

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

Council President F. Craig West called the regular meeting to order at 5:42p.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, Mike Wood, Matt DeCamp, Lou Prevost, Joan Hart, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief of Police Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, Andrew Moore and Johanna Vogt from Wellsboro Home Page. Borough residents Dawn Pletcher, Anna Wales, Ken & Debbie Ely, and Emma Backus.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021, Council Meeting. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items - None**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**HARB:** No HARB meeting in June

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel**

Councilor Hart made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Hart made motion to approve the April, 2021 Treasurers Report. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to draft a letter to Tioga County Commissioners addressing concern over the proposed low-level aerial training over PA Wilds area. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Mayor's Report - Mayor John Wheeler was not present

Police Report – Coverage is set in place for Laurel Festival. There appears to be a positive response to the placement of the installed speed sign on West Avenue. The data sets will be reported to PennDot.

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

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

The Wellsboro Municipal Authority has accepted the bid of \$112,319.00 from Dave Kronenwetter for the electrical services contract as part of the Headworks Project at the wastewater treatment facility. This project is funded by gas royalty monies.

Reminder not flush disposable towels or wet wipes or other similar products marked as “flushable”. These items are continually blocking private sewer laterals and borough sewer lines

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve request from Lotus Car Club to block parking spaces on Charles Street between Pearl Street and Main Street on July 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and the morning of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and the motion carried.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve request for relay for Life event to close Pearl Street, between Central Avenue and Charles Street, and Charles Street, between Pearl Street and Main Street, on Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 10am to 4pm. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and the motion carried.

NTSWA will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Event on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Registration is required by June 24, 2021 and can be completed at [www.NTSWA.org](http://www.NTSWA.org)

NTSWA is now offering electronics recycling for a fee per device at their Burlington and Blossburg locations. Visit [www.NTSWA.org](http://www.NTSWA.org) for pricing and to register an appointment to drop off your devices

### **Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center**

The Senior Center building at Packer Park is now open for reservations

Woodland Park Update –

1. All paving and concrete work is complete
2. The rubber safety surface is in place at the playground
3. The target date to open the park to the public is Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, giving time for stabilization of vegetation and removal of E&S controls – Bryden Street will remain closed until that time.

Thank you to the Wellsboro Lions Club for donating the manpower and materials to seal the concrete at the new barbeque pavilion at Woodland Park.

The Packer Park Pool opened June 9<sup>th</sup> for the season

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

### **Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training**

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to accept DPW Superintendent's Mark Dieffenbach's retirement, effective December 31, 2021. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to name Robin Cleveland as Superintendent of Wellsboro Water and Sewer Department. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to name Raymond Statts as Superintendent of Wellsboro Department of Public Works. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to ratify the hiring of the attached list of Packer Park lifeguards at the listed rates of pay. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to approve advertising and hiring of seasonal Part-time Parks and Rec employee. Councilor Hart seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Other Business**

#### **Public Comments**

1. Ken Ely – There was a street light recently installed near his residence. The light is a newer LED version that shines directly into his house and does not keep with the charm of the borough. His neighbors also have concerns. The Street Committee is going to look into his concerns and suggest a course of action.
2. Emma Backus – Emma has the following concerns:
  - Dust oil treatment on the unpaved portion of West Water Street. Is there any other option for this section of road? The dust oil causes an inconvenience to residents of that section and it is in close proximity to a stream bank.
  - The weed on the banks near King Street used to be weed wacked and maintained. Is there a reason they are no longer?
  - There are numerous dead ash trees located on private property in the areas of W. Water, King, Highland and Fischler Street. She is concerned about the damage they may cause if they come down in a storm and suggested they be used as firewood which may pique interest in cutting them down. The trees are being referred to Wellsboro Electric Company.
3. Ann Wales – Anna has the following concerns:
  - There is a well being drilled in her neighborhood that has been working during evening and weekend morning hours. She wonders if there is any regulation on the drilling of wells. She also has concerns regarding the contamination of her aquifer from the drilling of the new well.
  - The new LED lights are creating a greater amount of light pollution which distracts from the tourism to this area to see the night skies in places such as Cherry Springs State Park.

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

4. Dawn Pletcher – Has a hard time hearing at the meetings. She would like to see the council use a microphone and speaker system to make it easier for everyone in attendance to hear. She would attend more if she could hear clearly.

**Adjourn** – Councilor Sticklin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and the motion carried. Next Borough Council Meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5pm.  
Adjourned at 6:13pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Kane Perry  
Secretary/Treasurer

# Wellsboro Borough Special Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

Council President F. Craig West called the special meeting to order at 5:00p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street.

Attending were Councilors F. Craig West, John Sticklin, Mike Wood, Matt DeCamp, Lou Prevost, Joan Hart, Borough Manager Scot F. Boyce, Jr., Chief of Police Jim Bodine, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette, and Andrew Moore and Johanna Vogt from Wellsboro Home Page. Borough residents Anna Wales, Raquel Rogers, Tiphonie & Lee Stocks, Shirley Langs, Jean Pier, Judy & Skip Shaw, Christine Shaw, Cindy Copp, Jimmy Guignard, Ken & Debbie Ely, Richard & Patty Kramer, Dawn Pletcher, Lilace Guignard, Aric & Renee Root, Brian & Jasmane Burkett, Jane & Susan Mitchell, Steve Gastrock, and Emma Bockus. Non-residents Theresa Corona, Thomas Putnam, Bob Borzok, Tanya Harvey, and Andrew & Kristan Wales.

### Agenda Items:

1. Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve Ordinance #702, amending the Burning Ordinance. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 to 1 vote with Councilor Wood casting the descending vote. No public comments were given on this item.
2. Council President West asked for a motion to table Ordinance #703, amending the Keeping of Animals Ordinance until further input could be gathered from the community and other resources. Council Hart made the motion, Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried with a 5 to 1 vote with Councilor Wood casting the descending vote.

### Public Comment of Ordinance #703 Keeping of Animals:

- Patty Kramer, Morris Lane
  - The keeping of chickens teaches responsibility, self-sufficiency and how to be kind to animals. She feels the current proposed ordinance is too restrictive and the minimum acreage requirement should be re-examined.
- Christine Shaw, Morris Lane
  - Christine stated that she understands there are expectations that draw people to our borough but hopes those expectations can progress with the changing of times. She would like to see expanded opportunities for residents and suggests monitoring chicken ownership through an application process.
- Dawn Pletcher, Park Hill Manor
  - Chickens are an important and good food source. Having chickens played a large part in providing for her family when she was a young girl in Galeton.
- Skip Shaw, Jackson Street
  - Commented that the keeping of chickens should be determined on a case-by-case situation and should be dependent on the property.

# Wellsboro Borough Special Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

- Sue Mitchell, Buena Vista Street
  - Commented that since the recommended space for keeping of chickens is 8/10 sq. feet per chicken that there is no need for the minimum of 5 acres for their keeping.
- Steve Gastrock, Bodine Street
  - Does not like the limitation on the number of chickens that are allowed to kept. He wonders who was involved in the original animal ordinance and what series of events led to its adoption. He feels that more community input should be into the drafting of ordinances to ensure their concerns are addressed and heard.
- Lilace Guinard, Riberole Street
  - Is concerned how it looks to outsiders when they read and hear about the ongoing debate regarding chickens and how it may deter people from moving here because it may appear like the couple with the chickens were discriminated against.
- Emma Backus, W. Water Street
  - Commented there is an appearance that we are enforcing the animal ordinance while not enforcing others. Her example was noise ordinance in regards to loud mufflers within the borough.
- Andy Wales, non-resident, father of Anna Wales and Grandfather of Jude
  - The chickens have provided nothing but positive learning experiences for his daughter and grandson. He sees no negatives in the keeping of chickens and ducks.
- Anna Wales, Bodine Street
  - Commented that chickens make great pets. She can understand why the borough may prohibit the keeping of rooster, guinea hens and pigs but feels property owners should be able to make decisions in regards to their own property. The proposed ordinance requiring 5 acres for animals who must remain caged at all times angers her. She feels it should be regulated by property owners needs and wants and suggests we look at a ordinance currently in affect in Blossburg Borough.
- Cindy Copp, Pinnacle Towers
  - Commented that the keeping of chickens is a healthy, responsible, and progressive way to provide self-sustained nutrition.
- Jimmy Guinard, Riberole Street
  - Grew up in an urban area where up to 20 hens could be kept on a 1-acre parcel of land. He does not understand why the number of chickens should be limited here since we are by definition a rural community.
- Brian Burkett, Central Avenue
  - Acknowledges that Council is in a very difficult situation and commends them for working towards a solution.
- Emma Backus, Morris Lane (Mrs. Backus previously commented)
  - Commented that Council should further research the space requirements required for the keeping of chickens. Chickens provided educational experiences to not only their keepers but also their neighbors.

# Wellsboro Borough Special Meeting Minutes

## June 14, 2021

---

- Thomas Putnam, Hamilton Gibson Prod. Wellsboro
  - Currently keeps chickens on his property in Ansonia and believes they are less intrusive than dogs and other animals. He understands that certain items need addressed such as keeping them contained, the managing of waste to avoid odor and prohibiting roosters due to noise issues. He feels that the number of chickens kept should be addressed on a case-by-case basis and believes the rural feel is what draws people to our community.
- Patty Kramer, Morris Lane (Mrs. Backus previously commented)
  - Commented on the Wellsboro Gazette's coverage regarding the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilor Hart to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Kane Perry  
Secretary/Treasurer