

Town Council Meeting  
November 8th, 2021  
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. Harry read the Town Council's Mission Statement and spoke on the council's intentions for the town of Westport. Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh presented the minutes from the October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting which was approved by John, seconded by Joyce.

**Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations – Ordinance 2021-9:**

Harry opened the Public Hearing at 6:37pm for Public Comment. Clerk Treasurer, Gloria reported on the additional funds requested for the 2021 budget and that the over expenditure was partly a result of additional covid-19 related expenses such as more fuel usage in the town trucks and unexpected police car repairs. Carl Griffith asked for clarification regarding the budget and Harry answered his question. There were no other comments and the hearing was closed at 6:41 PM. Joyce made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-9 which was seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Public Hearing for Police Dept, Grant Application:**

Harry opened the Public Hearing at 6:41 PM and there were no comments and no submitted bids for the new police car. Gloria explained that the Public Hearing was to meet USDA requirements for applying for a grant to assist with the police car purchase. The public hearing was closed at 6:44PM and John made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Joyce.

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

John made a motion to approve all deeds, payroll vouchers and claims, seconded by Joyce. Council signed documents at the end of session.

**Westport Water Project Updates:**

Commonwealth representative, Rachel Runge gave an update on the progress of the water project. The council reviewed pay application #12 for Thieneman Construction which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John and signed by Harry Vote 3:0 Council also discussed the gas line issues with Damon and Commonwealth.

**Westport Wastewater Project:**

Rachel submitted CEI Task Order No. 2021-01 for council approval so that Commonwealth can continue planning for the new Wastewater Project up to bidding the project, which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

### **INDOT Compliance for CCMG (ADA/Title VI) – Resolution 2021-6:**

Harry presented Resolution 2021-6 to adopt the notice of provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the Town of Westport. Joyce made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-6 which was approved by John. Vote 3:0

### **Community Building Committee:**

Jayne Gault presented a document of summary and list of repairs that the Community Building needs to complete with financial assistance from the town. The council discussed their need and encouraged the committee to present their request again once they have received formal bids so that a more specific amount can be determined.

### **Rental Inspection Requirement in Westport:**

Town Council presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2021-8 and opened the floor for public comment. James Gillenwater stated that he disagreed with the Ordinance and no one would be permitted on his property for any inspections. Becky Gillenwater stated that the town should let public agencies do their job such as DCS, Board of Health, etc. and that the town would be adding another layer to what landlords already have to do for the state. David Mozingo asked a question about property taxes related to the inspection fees. Linda Mozingo stated that she agrees with Becky Gillenwater's comments that the inspections would just be more fees and also questioned the qualifications of the person doing the inspections. Kathy Rampley stated that she is already inspected by the state and questioned if her property is included in the criteria for inspection. Richard Rampley questioned the qualifications of the inspector and asked for a checklist of standards from the town council. Richard also stated concern that without a standard, the ordinance may allow council to "pick on" particular landlords. Roy Saylor stated that this ordinance was "opening a can of worms" and the town should be encouraging ownership instead of making it more difficult. Luke Hampton stated disagreement in the ordinance and stated that he agreed with other's comments. Carl Griffith stated that he was upset because council called him "trash" and wanted to discuss litigation of 606 E. Schott St. Carl argued back and forth with council regarding property issues and Harry made a statement about councils' stance on the Ordinance. John discussed the Rampley's mobile home concerns with Attorney Whitted and then determined that more considerations would be taken regarding Ordinance 2021-8 which would be tabled until after Christmas. Harry closed public comment at 8:05P.M.

### **From the Floor:**

Mike Hughes and Toby Vannalta stated that the Masons would soon be moving to their new building and announced that their old building on Mulberry St. is for sale. They stated that they would like to sell it to the town for \$28,000 or to anyone interested.

Roy Saylor suggested that the town give new homeowners free water bills for a year and asked about adjusted billing for minimal usage. John explained that adjusted billing was not recommended by the rate consultant.

Bryan Gatewood requested permission to contact the electric company to add Christmas decoration connections for the additional town decorations which the council approved.

Gloria presented additional water leak adjustments for council approval and the following adjustments were approved by John, seconded by Joyce Vote 3:0 – T. Kedrowitz \$150 water adjustment, D. Hamer \$169.98 water adjustment and J. Creech \$1,554.09 water adjustment.

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

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Harry Pray III, President

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John Organist, Vice President

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Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman  
Treasurer

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At: Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk