

Town Council Meeting
January 8th, 2024

Westport Community Building

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Community Building, with the following present, Bryan Gatewood, Glenn Black, Jennifer Hryb, Dolores Honeycutt, and Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh. Bryan Gatewood asked for a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:30pm which was made by Jennifer, seconded by Glenn, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Appointment of Town Council President & Vice President:

Glenn made a motion to appoint Bryan Gatewood as the town council president, seconded by Jennifer. Vote 4:0 Bryan made a motion to appoint Glenn Black as vice president, seconded by Dolores. Vote 4:0

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

Glenn made a motion to approve the monthly minutes as written with the one-word correction of "overtime" to "vacation" under Westport Marshal Contracts, seconded by Jennifer. Vote 4:0 Dolores approved the payroll vouchers, and claims, seconded by Glenn. Vote 4:0 Bryan asked for clarification of the attorney fees in the attorneys' contract and then Jennifer made a motion to approve the attorney contract, seconded by Dolores. Vote 4:0

Commonwealth Update:

Rachel Runge gave an overview of the Wastewater project, asking the council to approve the council president signing the updated engineering agreements. Rachel passed out maps and an updated memo of the Wastewater project to the council, reminding them that the project needs to be out for bid by April 1st to avoid loss of funding. Rachel requested permission to start the redesign to avoid the easement issues and Jennifer made a motion to approve the redesign, not to exceed \$10,000, seconded by Glenn. Vote 4:0 Jennifer made a motion to approve Council President, Bryan signing the engineering agreements that Rachel submitted for signature, seconded by Dolores. Vote 4:0 Glenn made a motion to pre-authorize the council president to sign future bidding documents to meet the funding deadline, seconded by Dolores. Vote 4:0

Westport Community Building Board Report:

Connie Davis reported that all the floors except the large back room have been replaced in the Westport Community Building and that they are waiting on estimates for the ceiling. Connie added that they also have a new sign to be installed on the front of the building and that the board is looking into grant funding.

Special Session Date:

Bryan stated that the council will be scheduling a special session to discuss the upcoming litigation on the George Cann property on Range Street that is scheduled for May 9th, 2024. Bryan said they would table this until March since not all council members were present.

Saylor Housing Development:

Bryan stated that a proposal has been submitted to change the design of the Saylor Housing Development which is to be built behind Wiley Street and West Kentucky Avenue. The new proposal includes moving the access point from Wiley Street to Kentucky Avenue and starting with phase 1 which included 6 lots along Kentucky Avenue. After much discussion with the residents Bryan suggested that the proposal be tabled until the council had more information from Roy Saylor regarding the design change.

SIRPC Member Appointment/Other Board Appointments:

Bryan stated that Russell Wilson expressed interest in the SIRPC membership and Dolores made a motion to appoint him to the SIRPC Board, seconded by Glenn. Vote 4:0

Bryan made a motion to appoint Jennifer to the Decatur County Solid Waste Management Board which was seconded by Glenn and Dolores. Vote 4:0

Glenn made a motion to appoint Bryan to the Emergency Management Board which was seconded by Jennifer. Vote 4:0

Bryan stated that Joyce Brindley will finish out her term with the Decatur County Board of Zoning Appeals and a new member will be appointed next year.

Public Works Superintendent Report:

Damon presented a color-coded map of all the streets in Westport and the ratings each street is assigned by the state. Damon explained that the ratings determine which streets can be paved under the Community Crossings Matching Grant in Indiana. Gayle Gatewood expressed concerns over the asphalt height of the newer roads and asked that they consider more milling of the old roads before laying more asphalt on top.

From the Floor:

Brian Ross stated that the streetlight at the intersection of West and Washington Street is unlit. Brian also asked what kind of property disruption will occur in the Wastewater project and Rachel explained that there will be an 8ft. trench dug next to the existing lines to install the new sewer lines which is located along Washington street.

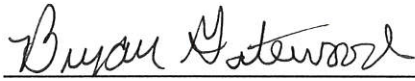
Sandy Lowe stated that she is giving the council 30 day notice to reconcile the violation of secret ballots at the December 2023 council meeting per Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-3. Sandy suggested that the council appoint new members to the Westport Community Building Board of Directors based on the Ordinance establishing the members in 2023. Sandy questioned the holiday hours at Town Hall. Sandy passed out a packet of documents reflecting her concerns over the previous council's decision to permit the Westport utility workers to start a 10-hour work schedule.

Darian Gatewood asked if the Wastewater Project will close the gap between overflows and IDEM sanctions so that the town doesn't have to keep doing wastewater projects. Bryan and Rachel answered stating that closing the gap is the expectation based on the engineering design.

Paul Carmer requested that the 4-way stop be evaluated at Schott and West St, recommending that the stop signs be removed since no one is stopping at the signs. Bryan stated that he will ask the Westport Police Department for some input on this request.

At the end of the meeting Bryan stated that he will be looking into a roving microphone that can be passed around during the floor comments to make public comment easier.

Glenn made a motion to close the January monthly meeting, seconded by Jennifer.

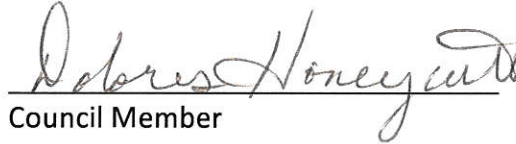


Council President

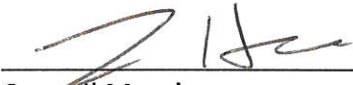
Vice President



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Attest: Clerk Treasurer