

Town Council Meeting
July 11th, 2022
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** – 786 W. Washington St. for comment at 6:31pm

Beth Pigmon introduced the council to her attorney, Chris Tebbe and stated her intentions for the property at 786 W. Washington St. Beth stated that the property improvements would take a long time and her goal is to have the structural repairs completed by the end of the year and plumbing/septic completed by the end of next year.

Joyce Brindley asked Beth for a shorter timeline, focusing on the outside of the structure and cleaning around the outside of the house for safety reasons.

John Organist stated that he understood that repairs can take longer due to Covid delays and is willing to work with Beth as long as she obtains the proper work permits and completes inspections in a legal manner.

Harry Pray reminded Beth that the property needs to be cleaned up in a legal manner, refraining from illegal burns and unsafe building practices.

There were no public comments so John made a motion that the council approve Beth's request to allow her a year to improve the property with a check-in hearing at 6 months. The council also set expectations that there will be no more illegal burns, no more trash violations and the outside of the structure and property will remain trash free. The Council also put the property fine on hold. Joyce seconded these motions. Vote 3:0 John closed the public hearing at 6:44pm, seconded by Joyce.

Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh presented the minutes from the June 13th Council Meeting which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John.

Signing of Payroll Vouchers, & Monthly Bills:

Joyce made a motion to approve all payroll vouchers and claims, seconded by John.

Utility Receipt Tax:

Gloria presented two options on how the council could adjust the water rates due to the new legislation in place on July 1st. Joyce made a motion that they send out the letter to customers explaining that the URT tax adjustment would be taken to offset rising operating costs since the rate decrease was 1.2820% of the customer bill, which was seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Cemetery Rates:

After much discussion regarding the cemetery rates the council proposed that an ordinance be written to increase the rates and read in the upcoming council meetings which Joyce approved, seconded by John.

Animal Ordinance Update:

Harry stated that the Ordinance Committee is working on a final draft of the new animal ordinance which will be presented at the next council meeting. Paul Carmer submitted a formal complaint regarding animals "at large" on his property. John recommended Mr. Carmer call the Decatur County Humane Society for assistance also.

Hiring a Capital Asset Specialist:

Gloria requested permission to pursue a capital asset specialist to update the town and utility asset plans with depreciation costs to meet State Board of Accounts Standards. Gloria stated that she has received one quote which included initial costs up to \$2000 per entity. Joyce approved hiring a capital asset specialist, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Dam Safety:

The council, Damon Land and Carl Griffith discussed safety issues at the Dam. Damon stated that DNR determined that the low head dam is not a safe place to install a boat launch, thus it is not safe for others to be using the property to access the creek either. Harry reminded the public that while it is town owned property, the dam is not public property and people are also not to park at the dam after 10pm.

2023 Budget Line Items:

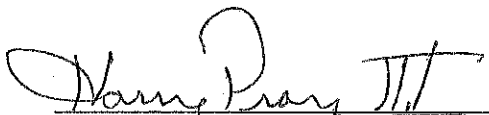
Gloria presented a quote for updating the town website which would be approximately \$2750 by MLT Innovations. Gloria also presented estimates to pave the Town Hall parking lot which was \$45,263.02 and paving at Westport Water Company totaling \$27,649.71. The Police Department also requested concrete work in front of the building estimated at \$12,000. John made a motion to approve all budget projects submitted to the 2023 budget which was seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

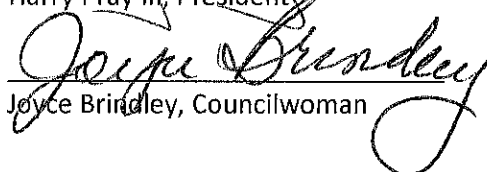
The council also discussed the pending police department vehicle grant from USDA and John made a motion to move forward with purchasing the vehicle so that the town does not lose the opportunity even if the grant cannot be obtained which was seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0


From the Floor:


Gloria presented one adjustment for council approval. Joyce made a motion to approve a sewer adjustment for Bryan & Susie Petty due to a leaking garden hose which John seconded. Vote 3:0 Damon Land spoke on behalf of the Community Building Committee who is requesting an increase in service cost from \$2500 to \$6000 a year. Damon was also asked to present the Roy Saylor housing project east of Kathleen drive stating that the Area Planning Committee needs a letter of town approval. John made a motion to approve the housing addition, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0 Bryan Gatewood announced that the Westport signs will begin construction by the end of July. Ila Cottone requested an answer regarding the 3-way liquor license in Westport and Harry stated that the council would make a final vote at the August monthly council meeting to determine if she would be granted the license.

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


Harry Pray III, President


Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman


John Organist, Vice President


At: Gloria Alumbaugh