodland Park remain closed until further notice

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Councilor West made a motion to revise the Wellsboro Borough Employee Handbook's Drug and Alcohol section to include annual reviews of employee CDL's and the Non-Smoking section to include no smoking inside any borough owner equipment or vehicles.

Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin (2)

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Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West(1)
Councilor Hart- yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to accept resignation of Parks and Recreation employee John Freligh. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin (2)
Councilor DeCamp- yes
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart - yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Councilor West made a motion to advertise the open position for Parks and Recreation. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and the motion was approved by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Sticklin- yes
Councilor DeCamp- (2)
Councilor West (1)
Councilor Hart - yes
Councilor Prevost- yes
Councilor Wood- yes

Public Comments- Kevin Clark notified council that the Wellsboro United was having Zoom meetings, and have started plants under grow lights. When weather permits, they will use the Meade Street lot to plant raised beds within the fencing which was donated by the borough.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by motion of Councilor Sticklin, seconded by Councilor Hart, and carried.

Next Borough Council Meeting is June 8, 2020 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Secretary/Treasurer