

Town Council Meeting  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, Joyce Brindley, and Gloria Alumbaugh. Harry Pray called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

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

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

**Commonwealth Project Update:**

Rachel Runge presented a project update stating that the Wastewater Project is in the permits and easement phase. Once all permits are obtained the bidding phase will start. Bryan Gatewood asked Rachel about the last TTHM letter, and she stated that the Water Plant is still making adjustments to find the magic number of chemicals to treat the water to meet IDEM standards.

**508 N Range St Update:**

Beth Pigmon and Attorney Chris Tebbe submitted one page of a recent property inspection stating that their property was "in satisfactory condition, however; a rehab of all the systems and interior components is needed." Harry stated that they would need to come back to the next meeting with John present so that a final decision can be made regarding timelines on the property's completion and requested the full inspection report. Beth requested that there be no timelines placed on completion of the property.

**Ordinance 2023-3: 107 W Sycamore**

Harry read Ordinance 2023-3 regarding alley vacation for the first reading which Joyce made a motion to approve, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

**Zoning Permissions: Carol Zapfe**

Carol Zapfe requested Town approval for her property to go from a R2 to a B2 due to her dog grooming business at 309 S. Range St. Joyce made a motion to approve the zoning transfer, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0

**TRECS: Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (Association of Indiana Counties Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System)**

Gloria presented the debt collection program created for state agencies to better obtain delinquent debt through individuals tax refunds. Joyce made a motion to approve signing the agreement, seconded by Harry.

**Westport Police Department Salary:**

Harry proposed that the Town raise the police department's salaries by 6% starting immediately which Joyce made a motion to approve, seconded by Harry. Vote 2:0 Harry also stated that he would like to change the yearly contracts to give the police department more job security, but further research is needed before making a final vote.

**Westport Community Building Board of Directors – Application Review:**

The council reviewed the applications and asked Connie Davis to also complete an application. Harry stated that they will announce the Board of Directors at the next council meeting.

**Water Meter Damage Discussion:**

Harry reminded local water customers to be mindful of damage to their water meters as mowing season is approaching. Water meter replacement costs can add up to \$150 or more.


**From the Floor:**

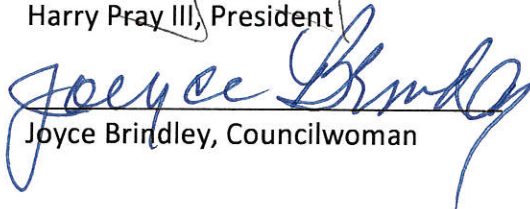
Mike Gasper stated that the local Kiwanis Club would be managing maintenance of the Westport Community Building property and recreational areas. Mike stated that they have accepted a contract from Ralph Johnson to maintain the mowing and the Youth Baseball League will be using the ball field starting April 15<sup>th</sup> through the end of July. Mike gave the town a copy of the Kiwanis liability insurance and there was discussion about insurance needs for upcoming events. Mike stated that the Kiwanis will be updating the concession stands and scoreboard with metal siding and maintaining the park equipment to keep it clean and safe. Damon asked that the Kiwanis to keep him informed so that siding colors can be matched to the Community Building,

Mike Gasper also presented a question from Roy Saylor asking that the town consider waiving the sidewalk/cul-de-sac requirements for the housing addition west of Kathleen Street. Harry stated that they would investigate the request.

Danny Toler asked the council why his sewer leak had not been fixed yet. Harry stated that he would have to get with Damon as he didn't know the status of the situation and John was not at the meeting to address the issue. Danny got upset and made verbal threats at Damon and the Town of Westport as he immediately walked out of the meeting.

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