

Town Council Meeting
March 11th, 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, Russell Wilson, Jennifer Hryb, Dolores Honeycutt, and Clerk Treasurer, Gloria Alumbaugh. Bryan Gatewood called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 12th, 2024 Council Meetings:

Glenn motioned to approve the February 12th minutes, seconded by Dolores. Vote 5:0

Approval of Funeral Deeds, Adjustments, Payroll Vouchers and Monthly Bills:

Dolores made a motion to approve funeral deeds, adjustments, payroll vouchers, and monthly bills, which was seconded by Jennifer. Vote 5:0

Commonwealth Update:

Rachel Runge gave an update on the Wastewater project, stating that once USDA approves all requested documents, the project can go to bid. Sandy Lowe asked the council why the decision was made to spend \$10,000 to avoid the easement issue involving the Cromer property. Rachel explained that the decision was made due to time constraints.

April 8th Solar Eclipse:

EMA representative, Brad Spear, spoke to the Westport Residents about what to expect and prepare for, due to the number of people traveling through the county to view the Solar Eclipse. Brad stated that he expects there to be traffic complications, fuel shortages, and concerns for safety while viewing the eclipse. Dolores also reported on information she learned from the website, eclipse2024.org/communities/city/14025.html

Bryan asked the council what date to reschedule the next council meeting since it is currently scheduled for April 8th. Russell said he didn't care, and Glenn said the 8th is his birthday so he jokingly recommended moving the meeting. Bryan made a motion to move the meeting to April 15th, which was seconded by Dolores. Vote 5:0

106 S Poplar St – Update:

No one appeared for the property update and Bryan stated that the pictures on the TV screen were taken that day, which showed that only an umbrella and chair had moved with no other signs of property clean-up. Bryan recommended starting the fines with no objections from the council.

Resolution 2024-5 Old Outstanding Checks:

Bryan made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 Old Outstanding Checks, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

State Rd 3 Summer Project:

Bryan informed residents that they could sign up for closure updates at R41581@daveomara.com to stay informed about the State Road 3 closure this summer. Bryan stated that road work is scheduled to start after April 9th and Westport residents will likely be taking the backroads to North Vernon all summer.

Westport Community Building Board Report:

No report – Gloria added that a donation fund is possible, and Alex will start the paperwork to get a fund set up for the Community Building that would specifically be used for the building only.

ARP Funds (\$142,957.48):

Bryan briefly discussed ways to spend the rest of the ARP funds and asked the council to think of other ideas to spend the money. Dolores spoke about the last meeting regarding the opportunity to obtain Eli Lilly grant money for the town.

Public Works Superintendent Report:

Damon was asked a question by YouTube viewer, Robert Cowen, asking if there is plans to install stormwater drains on S. Lincoln St. Damon stated that yes, there are plans to install stormwater drains on S. Lincoln, Dean St., and other areas of town depending on cost. Damon added that right now he is getting estimates for installation.

Bryan announced an Executive Session on Friday, March 15th at 3 PM to discuss upcoming litigation. Bryan reminded the public that he has open office hours every Tuesday from 8 am to 12 noon and Russell Wilson will be with him this Tuesday as well.

From the Floor:

Jeff Moore informed the council that the Westport Wesleyan Church will be having a Palm Sunday march but will not block traffic or close any streets.

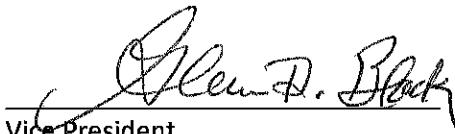
Sandy Lowe stated that she would like to see the new town council be more transparent than the last council, adding that she had issues with how a utility trailer was sold in November of 2023.

Walter Hunter asked the council how they were going to eliminate “tent city”, referring to the homeless at 106 S. Poplar St. Joseph Talkington gave an update on how the property owner is handling the trespassing issue. Bryan stated that he did not know there were homeless living on the property.

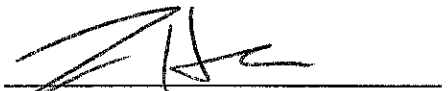
Bryan made a motion to close the March monthly meeting, seconded by Jennifer.



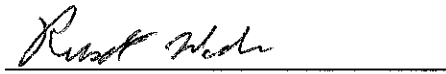
Council President



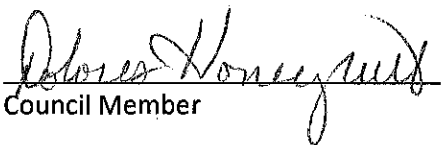
Vice President



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Attest: Clerk Treasurer