

Town Council Meeting  
September 14th, 2020  
Westport Town Hall

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Town Hall, with the following present; Harry Pray III, President, John Organist, Joyce Brindley, and Gloria Alumbaugh. Harry Pray called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge to the flag. Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh read minutes from the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meetings. The minutes were approved as read by Joyce and seconded by Harry. Vote 3:0

**Public Hearing to Adopt Ordinance 2020-7 – Amending Water Rates & Charges:**

Council President opened the public hearing at 6:31pm for public comment. Keith Messer asked for a clearer explanation of the water rate increase and the council reviewed the chart provided by Bryan Gatewood to better explain the rates. Anita Larcomb asked if the public would be charged for new meters and Bill Padgett also asked questions regarding the sewer rates versus water. Jeff Bradley questioned the fire hydrant rental listed at \$0 and stated his concern for the water increase. The Public hearing was closed at 6:43 pm and a motion was made to approve Ordinance 2020-7 by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Signing of Funeral Deeds, Payroll Vouchers, Adjustments & Monthly Bills**

An Adjustment for Katrina Evans was approved by Joyce, seconded by John.

**Water Project Updates:**

Ordinance 2020-8, Revenue Bond Issuance was reviewed and approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Resolution 2020-9 for Rural Development Funds was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. The Certification of Officers form for Rural Development was signed by all council members. Vote 3:0

**Public Hearing for 214 E Main St. – Abandoned Building:**

Council President opened the public hearing at 7PM and Richard Hampton, property owner discussed his intentions for the property with the council. Richard stated that he used the property for storage and is willing to sell. Harry asked Richard to start sealing up the building to prevent animals from living inside and repair the roof on the back of the building by this winter. There were no other comments and the public hearing was closed by Harry.

**Ordinance 2020-9 – Ratifying the Action of Non-payment of Fire Hydrant Rental Fees:**

The Ordinance 2020-9 was read by council president for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and a vote will be taken at the next monthly meeting.

**DCMH Presentation on ETC Hotspot:**

Dennis Fogle and IT Director Raoul presented information on a Telehealth program funded by the COVID-19 federal funding that would benefit the community. They explained that a booster provided by ETC would be placed at the community building to increase broadband speeds so that customers could access their medical appointments on their digital devices, virtually while sitting the parking lot or the surrounding area. This would be at least a 2 yr. program that would potentially start in October 2020. The council asked that parameters be placed on the public access such as shutting down at 10PM and opening at 6AM which is consistent with park public hours along with filters to prevent inappropriate usage. John made a motion to approve the ETC hotspot at the community building, seconded by Joyce.

**Halloween Trick or Treat Hours:**

The council agreed that Trick or Treat Hours would be on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5pm – 8pm. Mike Bartlett discussed options for church with the council and decided to revert back to Trunk or Treating instead of the Bible Tour to encourage social distancing due to Covid-19. Joyce made a motion to approve Halloween hours, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Dumping at the Cemetery:**

Damon discussed concerns with the council about use of the Cemetery for dumping brush and foliage since people are also dumping car parts and trash. The council also discussed Spring/Fall designated dumping days and how to close the Cemetery at night. John made a motion that they stop Cemetery dumping, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

**Walnut St. One-Way Traffic Regulation:**

The council discussed issues on Walnut St. due to the road being a one-way, single lane road that people are parking on during business hours. The council determined that no parking lines should be painted along with arrows to remind people that Walnut is indeed a one-way street. The council also discussed designating E Johnson Ave. and Government Way as one-way streets in a future meeting.

**Westport Street Department to assist with resident gravel needs:**

Damon asked the council if the town would consider assisting local residents with gravel and if so, at what cost. The council discussed the idea and decided not to approve selling gravel to residents.

**Ordinance Violation Caps:**

The council discussed the ordinance violation fines with Attorney Scot Andrews and decided that no cap should be placed on fines at this time.

**Appointing A Utility Board:**

John suggested the need for a utility board to assist with yearly Water/Wastewater budgets, water rate increases and general oversight of the business so that the company can be more prepared for future projects. John stated that this would be a sub-committee that would put all focus on the Westport Water/Wastewater company and John would be researching this need further.

**John read the Westport Police Department Report.**

**From the Floor:**

Barb Winchester asked for the town council to take note of the neighborhood where her childcare facility is located when checking for trash and debris around town.

Amanda Organist announced the FOP Lodge 104 Fundraising event that is scheduled on September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 7pm which includes a free-will donation dinner.

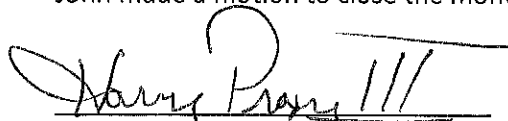
Damon asked the council what they would like to do with the old Cemetery mower since it needs over \$600 in repairs after being repaired last month. The new Cemetery mower is working well and the council suggested that Damon take closed bids on the old mower and sell it to the lowest bidder.

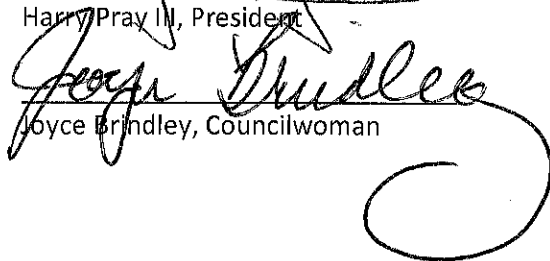
**Public Hearing for the 2021 Budget:**

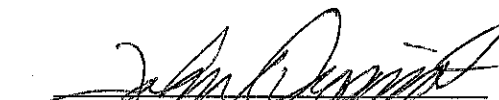
Council President Harry opened the Public hearing for public comment on the 2021 budget at 7:50PM. Bryan Gatewood asked where the budget item for Mainstreet Inc. is located and also asked if there were

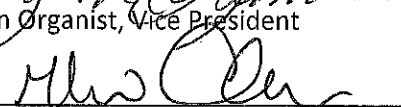
any major changes in the budget. Gloria explained that she was able to decrease some budget line items based on the town's actual spending and explained ways the council and department heads can plan for big ticket items in the future. John talked about the police department needing another police car in 2021 and how to make plans to replace town equipment on a more consistent basis. Harry closed the public hearing at 8:10 PM.

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

  
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Harry Pray III, President

  
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Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman

  
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John Organist, Vice President

  
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At: Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk Treasurer