

Town Council Meeting
April 12th, 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, 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 presented the minutes from the March 8th Council Meeting which were approved by Joyce, seconded by Harry.

Signing of Funeral Deeds, Payroll Vouchers, & Monthly Bills

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

Westport Water Project Updates:

Al Stong from Commonwealth, introduced Theresa Criss-Hartwig who is replacing Melanie Douglas. Al announced that the next construction meeting is Tuesday, April 13th starting at 9AM. The council reviewed pay application #5 for Thieneman Construction which was approved by Joyce, seconded and signed by Harry. Commonwealth also presented change order B-2: Water Main Work along Schott and Poplar with a 30-day calendar extension, which was approved by Joyce, seconded by Harry.

Westport Community Building Committee:

Kenny Marshall, Vice President of the Westport Community Building Committee submitted information regarding the repairs needed at the Westport Community Building. Jayne Gault presented the repairs wish list and the council discussed scheduling a preliminary planning meeting with Jodi Comer from OCRA to determine what type of funding may be available before moving forward with bids. Gloria stated that she could assist with the coordination since she is meeting with Jodi the next day.

ADA Compliance Planning – John Organist:

Tabled until further notice

Utility Policy & Procedures Manual:

Gloria presented the Utility Policy & Procedures Manual which was approved by Joyce, seconded by Harry.

Alley Closures:

The Council reviewed Ordinance 2021-3 and Ordinance 2021-4 regarding vacating a public way/alley for an alley closure petitioned by the Deppes and another alley closure petitioned by Damon Land. Harry opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-3 at 6:45pm for public comment. Melissa Deppe commented that no one uses the alley for access at this time. No other comments were made. Harry opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-4 at 6:47pm and there were no public comments. Joyce made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-3 and Ordinance 2021-4 at their 1st reading with majority approval, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Abandoned Properties/Failure to comply: 705 E North St., 602 N Deer Run:

Attorney Scott Andrews stated that when properties fail to comply over an extended amount of time, the Town of Westport has the option to take the property owner's to small claims court. The council discussed the legal process to move forward with condemnation and the attorney stated that the Utility Superintendent needs to submit home inspections to the council and then the council should set a

public hearing to start the condemnation process. Attorney Andrews stated that he would give the clerk a form letter to send to the property owners for condemnation proceedings.

Harry reviewed the monthly police report for March 2021.

From the Floor:

William Brewer and Roy Saylor asked why parking on Walnut Street was closed next to Will's business and discussed parking concerns with the council. Harry stated that the town is legally liable and until there is a legal reason to open the street up to parking, the street will remain a no parking zone. Keith Messer mentioned the flood zone on his property and asked what the next steps were to repairing the storm drains. Damon stated that the town needs a land easement from the property owners of a nearby field to be able to drain the water off of Keith's property. Attorney Andrews asked the clerk to send him a copy of the Strand Engineering report. Connie Davis gave an update on the progress with the Mainstreet grant to improve the town welcome signs. Connie also reported on a successful community easter egg hunt. Gloria presented estimates for the Town Hall bathroom repair to the town council since the total cost is \$2200 which was approved by Joyce, seconded by Harry. Gloria presented an estimate for sewer line repairs at an estimated cost of \$650 which would also be completed by the save contractor and the estimate was approved by Joyce, seconded by Harry. Gloria presented the new insurance rates for May 2021 and the council voted to change the employee dependent cost from 40% to 35% as recommended by Todd Colvin since the cost went up 11% this year. Joyce made a motion to approve the 35% employee portion for dependents, seconded by Harry.

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

Harry Pray III, President

John Organist, Vice President

Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman

At: Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk Treasurer