

Wellsboro Borough Council Reorganization Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

Mayor Craig West called the Reorganizational 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 Mayor Craig West, Councilors Rhonda Pearson, Mike Wood and Louis Prevost, Council Member Elect Rachel Smith, Julie Henry and Matt DeCamp, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele, Chief Chad Boyce, and Secretary/Treasurer Amy Kane Perry. Also in attendance were Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette and resident George Laughery.

Mayor West conducted the swearing in of Newly Elected Council Members:

Matt DeCamp for a 4-year term
Julie Henry for a 4-year term
Rachel Smith for a 4-year term

Mayor West conducted the Nomination and Election of Council President:

Councilor Henry nominated Matthew DeCamp for Council President and Councilor Smith nominated Rachel Smith for Council President. No other nominations were made.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry and carried.

A motion was made and a vote was taken:

Councilor Smith: Councilor Smith
Councilor Henry: Councilor DeCamp
Councilor DeCamp: Councilor Smith
Councilor Pearson: Councilor Smith
Councilor Prevost: Councilor Smith
Councilor Wood: Councilor Smith

Councilor Smith won the appointment as Council President by a majority vote.

Mayor West conducted the Nomination and Election of Council Vice President:

Councilor Smith nominated Matt DeCamp for Vice President. No other nominations were made.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

A motion was made and passed unanimously appointing Councilor DeCamp Council Vice President.

The meeting was turned over to Council elect President Smith:

Nomination and Election of President Pro Tempore

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Councilor Smith nominated Rhonda Pearson as President Pro Tempore. No other nominations were made.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry and carried.

A motion was made and passed unanimously appointing Councilor Pearson as Council President Pro Tempore.

Appointments:

Councilor Wood made a motion to re-appoint Cox, Stokes and Lantz as Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to re-appoint Larson Design Group and W. Scott Bray as the borough engineers on an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to re-appoint Louis Rachiele as Borough Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henry and carried.

Councilor Wood made a motion to re-appoint the following depositories for the Borough: First Citizens Bank, Citizens and Northern Bank, and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried. Councilor DeCamp abstained from the vote.

Councilor DeCamp made a motion to appoint North Central Sewage Agency as the Wellsboro Borough 2026 Sewage Enforcement Officer. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pearson and carried.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to appoint Louis Rachiele and Amy Kane Perry as the Floodplain Ordinance Administrators for Wellsboro Borough. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to re-appoint board members to new terms per the following. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood and carried.

Wellsboro Municipal Authority –

James Bodine – 5 year term ending 2030

Wellsboro Borough Municipal Authority –

Jeff Wilson – 5 year term ending 2030

Wellsboro Parking Authority –

Curtis Schram – 5 year term ending 2030

Wellsboro Planning Commission –

Mark Thompson – 4 year term ending 2029

Kerry Geykis - 4 year term ending 2029

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Kathy Eastridge – 4 year term ending 2029

Wellsboro Zoning Hearing Board –

Harlan Crawford – 3 year term ending 2028

Blake Maxson – 3 year term ending 2028

Historical Architectural Review Board

Andrew Harding – 4 year term ending 2029

Councilor Prevost made a motion to appoint Louis Rachiele as voting delegate for the Pennsylvania State Association, with Craig West serving as the alternate for Wellsboro Borough. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Prevost made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025 with a correction to the age range for safety concerns of full contact football presented under Parks & Recreation Committee. The ages of concern are 11 and under and the minutes stated 12 and under. Changes will be made. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Prevost would like to revisit the discussion regarding the appointment of Building Inspectors in the Borough. The Wellsboro Planning Commission has recommended it be broadened to allow for more options for residents. This will be further investigated, and determination will be made if any changes are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

HARB:

Committee Reports:

General Government, Administration, Buildings, Personnel

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

Councilor Pearson made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report for December 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Prevost and carried.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 appointing Tioga County Tax Collection Committee Delegates. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilor Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 Authorizing the Disposition of Public Records. Councilor DeCamp seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor West made a proclamation to hold the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at 5pm with trick-or-treat to follow from 5:30pm until 7:30pm.

Other updates from the mayor:

- The new police car will be ordered and arrive later this Spring.
- The PD is continuing to move forward on their collaboration with the Lantern Rescue Foundation.

Police Report

Updates from Chief Boyce:

- The Police Department will begin planning for this year's events in February.

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

Parks & Recreation, Trees, Beautification, Senior Center

Employee Benefits, Negotiations, Insurance, Safety, Training

Other Business

- Clean-Up dates will be set with NTSWA and available for the February meeting.
- Hawbaker will be back soon to finalize the sidewalk project.
- Borough Manager Louis Rachiele recognized the Borough Crew for their dedication during the holiday season. With the weather events over the holidays, they spent many hours away from their families ensuring the safety of our roads. Their hard work is appreciated.

On Next Month's Agenda:

- Event Dates (Including road closures)
- Spring and Fall Yard Sale and Clean-up Dates
- Council Committee Appointments (2 Year appointment)

Public Comments

- George Laughery – Mr. Laughery would like to see updates made to the Borough Website and App. He suggests removing home addresses for elected officials and feels it is a safety concern. He also had questions regarding term limits for local government. Term limits need further investigation before Mr. Laughery's concerns can be addressed.

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Adjourn – Councilor Wood made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor DeCamp and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm. Next Borough Council Meeting is February 9, 2026 at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Amy Kane Perry
Secretary/Treasurer