

Town Council Meeting  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Appointment of 2 Town Council Members:**

Harry read Ordinance 2023-14: Ordinance Regarding the Election of Town Council Members which Joyce made a motion to pass on the first reading, seconded by John. Vote 3:0  
Several residents addressed the council with questions regarding the election of two new council members. The council voted by paper ballot and the Clerk Treasurer tallied the votes which resulted in Delores Honeycutt and Jennifer Hryb receiving the most votes. Harry read Resolution 2023-10: A Resolution to Fill Town Council Membership Vacancy which John made a motion to approve, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

**Appointment of Westport Area Community Building Committee Member:**

The council reviewed one application that was submitted and Joyce made a motion to appoint Taralyn Bartlett to the Westport Area Community Board of Directors, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**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 small meeting room is scheduled for new flooring on December 18<sup>th</sup> and eventually the large room will be redone when there is additional funding. Melissa asked if the 2023 budget carries over to next year and the Clerk Treasurer confirmed that it does not and in 2024, \$20,000 is budgeted for Community Building updates.

**Commonwealth Update:**

Rachel gave an update on the Wastewater project, asking the council to pre-approve the council president signing the bid notice if it occurs later this month after all mandatory easements are obtained. Joyce made a motion to approve the public bidding notice along with an updated Engineering agreement, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Westport Marshal Contracts:**

Harry thanked Joe Talkington and Luke Lozier for their service and presented the contracts. Luke Lozier and the council signed his contract for 2024. Joe Talkington discussed rolling over his 80 hours of vacation from 2023 since he was on medical leave which the council approved.

Talkington will sign his 2024 contract after the additional 80 hours (280 total) are added to his contract prior to the end of the year.

**Service Contract Checks:**

Harry presented checks for service to the Westport Fire Department which was accepted by John Gant. Clerk Treasurer will contact Kiwanis since no one was present to accept their check.

**Ordinance 2023-15 Additional Appropriations for CCMG:**

Harry read Ordinance 2023-15 Requesting additional appropriations for the CCMG project which John made a motion to approve, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

**Resolution 2023-5 (Amending Resolution 2023-7):**

Harry read Resolution 2023-5 Amending Resolution 2023-7 authorizing fund transfers totaling \$118,703.24 in matching funds for the Community Crossing Matching Grant. Joyce made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-5 Amending Resolution 2023-7, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Ordinance 2023-11 Establishing Salaries and Compensation:**

Harry completed the second reading of Ordinance 2023-11 Establishing Salaries and Compensation which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

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

Harry completed the second reading of Ordinance 2023-12 Appropriation Reduction of \$50,000 which was approved by Joyce, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Employee Insurance Benefits:**

Billy Kirkham reviewed insurance policy recommendations with the council which John made a motion to accept, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

**Zoning Permissions – 313 E Mulberry St.:**

Property owner, Jeff Moore requested approval for the property at 313 E Mulberry St. to transfer from a R3 to a R4 classification and confirmation that water/sewer utilities are available. Joyce made a motion to approve the R3 to R4 transfer and utility confirmation, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

**Adjustments: Jack Ogle**

Gloria submitted Jack Ogle's request for a second water leak adjustment since the leak ran over two months which would give him a credit of \$147.93. John approved the adjustment of \$147.93, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

**Public Works Superintendent Report:**

Damon proposed a new chemical storage system at the Westport Water Plant to promote employee safety and better inventory of chemicals which would be provided by Hawkins Chemicals. The council reviewed the two options and Joyce made a motion that they purchase the \$4,200 storage system, seconded by John. Vote 3:0

Damon requested approval to adjust the utility worker's schedule to four, ten-hour days per week instead of the five, eight-hour days. After discussion, John made a motion to approve, seconded by Joyce. Vote 3:0

Damon asked the council what they would like him to do with the leftover river-rock sidewalks that were removed during the CCMG project. The council permitted Damon to dispose of the rock at his discretion.

**Senior Exercise Program:**

Harry introduced a new program at the Westport Area Community Building that will include Senior exercise and wellness classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. More information TBD.


**From the Floor:**

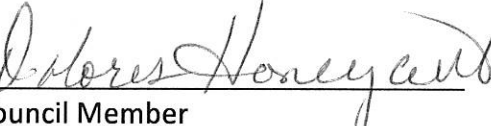
Delores Honeycutt thanked the current town council for their service in the community for the last 4 years. George Cann spoke on his family history and current litigation with the town.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Clerk Treasurer