

Town Council Meeting
June 10th, 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 May 13th 2024 Council Meeting:

Russell motioned to approve the May minutes, seconded by Jennifer. Vote 5:0

Approval of Adjustments, Payroll Vouchers and Monthly Bills:

Glenn motioned to approve adjustments, payroll vouchers, and monthly bills, seconded by Dolores. Vote 5:0

Commonwealth Update:

Rachel Runge gave an update on the Wastewater project, passed out an updated Memorandum to the council, and reviewed the bidding results identifying Striegel Design & Construction, Inc. with the lowest bid of \$6,336,454. Jennifer motioned that the Council accept Striegel as the lowest bidder, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

Approve SIRPC Labor Standards Contract:

Bryan presented the contract from SIRPC for \$10,000 to manage the Labor Standards during the Wastewater project as required by USDA, adding that he negotiated a lower rate than the original \$15,000 estimated for the service. Dolores motioned to approve the contract for \$10,000 with SIRPC, seconded by Russell. Vote 5:0

Westport Community Building Board Report:

Connie Davis stated they are still struggling to get bids for the ceiling repairs since the job is small. Connie reported that the committee applied for an appliance grant at the Decatur County Community Foundation to finish replacing the appliances in the kitchen.

ARP Funds (\$113,000 left):

Bryan completed the second reading of Ordinance 2024-2 Additional Appropriations for American Rescue Plan and approved the second reading, seconded by Jennifer. Vote 5:0

Jennifer reported on the results of a poll she posted on Facebook and the public requested that another poll be posted on the town's Facebook page. Gloria asked about getting 3 quotes since the original quote is getting close to \$50,000 with possible increases due to new suggestions. Kiwanis confirmed that they applied for a grant of \$15,000 to help with the cost. Brian suggested obtaining more information and identifying 3 quotes before making a final vote on the Pickle Ball Courts.

Damon presented two quotes for sidewalks going from Range Street to Dean Street on both sides of Main St., to provide accessibility to the Westport Community Building. Damon stated that he has not been able to get three quotes because contractors are not returning his calls. The Council told Damon to proceed with the sidewalk update using the lowest bid of \$31,640 and additional tree removal of \$1,850.

Russell suggested that the town use funds to purchase fire hydrants to replace old ones.

207 & 209 E. Mulberry Town Property:

Gloria presented information on the Mulberry Street property since there was interest in selling the property stating that the town has invested \$22,725 total. She explained that the Town has two options to sell the property, taking sealed bids to open at a public meeting or holding a public auction. No action was taken.

Schedule Executive Session – Pending Litigation:

The Council scheduled the Executive Session for Friday, June 14th at 3 P.M. The WTRE representative said they would make a special note to advertise the Executive Session.

Public Works Superintendent Report:

Damon gave an update on the complaint filed with IDEM at 109 S. Lincoln St. IDEM submitted a report to the Town of Westport stating that no sewer leak was found nor does the white residue on the property have anything to do with the Westport Sewer. Damon reported that the white residue found at 109 S. Lincoln is likely mold from wet grass, but the town has hired Bainbridge Consulting to complete official soil testing to determine what is in the soil and results are pending.

Bryan and Russell discussed starting a new maintenance contract for the Westport Water Tower stating there used to be a 10-year contract with O’Leary.

Additional Water Adjustment – 1785 N High School Rd.

Bryan motioned to approve the water adjustment at 1785 N High School Rd., seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

From the Floor:

Dolores thanked Damon for installing safety signs at the park due to youth climbing fences. Dolores read a thank you note from Judy Brewer, thanking the town for starting the sidewalk repairs on Main street. She also thanked Joe Talkington and Luke Lozier for their service to the community. Dolores and Brian added that the town has created work order forms for residents to complete when needing alley upkeep or other services from the Town. The Town Complaint forms are also available, and Bryan explained that written documentation will help the Town keep track of resident requests more accurately. Dolores also reminded residents that they can call the non-emergency phone number, 812-222-4911 when they want to report after-hours burning or other issues.

Glenn thanked Bryan for initiating the council office hours and invited the public to stop by Town Hall on Tuesdays, 8AM -12Noon. Sandy Lowe asked the council to consider evening office hours for residents who work during the day.

Jack Powers asked the council about property ownership and Brian invited Jack to stop by during office hours to discuss the topic in more detail since it pertained to Jack’s private property.

Walter Hunter asked the council if they had discussed any more properties that need cleaning up besides George Cann’s property. Bryan stated that the burnt house on Sycamore Street is next on the list.

Brian Ross asked the council to consider doing one pickleball court versus two if it would save money. Sandy Lowe stated that she is checking on the “clerical clean-up” of the employee handbook. Bryan said it is on his list.

Russell motioned to close the June monthly meeting, seconded by Dolores.




Council President



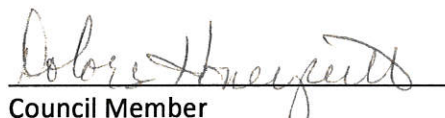
Vice President



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Attest: Clerk-Treasurer

