

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## August 9, 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, 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 from Wellsboro Homepage, borough residents Tim Cole, Linda and Lewis Covert, Kevin Clark and Steve Gastrock.

Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**HARB:**

1. Councilor Sticklin made a motion to approve the concept from Deane Center, 104 Main Street, for construction of Celia Finestone Music Park with installation of outdoor musical activities in the lawn area of the Deane Center. Final approval is contingent upon the submission of final plans/color schemes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood 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 June, 2021 Treasurers Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

Councilor Hart made a motion to advertise proposed Borough Ordinance #704, amending the Speed Limit Ordinance for Certain Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sticklin and carried.

Sunshine Law Act (Act 65) – Starting in September all meeting agendas must be posted on the website and in the office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. This is for all meetings with the exception of executive and work sessions. The agendas will be located on the website under the Boards and Commissions tab.

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor was not in attendance.

Police Report – Chief of Police James Bodine gave the following updates:

- The department is happy to announce that they have a mental health advocate collaborating with the department. Zach has just finished up his training.
- Last week's demonstration went well. The department was prepared with extra officers on duty and was handled without any incidents.
- The Chief recently did a segment on the Wellsboro Homepage regarding Unemployment Scams. There has been a recent influx of reports.
- The department is working on scheduling active shooter training to be held in 2022.
- Two data recorders were placed on Pearl Street and recorded data over an eight-day span. Data for outbound traffic (leaving borough limits) recorded 8,202 vehicles over the eight-day period. Using the current speed limit of 35 MPH only 3 of those vehicles were out of compliance. If the limit were 25 MPH, 290 vehicles would have been out of compliance. Data for the inbound traffic (coming into the borough) recorded 1,776 vehicles over a seven-day span. Using the current speed limit of 35 MPH only 1 of those vehicles were out of compliance. If the limit were 25 MPH, 36 vehicles would have been out of compliance. He plans on moving the data recorders and gathering more information.
- The department has had a very active month.

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

The material at the compost area on Meade Street has been ground. The wood mulch is available at no cost to anyone.

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

The last day of operation for the Packer Park Pool will be August 29<sup>th</sup>

The Borough has received \$9,000 grants from the Tabor and Packer Foundations for upgrades at the Meade Street Recreational Area. The Borough is extremely grateful for the funding which will be used for new dugouts and benches.

Councilor Hart made a motion to approve resolution 2021-02. The resolution directs the Borough Manager and Solicitor to proceed with the appropriate work necessary to incorporate a municipal authority or joint municipal authority to be known as the "Wellsboro Parks and Recreation Authority." The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

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

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to authorize advertisement for Director of Parks and Recreation position; with the position now a Borough employee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to approve new contracts for Department of Public Works and Police Department for 2022,2023 and 2024. Councilor Sticklin seconded the motion and it carried with a 4 to 1 vote with Councilor Wood casting the descending vote.

Applications for the Assistant Superintendent Position are due August 13<sup>th</sup> by 4pm

### **Other Business**

#### **Public Comments**

1. Kevin Clark – Kevin gave an update on the community garden located on upper Meade Street. They have had a good season for tomatoes this year and will be delivering bushels of tomatoes to local food pantries. They are hosting a donor thank you event on October 15<sup>th</sup> and invite the borough to attend. There are plans to expand the garden to double the current size in 2022 through the generous donations of wood from Hamilton Gibson Productions, the digging of post holes by Blue Ridge Cable and labor provided by community service workers through Tioga County Probation. Kevin is concerned with the clearance for vehicles pulling into the community garden. The ditch is too deep for low clearance vehicles to cross without bottoming out. He is asking that 18-20 feet of pipe and stone be placed at the entrance to allow for vehicles to clear the ditch.
2. Steve Gastrock – Steve has the following concerns:
  - Steve would like Ellis Street to be designated as a one-way road allowing traffic from Sears Street. The road is narrow at 12' with steep ditches.
  - Steve asked about the progress on grates on Bodine. The borough is looking into a clamp system to remedy the problem.
3. Tim Cole – Tim has the following concerns:
  - Tim asked about the progress of storm drain issues that cause flooding in the backyards on Nichols Street. Borough crews are looking into it but have not resolved the issue.
  - Tim asked about the placing of a pedestrian crossing sign on Bodine Street. He had approached the Council regarding this issue for safety reasons.
  - Tim asked about the current standing regarding the ordinance pertaining to chickens. The ordinance had been tabled and since no action has been taken the current ordinance will remain in affect prohibiting the keeping of chickens.

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4. Linda Covert – Linda came to support the idea on making Ellis Street one-way. The street is narrow and the large rocks that use to border the road have been removed and replaced with a large ditch. She feels it is dangerous for those who travel it.

**Adjourn** – Councilor Sticklin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hart and the motion carried. Next Borough Council Meeting is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5pm. Adjourned at 5:29pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Amy Kane Perry*  
Secretary/Treasurer