

Town Council Meeting  
March 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 opened the Public Hearing for the USDA application immediately following the pledge to the flag. (See attached public hearing notes)

Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh presented the minutes from the February 8th Council Meeting which were approved by Joyce, seconded by John.

#### **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.

#### **Westport Water Project Updates:**

The council reviewed pay application #4 for Thieneman which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John and signed by Harry. Rachel announced that the next Construction Meeting is Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Rachel summarized the Project Update memo from Commonwealth and Damon added that there are a few new meters left to install but meter installation is almost done. The council approved Resident Project Representative, Brian Sackett and Harry signed the letter of approval for USDA.

#### **Resolution 2021-1: Westport Employee COVID-19 Policy Update**

Harry read the Resolution 2021-1 out loud which Joyce made a motion to approve, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

#### **Ordinance 2021-1: Regulation of Mobile Homes**

Harry read Ordinance 2021-1 for the second time which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

#### **Condemnation Guidelines 1999-1 Ordinance Update:**

The council reviewed Ordinance 2021-2, An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 1999-1, An Ordinance providing for the Inspection, Repair, or Removal of Unsafe Buildings within the Town of Westport, IN. The Ordinance was amended from Town Coordinator to Superintendent of Public Works so that Damon Land can assist the town with examining properties for condemnation. John made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-2, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

#### **ADA Compliance Planning:**

John Organist reported that he talked to a councilman from St. Paul where they were cited for ADA non-compliance. John stated that St. Paul hired someone to help them move into compliance and the council discussed options on how to start ADA compliance planning.

#### **Water Bill Penalties:**

Gloria introduced a written Utility Billing Policy to the council for review since customers had been asking questions about billing protocol in the last few months. Gloria asked council to take some time reading the policy and asked for feedback before voting on a final draft at a future monthly meeting.

#### **Alley Closures:**

Roger and Melissa Deppe petitioned the town council to vacate the alley on the back of their property between Main Street & Mulberry St. exiting onto Elizabeth St. The council approved the petition and Scott Andrews will write the Ordinance. Damon Land also petitioned the town council to close alleyways on his property which the council approved.

#### **Annexation:**

Harry discussed the possibility of annexing additional streets or property outside the town limits and asked Attorney, Scott Andrews what the annexation process is. The council discussed different options and Scott stated that the process

can be very difficult if large amounts of private property are involved but streets and town property can be easily annexed into the city limits. Scott stated that he will prepare a packet of information for the council.

**Mainstreet Inc.:**

Connie Davis and Barb Winchester presented a project for new Town signs on either end of the town to replace the wooden signs that are depreciating. Connie passed out a picture of the new signs which would have brick columns and would be sturdy enough to last many years. Connie stated that Mainstreet has applied for grants to cover the cost and just asked for town approval. John made a motion to approve the sign project, seconded by Joyce.

**Kiwanis Request:**

Steve Hodgson requested permission to close Main St. from Range St. to the Highway on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a "Cruise-In" sponsored by the Kiwanis. Council discussed the closure and asked the Kiwanis to limit the street closure to Lincoln St. instead of the highway. Joyce made a motion that the council approve the road closure for a "Cruise-In" which John seconded.

**Letter of Permission from Mary McCarty:**

Gloria presented a letter from county grant writer, Mary McCarty who is petitioning the state for Covid-19 funding to assist local businesses with up to \$10,000 in financial aid due to Covid-19 difficulties. Joyce made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by John, signed by Harry.

**Spring Dumpster Dates:**

Harry discussed possible Spring Clean-up dates and the council decided to order 2 dumpsters for April 22, 2021.

**From the Floor:**

Gloria presented the annual Clean Lake Maintenance Program (for lake at Waterplant) to the town council since the total cost is \$3400 which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John

William Brewer asked why parking on Walnut Street was closed next to his business and discussed parking concerns with the council.

Joyce talked about rural internet and Decatur counties effort to improve internet in rural areas.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry Pray III, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Organist, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman

\_\_\_\_\_  
At: Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk Treasurer