

# Wellsboro Borough Council Meeting Minutes

## July 14, 2025

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Council Vice President Rachel Smith 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 by all.

Attending were Councilors Rachel Smith, Rhonda Pearson, Louis Prevost, Mike Wood and Julie Henry, Mayor Craig West, Chief Chad Boyce, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry.

Also attending were Natalie Kennedy (Wellsboro Gazette), Wayne Gray, Bryan Berguson, Cindy Copp, Bob Janeski, Phil Hesser, Wendy O'Brian, MaryAnne Heston, Ken Ely, Kerry and Janet Gyekis, Teresa Capuzzo and David O'Reilly.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items –**

- MaryAnne Heston, Phil Hesser and David O'Reilly – Concerns regarding the sale of borough property located at the intersection of Nichols Street and Highland Street. Primary concerns were the clearing on natural habitat and the subsequent effects it will have on erosion and hydrology in the area.

**OLD BUSINESS - none**

**NEW BUSINESS – none**

**HARB –**

Councilor Henry made a motion to approve the signage for 123 Main Street (KC1010) as presented and recommended by HARB. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Henry made a motion to approve the awning replacement at 102 Main Street (Beck's Bistro) as presented and recommended by HARB. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Councilor Smith made a motion to ratify and approve accounts payable for all accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

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Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the June 2025 Treasurer Report. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

The following agenda items were not discussed due to the rescinding of the offer to purchase borough property:

- Consideration/discussion on vacant lot (between Nichols Street and Highland Street).
- Resolution 2025-04 Authorizing the Bidding and Sale of Borough Property on Nichols Street.

Councilor Wood made a motion to appoint Matt Baker as Wellsboro representative of the Grand Canyon Airport Authority. He will be completing the term left vacant with the passing of John Sticklin. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to appoint himself as council representative to the Wellsboro Planning Commission. He will be completing the term left vacant with the passing of John Sticklin. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Councilor Pearson made a motion for the borough to adopt the presented Standard Operating Procedure for Code Enforcement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to send the Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) Ordinance to the solicitor for review and advertisement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

A meeting will be held on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 3pm to educate residential and business owners on the newly imposed Fats, Oils and Grease Ordinance. Discussion on what to and not to flush or discard will also be held.

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor West thanked all borough employees, police officers, fire police and state police who aided in the success of the Laurel Festival and STPR events.

Police Report – Chief Boyce reported:

- The collaboration with Wellsboro Homepage has been very successful, and they hope to get further exposure on topics important to the community.
- The new changes to the red light at the intersection of Main and Central has been well received and he believes it will be very beneficial once school is back in session.

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- A Suicide Awareness walk will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10am -1pm starting at Packer Park.

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

Councilor Henry made a motion to approve the road closure(s) of Pearl Street and Charles Street on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, for Relay for Life of Tioga County. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

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

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

### **Other Business**

- Borough Manager Rachiele will be meeting with the contractor for the Main Street Sidewalk Project on Thursday of this week. A better idea of the timeline of the project should be available after the meeting.
- Borough Manager Rachiele has reached out to local veterinarian's to discuss the continuation of a trap and release program in the borough.

### **Public Comment**

- Bob Janeski – Mr. Janeski suffered a dog bite in the borough on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He would like leash laws addressed within the borough limits.
- Janet Geykis – Mrs. Geykis gave an update on the annual Fresh Air Event hosted by the Wellsboro Art Club. The event will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, with events held on the Green and at the Gmeiner. All proceeds go toward the annual art scholarship awarded to a WHS graduate.
- Bryan Berguson (Meade Street) – Mr. Berguson requested that Council look into the noise issues on Route 287 coming into Wellsboro. Discussion was held regarding the differences between brake retarder's and Jacob's (Jake) Brakes and their purposes and intended uses. Councilor Prevost has agreed to start working on getting signage for the area once again.
- Wayne Gray (Highland Street) – Mr. Gray discussed the need of speed limit signs on Highland and Fischler Street.

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**Adjourn** – Councilor Henry made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson. The meeting adjourned at 5:53pm. The Next Borough Council Meeting is on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2025, at 5 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_.

Secretary/Treasurer