

Town Council Meeting
November 13th, 2023
Westport Area Community Building

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Community Building, with the following present; Harry Pray III, President, Joyce Brindley, John Organist, and Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh. Harry Pray called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

Community Board Report:

Melissa Deppe reported that the new sign will cost approximately \$900 and the flooring for the kitchen and front room will be approximately \$11,000. Melissa and Damon added that only one bid has been received for the flooring because of service area limitations and vendors not showing up to give estimates. The Community Board requested that Karen Webster be removed from the committee since she only attended one meeting. John made a motion that Karen Webster be removed from the committee and a new member appointed at the next council meeting on December 11th, 2023, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

Commonwealth Update:

Harry gave a brief update on the progress of the Wastewater Project stating that USDA is requiring easements and permits to be completed before funding the project. Bidding will likely occur in 2024.

Cann Property Updates:

508 N Range St: George Cann gave an update on his property asking the council to consider dropping the litigation regarding the unsafe building and just allowing Decatur County to complete inspections as needed. After much discussion the council declined the proposition.

786 W Washington St.: Beth Pigmon reported that the old septic has been dug up and a new septic will be replaced in the spring. Beth stated that after the septic is completed the plan is to start the interior remodel. John made a motion for Beth to give a 6 month update at the May 2024 council meeting, seconded by Joyce.

Westport Christian Church:

Dan Wenning and Mike Kraft reported that the church will be updating the property at 107 W Mulberry by building a storage facility for their growing food pantry which will also involve tearing down the old barn next spring. The council complimented the church's efforts in the community.

Ordinance 2023-10 Additional Appropriations for CCMG:

Gloria presented the Ordinance explaining that CCMG project is underbudgeted by \$5,138 so additional appropriations is needed for the 2023 budget. The first reading was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Ordinance 2023-11 Establishing Salaries and Compensation:

Harry completed the first reading which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Ordinance 2023-12 Appropriation Reduction of \$50,000:

Gloria explained that the 2023 budget can be decreased by \$50,000 which Joyce approved, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Ordinance 2023-13 Town Council Membership from 3 to 5 Members:

Harry read the Ordinance and Joyce made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-13 on the first reading by suspending the rules, seconded by John. Vote 3:0 John made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-13, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

Public Works Superintendent Report:

Washington St. Paving – Damon explained that the street was scheduled for paving this year but postponed due to the Wastewater project which will damage the road again.

Bridges – Decatur County owns all bridges, and any repairs or replacement must be presented to the County Commissioners.

FPBH, Inc. CCMG service agreement – Damon explained that ongoing engineering is needed to maintain records for the CCMG which John made a motion to approve, seconded by Joyce.

Big Tex Trailer – Damon requested purchase of a tilt and load trailer totaling \$9,309.00 which John approved, seconded by Joyce.

Utility Workers Schedule – Damon requested permission to change the utility workers' schedule during daylight savings time to 4, ten-hour shifts per week to take more advantage of daylight hours. The council decided to table the topic until the next meeting.

Adjustments:

John Kelly requested an adjustment of \$354.36 due to children leaving on the garden hose which John approved, seconded by Joyce.

Dan Gault requested an additional adjustment since his water leak occurred over two months' time in a total amount of \$261.96 which Joyce approved, seconded by John.

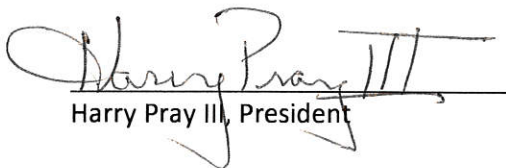
From the Floor:

Barb Winchester asked for permission for the Kiwanis group to borrow 10 large tables from the Community Building for their Christmas event at the South Decatur Jr. Sr. High School. Joyce made a motion to approve the use of 10 tables, seconded by John.

Walter Hunter asked two questions; What is the town going to do when the wastewater construction work has settled a year later? Damon stated that the town will make sure there is follow-up work to fix any settling in the future. What is the town council going to do about tent city? Harry discussed this topic with Walter with no resolution at this time.

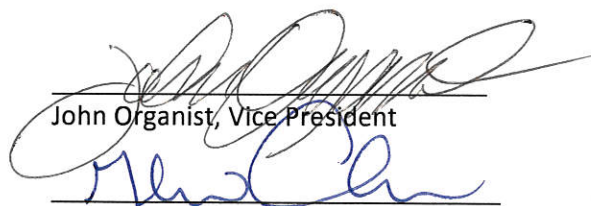
Harry ended the meeting by stating that Westport's biggest barrier to progress is that "We limit ourselves."

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



Harry Pray III, President

Joyce Brindley, Councilwoman



John Organist, Vice President

Attest: Gloria Alumbaugh