

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## July 12, 2021

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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, 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, borough residents Anna Wales, William Knighton, Ron Comstock, Charles Swimelar, Ryan Jones, Emma Backus, Patty Kramer, Tim Cole, Tiphonie Stocks and Cindy Copp.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Special Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**HARB:** No HARB meeting in July

### **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 a motion to approve the May, 2021 Treasurers Report. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

The borough's allocation of Act 13 Impact fees is \$65,309.48. \$5,000 of this is committed to the Marsh Creek Greenway project, fulfilling the Borough's \$25,000 contribution to the project.

Tabled Ordinance #703, amending the Keeping of Animals Ordinance needs further discussion and will be tabled until next Council meeting.

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor not in attendance.

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Police Report – Chief Bodine is working with other local officials to obtain a STOP Grant for equipment allocation. The past month has been busy for the PD with reports on thefts in the borough.

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

Councilor Wood made a motion to authorize Borough Manager and Engineer to apply for Low Volume Road funds through the Tioga County Conservation District's Dirt and Gravel Road Program for stormwater improvements along Fischler Street. Councilor Prevost seconded the motion and it carried.

Street Committee made a recommendation on the request for removal of street light at 62 Pearl St. The Street Committee feels an attempt to redirect the light with a shield should be tried first before removing the light. If that does not eliminate the concern, it will be readdressed.

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

Woodland Park is now open and the pavilions are available to reserve, we ask that people stay out of areas where we are trying to grow grass

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

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to advertise for the Assistant DPW Superintendent Position. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Other Business**

#### **Public Comments**

1. Anna Wales – Has question regarding when Ordinance #703 will be addressed. President West explained the process of advertising the ordinance before it will be adopted.
2. Patty Kramer – Patty has the following concerns:
  - She has been monitoring public comments in regards to the keeping of chickens and has not seen any negative comments. She feels that chickens have their place in a rural residential zoning district.
  - Feels that questions regarding the keeping of chickens have not been answered sufficiently when they have been asked. Asked for further explanation when questions are raised.
3. Ron Comstock, William Knighton, Charles Swimelar and Tiphonie Stocks, all residents of the Pearl Street area, have concerns regarding the speed of vehicles traveling the street. They have seen an increase in the number of pedestrians, as well as an increase in the number of large trucks travelling the road and concerned about safety. Chief Bodine addressed their concerns and is going to look into the placement of speed limit signs on the street and the placement of a digital speed display. A stop sign may be an alternative but would have to be addressed through Council.
4. Emma Backus – Emma has the following concerns:

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- The presence of vehicle with loud mufflers during the time of 7pm – 12am in the area of West Avenue/West Water St. The vehicles are very loud and disruptive. Chief Bodine stated the police do enforce muffler violations but their focus has been in the downtown Main St. area. Now that they are aware of the problem in her area, they will refocus their effort in the West Avenue area.
  - Emma thanked the borough for the trimming of weeds on King & Water Street. She has noticed a number of individuals in the area removing dead trees that have been a concern due to their proximity to utility lines. She would like to see an announcement on the back of one of the monthly bills issued by the borough regarding tree removal as a preventative measure for future damage.
  - The Stop Sign at the top of King Street needs reset. It is currently propped up using the guard rail.
5. Tim Cole – Tim has the following concerns:
- The storm drain near Tim's house was cleaned today and he wondered if this would help the residences in the Nichols St area that have problems with water in the backyards. Scot believes there is a pipe that feeds into the storm drain that is owned by the landowner. If the pipe is no longer draining it would be the responsibility of the landowner to have it looked at.
  - Sears Street also is having water issues. After the ditches were recently cleaned the water is directing into people's yards and there are deep ditches with no shoulders. He suggested that Scot go assess the condition of the street and to see if improvements can be made.
  - The pipe in front of Tim's house under the road is collapsing from the increase in large truck traffic on the street. Tim would like someone come take a look at it to see if it can be repaired.
  - Tim wondered as to the status of the current sidewalk violations within the borough. While a number of residents have been responsive, Tim is concerned with the number that are still in disrepair. He suggested providing residents with a list of available contractors to make the process easier. Some sidewalks just need popped up and reseated, as they have moved over the years.
  - Due to an increase in foot traffic on Bodine Street, he would like to see a pedestrian crossing sign placed at the end of the sidewalk where most people cross.
6. Cindy Copp – Cindy is concerned about the inability to see the boulevards at dark. She says the gaslights do not provide enough light to determine where the curb is and would like to see reflectors installed at designated intervals.

**Adjourn** – Councilor Sticklin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and the motion carried. Next Borough Council Meeting is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5pm.  
Adjourned at 5:53pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_.  
Secretary/Treasurer