

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
For General Business Purposes
July 26, 2022
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Elizabeth Rowland, Wayne Boka, Roger McCullen, Roger Watkins

COUNCIL ABSENT: Denis Landry, Leland Pond

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Gail Bollinger, James Streeter, Kristen Zaidi, Lori Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by council vice-president Beth Rowland followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of members found Denis Landry and Leland Pond to be absent. The visitors had no comments on agenda items.

Mayor/Police Report

Mayor Bollinger commented on a grant for “Hero Pay” that she gave to the Grants Committee.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Roger Watkins, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting as presented. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Rowland and Watkins. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Roger Watkins, to approve the financial report. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Rowland and Watkins. The motion carried.

Old Business

- Open Burning Ordinance

A draft burning ordinance was discussed at the last meeting. Roger Watkins had a question about the perimeters of the ordinance – is it all burning or just burning of trash. Mrs. Bollinger answered that it allows fire pits and is mostly to address burning of trash and plastic.

Motion was made by Roger Watkins, seconded by Wayne Boka, to advertise the open burning ordinance for adoption. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Rowland and Watkins. The motion carried.

New Business

- Resignation

Mrs. Rowland reported a letter of resignation was received from Lorie Card. She would like to table the acceptance of the resignation to the regular council meeting in August. The vacancy will need to be filled 30 days after acceptance. Mr. Boka asked to have the vacancy posted on the website.

Roger Watkins discussed the drug issue talked about at a previous meeting. He provided information on a state statute regarding the housing authority. The Housing Authority has the

ability to evict someone for conducting business on the premises. He noted Wellsboro Borough is using this to help evict drug dealers living in the housing authority properties.

Committee Reports

- Administrative Committee – nothing
- Personnel Committee – will hold an executive session to discuss a personnel issue of residency.
- Planning/Fire Committee

Lori Nelson distributed a sample ordinance regarding travel trailers. This was provided by the solicitor previously. Council discussed the problems with campers parked on properties as well as a request for water/sewer hook up for a camper.

- Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee –

The paint striper has stopped working and Dave cannot get parts for it. A replacement will cost \$935 plus shipping. Council tabled this to the next meeting. Mr. Watkins noted that traffic paint is also difficult to obtain right now. Mrs. Bollinger asked if the crew could get paint from the state. More discussion was held. The purchase was tabled to the next meeting.

The status of the burned out trailer on Stevenson Street was discussed.

- Vehicle Maintenance Committee – nothing.
- Utilities Committee

Roger McCullen will set up a meeting with his committee as soon as they are available. They have several issues to discuss.

A payment application from Lobar for the WWTP upgrade project was submitted for approval.

A motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Wayne Boka, to approve Payment Application #22 from Lobar for \$123,314.92. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Rowland and Watkins. The motion carried.

- Grants/Loans Committee

Mr. Boka explained the Attorney General is pushing for “Hero Pay” to help retain and recruit officers. Some of the components were explained. Currently there is a grant of \$1200 for each officer in good standing. The application process is not spelled out; the AG’s office has been contacted for assistance with the application.

Visitors

Kristen Zaidi introduced herself and gave her background. She noted she would like to be involved in the community. Mrs. Rowland explained that Mrs. Zaidi is interested in the council position. Mrs. Zaidi and Mrs. Rowland discussed a possible art club and projects for the club.

Executive Session

An executive session with nothing to report after will be held following adjournment for personnel issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Lori Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer