

Town Council Meeting
April 08, 2019
Westport Town Hall

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Town Hall, with the following present; Bryan Gatewood, President, Richard Smith, Joyce Brindley, Gloria Alumbaugh. Bryan Gatewood called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge to the flag. President Gatewood read minutes from the March 11th meeting. The minutes were approved as read with a motion from Joyce, seconded by Richard.

Monthly Bills and Adjustments were signed

Payroll Vouchers were signed

Cemetery Deeds were signed

Water and Sewer Report: Presented by Bryan Gatewood

Street and Cemetery Report: Presented by Richard Smith

Marshal's Report: Presented by Joyce Brindley, Ryan Arbuckle added that the Charger is scheduled for maintenance tomorrow for a recall and maintenance.

Mainstreet Westport Report: Joyce reported that the Day of Caring on March 29th went well due to help from the EEEC volunteers from Cummins. Joyce stated that today someone said that Westport is "the pearl of Decatur county" and she is proud of all the hard work that was done for downtown Westport. Joyce reminded every one that Tax-Away Days are coming up with an Electronics day on May 18th and Toxic Waste in September.

Public Hearing for Water Project Regarding OCRA: Mary McCarty from SIRPC explained that the public hearing was part of the resubmittal of the water improvement project to the Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs. Mary stated that there are two phases to the application process which is a proposal and a final application. This hearing is required to be held prior to May 31st when the final proposal is due and then another hearing will be scheduled prior to June 28th when the final application is due. Mary reviewed cost of the project stating that this application is to receive \$700,000 in OCRA funding. The town will be matching \$46,000 of the water project. Mary requested feedback regarding water complaints/concerns from Westport residents to strengthen the application due by June 28th. Bryan Gatewood read and signed the Appointment of Public Hearing Officer Community Development Block Grants document during the public hearing. Joyce reminded people to participate in the 2020 census since that affects future funding for the town. Rachel Runge from Commonwealth reviewed the scope of the project referencing the map posted on the wall at the town meeting room.

McCullough Barn at 316 E. Schott St.: Wesley and Carol McCullough presented plans regarding a 24x24 square barn on a similar footprint as the previous lean-to that was on the property at 402 E Schott St. Wesley also petitioned the town to close the alley between his two properties which is an extension of East St. Bryan suggested that the council review a resolution at the next board meeting to close the extension of East St. Richard made a motion to approve the barn project, seconded by Joyce.

Kiwanis requesting permission to use lakes for Fishing Rodeo, May 25, 2019: Joyce made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Richard.

Update on Main Street and Highway 3 Project: Bryan reported that he has had no success in finding funding for the storm drain project after e-mailing Randy Frye and Chip Perfect. There was additional cost due to work done to plumb under the road for the manhole and final engineering fees. Bryan received recommendations to reach out to Martha from USDA, INDOT, and Decatur county. Concrete needs to be added to complete the manhole and new grass will be added to complete the project when the rain stops enough to dry out the storm drain.

Part-time Employee Position: Richard reported that Jay Maddux's surgery was postponed a few days. Gloria reported that the part-time position is needed as they head into the mowing season.

Tree Removal at 105W. Main/Child Safety Signs: Richard stated that two safety signs were installed on Mainstreet to remind drivers to slow down due to children at 105 W. Main and the park. Damon Land stated that he called four different companies and Frank's Tree Care submitted an estimate to remove 4 trees in Westport that were determined to be a health and safety hazard to the community. There was discussion regarding setting a precedent for tree removal around town and the Ordinance 2004-4 was reviewed by the council. The town council reviewed the estimate of \$2,540 and Joyce made a motion to approve the tree removal, approved by Richard. The Clerk Treasurer will send the home owner's letters to outline the specifics of tree removal on their property.

Changing S. Poplar into a Two-way street.: Barb Winchester requested that South Poplar be turned into a two-way street since there is only a one block area designated as one-way and the street is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic. Barb requested the change since her customers are parking at the side of her property which is directly affected by the one-way street. Bryan stated that we will need to file an ordinance to change S. Poplar St. to a two-way and change the street signs. Joyce made a motion to make S. Poplar a two-way street, approved by Richard.

Delinquent Letters —To extend disconnection notice: Homer Ellard requested an extension of his past due bill to pay \$65.18 on Friday April 12th. Richard made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Joyce.

From the Floor: Mark Egan brought up an issue with his water bill stating that he is not able to pay his water bill before the penalty date causing him to get penalized on his past due bill. Mark explained that he gets a disability check mid-month and asked if the town council would consider changing the disconnection date or late fees. Bryan stated that he would have the Clerk Treasurer and Deputy Clerk discuss some solutions to assist Mark with his dilemma and then revisit the concern at the next council meeting. Bryan mentioned the water rate increase coming to Greensburg in the next month. Gloria Alumbaugh presented the Nepotism form as required of all elected officials taking office.

Joyce made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Richard.


Bryan Gatewood, President


Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk


Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman
