

Town Council Meeting
December 10th, 2024
Westport Community Building

The Westport Town Council met in regular session at the Westport Community Building, with the following present, Bryan Gatewood, Russell Wilson, Glenn Black, 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 November 11th, 2024 Council Meetings:

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

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

Dolores motioned to approve Cemetery Deeds, Adjustments, Payroll Vouchers, and Monthly Bills, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

Annual Service Contracts (Kiwanis & Westport Fire Department)

Bryan thanked the providers for their service and distributed checks.

Westport Police Officer/Town Attorney Contracts:

Russell made a motion to approve the Town Marshal's contract, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

Jennifer motioned to approve Deputy Marshal's contract, seconded by Dolores. Vote 5:0

The council also reviewed Attorney, Alex Whitted's annual contract which Dolores motioned to approve, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

SIRPC Representative for 2025:

Bryan stated that meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon and appear to be quarterly.

Bryan made a motion to re-appoint Russell Wilson, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

Commonwealth Update:

Rachel Runge presented an update to the council stating that Construction will start in January 2025. Rachel added that the pre-construction videoing is complete, and the next construction meeting is scheduled for December 12th. The council suggested rescheduling the construction meeting due to schedule conflicts, but no date was set.

Westport Christian Church:

George Willette stated that they would like to update the council on the progress of the Food Pantry Building project. George said that Phase One is almost complete and they will begin Phase Two to finish the project by February 2025. The goal is to be operational by February so the food pantry can be open for 6 hours instead of the current one hour every Monday.

BZA Westport Area Representative:

Bryan stated that the council is seeking a local Westport resident to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Bryan explained that the position requires meeting attendance up to once a month, meeting preparation, and topical research. Joyce Brindley currently fills the position, and Bryan moved to extend her term through February 2025 so that the council has time to select a new candidate. Jennifer seconded the motion to extend Joyce's term. Vote 5:0 Bryan added that interested candidates may reach out to the council or the Clerk Treasurer's office.

Ordinance 2024-7: Wage and Salary (2nd Reading):

Bryan presented Ordinance 2024-7 for a second reading. Public Comment was opened at 6:54pm and Dolores commented on what the title, Westport Transfer (transferring trash) means. Sandy Lowe asked if the 3% increase was across all employees' pay, which the Clerk-Treasurer confirmed, except for the Town Marshal and Deputy Marshal. Sandy said that she hopes the council considers future planning when determining whether to give employees increases every year and questioned the Deputy Clerk wage of \$1100. Sandy stated that she thought it was for dispatcher reimbursement that is no longer needed and the Clerk Treasurer stated that dispatcher reimbursement stopped in June 2021. Gloria explained that the current Deputy Clerk pay is part of the total benefit that the employee receives each year but is paid all at once, per the employee's request, which is why it's listed separately. Bryan closed public comment at 7:10pm. Jennifer motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-7, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0

Clerk-Treasurer Certification of Compliance with Municipal Nepotism Policy:

The Clerk-Treasurer's certification was accepted by the Town Council.

Superintendent of Public Works Report:

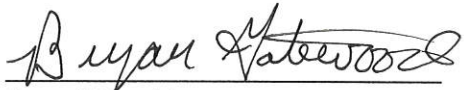
Damon reported on the handicap curb issue in front of the Post Office, stating that FPVBMH Engineering was incorrect on the curb height when designing the sidewalks but the only way to correct the problem is to install safety rails on the sidewalk along the high curb. Damon reported that the Westport Transfer will be closed on Wednesdays starting in January due to the Wastewater Project.

From the Floor:

Karen Shelp requested a 2nd leak adjustment due to a water leak under the slab of their back porch at 904 Kathleen Circle. Bryan motioned to approve the 2nd water leak adjustment, seconded by Russell. Vote 5:0

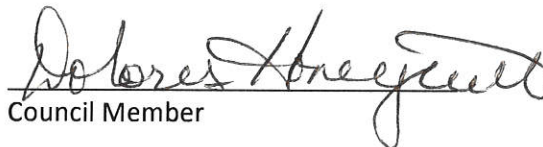
Russell asked if there were any more pickleball estimates and Mike Gasper stated that Kiwanis is still waiting on a third estimate. Sandy Lowe asked where any leftover ARPA money would go. Gloria stated that leftover ARPA money would be applied to the General Fund as revenue lost so that the town doesn't lose any grant money.

Jennifer motioned to close the December monthly meeting, seconded by Glenn. Vote 5:0


Council President


Vice President


Council Member


Council Member

Council Member


Attest: Clerk-Treasurer