

Town Council Meeting
February 13th, 2023
Westport Town Hall

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Community Building, 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.

Public Hearing for 508 N Range St.:

Harry opened the public hearing at 6:32pm and Beth Pigmon spoke on behalf of her father George Cann. Beth stated that her dad has written down his investments into the property for the council to review and she handed them handwritten calculations that her father has invested over \$60,000 in labor to repair the property. Beth stated that her father's intention is to get the building up to code and all windows and doors are sealed. Beth confirmed that no one is living in the structures, and they are working to make the property safe. Attorney Chris Tebbe appeared with Beth stating he is representing both Beth and George Cann. There was no other public comment and Harry closed the public hearing. John asked Beth to report back to the council on April 10th during the monthly council meeting at 6:30pm. John asked that Beth complete building inspections and review their investments with a building contractor to come up with a timeline of repairs and total investment. Harry stated that the property is going to take \$100,000 or more to repair and Beth stated that they understood.

Signing of Monthly Minutes, Funeral Deeds, Payroll Vouchers, & Monthly Bills:

Joyce made a motion to approve the monthly minutes as written, seconded by John. John approved the monthly documents, payroll vouchers, and claims, seconded by Joyce.

Commonwealth Project Update:

Gloria passed out the Memo update from Commonwealth regarding the water and wastewater projects. Gloria presented the final pay app for Thieneman in the amount of \$123,894.39 which was approved but Joyce, seconded by John and signed by Harry. Harry also signed the Indiana Bank Bond extension request due to the slight delay in the Wastewater project due to DNR permit denials.

Resolution 2023-2 Fund Transfers:

The council reviewed Resolution 2023-2 which was approved by Joyce and seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Resolution 2023-3 Rainy Day Fund:

The council reviewed Resolution 2023-3 which was approved by John and seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0
Gloria explained the Rainy-Day Fund to the public.

Ordinance 2023-2 for Cross-Connection Control:

Harry Read Ordinance 2023-2 out loud and opened the floor to public comment at 7:03 and closed at 7:07pm. Glen McCullough asked what a cross-connection is, which was explained by John Organist. There were no other comments and John made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Ordinance on the first reading which was seconded by Joyce. Then John made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-2, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

Ordinance 2023-1 An Ordinance of the Town Council to Establish the Westport Area Community Building Board of Directors:

Harry presented the Ordinance for the 1st official reading and gave a preliminary history of the council's understanding of the Westport Area Community Building Board. Harry opened the floor at 7:19pm for public comment. Kenny Marshal stated that he felt that the council was just pointing fingers and that the Community Building committee had managed the building just fine. Ilia Cattone asked the council what the town's plan was to bring the building up to code? Christy Meeker spoke on matters of gossip and suggested that everyone just stick to the facts and quit pointing fingers at each other. Alyssa stated that the town has many unresolved matters, and she feels that matters are not being addressed. Harry closed public comment at 7:25pm and the council answered Ilia's question. John stated that the town is applying for additional funding beyond the ARP funds so that the building can be repaired and updated as needed to best meet the needs of Westport. Joyce Brindley discussed the communication issues between the previous committee and the town, thanking the committee for their efforts throughout the years. Ilia asked how interested people can sign up to be considered on the new community building committee and the council stated that they would let everyone know. Harry talked about security at the building and eventually changing the key system.

From the Floor:

Albert Poer spoke on behalf of his mother, Edith Poer, stating that they had town sewer back-up into their basement causing extensive damage. Albert asked the town council if there was anything that they could do or recommend since the individual's insurance would not cover the damage. Albert went into detail as to what happened on that day and also read the letter out loud from the Town of Westport's insurance company which stated that the town was not at fault. The town council suggested that Albert reach out to the homeowner since they stated they are renting the property and their rental insurance did not cover the damage.

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



Harry Pray III, President



Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman



John Organist, Vice President



Attest: Gloria Alumbaugh

