

Town Council Meeting
September 13th, 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, and Gloria Alumbaugh. Harry Pray called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge to the flag. Harry opened the 2022 Budget Adoption Hearing for comment (see minutes). Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh presented the minutes from the August 9th Council Meeting along with the August 9th Budget Hearing and August 10th Condemnation Hearing minutes which was approved by John, seconded by Harry.

Signing of Funeral Deeds, Payroll Vouchers, & Monthly Bills

John 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:

Rachel gave an update on the progress of the water project. The council reviewed pay application #10 for Thieneman Construction which was approved by John, seconded by Harry and signed by Harry. Commonwealth also presented change order A-7 which was approved by John, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Rachel added that annual attendance to Wastewater training is needed to maintain compliance and reminded Council that someone needs to attend the training before March 2022.

Halloween Hours:

Harry announced that Halloween hours would be October 30th from 5pm to 7pm. John made a motion to approve Halloween hours, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Rental Inspection Requirement in Westport:

This topic was tabled.

Condemned Properties: 705 E North St. (Foster), 108 S Poplar (Toler), 308 S. Walnut (Griffith), 202 N East (Bunting)

Gloria reported on the progress of each property and the council discussed options for next steps with Attorney Whitted. John made a motion to assign legal action to all four of the properties which Harry seconded. Vote 2:0

Traffic Court/Nuisance Ordinance:

Attorney Whitted stated that he recommends that the council establish a committee including one council member, another town employee or two and town members to review all of Westport's ordinances to assess what is really needed in regards to a Nuisance Ordinance and what is involved in creating a town traffic court. Attorney Whitted stated that traffic court costs need to be explored and communication with other local municipalities should be pursued as well.

Burn Barrels – Delores Honeycutt:

Delores asked what the rule is for burn barrels in town. Damon stated that the town refers back to State Law which allows only natural, clean materials to be burned. Delores asked if burning household trash and construction materials is permissible and Damon stated no.

Troy Emery – Variance Permission:

Troy presented a proposal to build a larger barn on his property at 905 N. St Rd. 3, that would expand past the recommended county zoning regulations. The council reviewed the request and John made a motion to approve the variance pending ordinance review, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Ordinance 1998-2 Noxious Weeds (Pasture Definition):

Attorney Whitted recommends that this also be reviewed with a committee to clearly define the ordinance since it is currently unclear as to what defines a pasture.

Schedule Fall Clean-up:

Harry announced that Fall Clean-up Day which will include 2 dumpsters will be scheduled on October 21st which was approved by John, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Mainstreet Trash Cans:

Damon discussed the trash cans on Main street that are being abused by local renters who are putting their dog's feces into the trash cans along with household trash, baby diapers, and human feces instead of paying for trash pick-up. John made a motion to remove all of the trash cans except the one at Pizzalicious, and the pocket park which was seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Mainstreet Inc Road Closure Request:

Connie Davis asked permission for Mainstreet Inc. to close Main street in front of the park and along the east side for the Fall Festival on October 9th form 11AM to 6PM. John approved the road closure, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

From the Floor:

Rita Heitz requested an adjustment to her water bill for a leak that did not qualify for an adjustment under the leak adjustment guidelines and council denied the request. Rita also made a complaint that her neighbor is dumping cat litter in the alley and onto her property behind her house.

Walter Hunter asked the council what they are going to do about the raw sewage leak at 312 E Sycamore St. After much discussion, Damon stated that he will reach out to IDEM since DCS, County Board of Health and the property owner have not resolved the issue and the town is running out of options. Walter commented that Danny Toler has 7 dogs. Walter also thanked Damon and the street department for fixing the leak/hole on Range St. along with cleaning out his ditch and fixing some other leaks in town.

Damon requested council permission to pay for emergency sewer main repairs at South Decatur Elementary School that will cost nearly \$10,000.00 and \$8,500.00 to clean out the lagoons at the waterplant. John approved of both invoices, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

Roy Saylor suggested that the town offer new home owners, free water for a year as an incentive to attract more home owners to town.

Gloria presented the attorney agreement which Harry and Alex signed.

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

Harry Pray III, President

John Organist, Vice President

Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman
Treasurer

At: Gloria Alumbaugh, Clerk