

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 9, 2023
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Constance Cummings, Denis Landry, Elizabeth Rowland, JeanAnn Tubbs, Roger Watkins, Kristen Zaidi

COUNCIL ABSENT: Roger McCullen, Denis Landry

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Mayor Gail Bollinger, Chief Andrew Adams, Lori Nelson, Mark Moffett

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by vice-president Beth Rowland followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of members found Roger McCullen and Denis Landry to be absent. The visitors were addressed concerning agenda items.

Visitors

James Streeter voiced his opinion that adopting the vacant property ordinance would be a mistake. He cannot see anything that would have been prevented with this ordinance. He noted it has been a long time since a new house has been built – “all we have is the existing stock”. He hopes council gives this ordinance a lot of thought and discussion before adoption.

Mayor/Police Chief Report

Mayor Bollinger was again asking for a stipend for the police cadet. There was some discussion on the topic and what funds are available. Chief Adams suggested the part-time police wage. He noted he would like the cadet to be able to focus on schooling as it is a tough class. JeanAnn Tubbs asked if we could make the wage contingent upon passing the course. More research will be done, and the contract used by Clymer Township will be reviewed.

Minutes

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by JeanAnn Tubbs, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 council meeting as presented. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Finance Report

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by JeanAnn Tubbs, to accept the financial report. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Vacant Property Ordinance

Kristen Zaidi asked if everyone had a change to read the sample ordinance. Roger Watkins noted that Chapter 114 of the Borough Code covers derelict properties, dangerous, uninhabitable properties and other issues. Extensive discussion was held on the vacant property ordinance, dilapidated properties, enforcement of ordinances and other issues. Action on the proposed ordinance was tabled for further information and review. James Streeter suggested using the unsafe property section of the fire code.

TCAB

The Tioga County Association of Boroughs meeting will be in Liberty on May 12.

Administrative Committee – nothingPersonnel Committee

- Police Cadet

Beth Rowland reported that the committee interviewed two candidates for the police position. They do have a recommendation for the position and were quite happy with him – Kyle Mack. He is ready to start the police academy. There was discussion on a possible stipend, whether to hire him as a cadet and possibly meeting May 23 to address this.

Motion was made by JeanAnn Tubbs, seconded by Connie Cummings, to award a partial scholarship to the Mansfield University Police Academy to Kyle Mack. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins, and Zaidi. The motion carried.

- PAMA Conference

Motion was made by JeanAnn Tubbs, seconded by Kristen Zaidi, to approve attendance at the PAMA Conference for Lori Nelson. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Planning, Fire Committee – nothingStreets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee

- 2023 Streetwork

Roger Watkins reported he and Roger McCullen met to review the cost estimate for streetwork provided by PA DOT. The committee wants to have a 7-year plan of work going forward. Their recommendation for 2023 is: First Street/Eberle Drive, Stevenson St. Ext., and Franklin St. Mr. Watkins discussed the costs for the work. This will leave some funds toward the next project. He noted the committee will ask the DPW crew to work on the start of Lincoln Street this year.

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by Connie Cummings, to approve for advertisement the street work for 2023 to include First Street/Eberle Drive, Stevenson Street Extension, and Franklin Street. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

- Building Maintenance

Gail Bollinger reported a leak in the firehall roof near the sink.

Roger Watkins updated council on the community room floor. Chips in Wellsboro was contacted to look at the floor. They recommended a commercial flooring with new underlayment and provided an estimate. The estimate was higher than the bid limits. Further discussion on funding, timing and other issues was held.

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by JeanAnn Tubbs, to advertise for bid the replacement of the community room flooring and possibly the hallway. Those in favor were Cummings, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Vehicle Maintenance Committee – nothing

Grants/Loans Committee – nothing

Utilities Committee

A memo with updates on projects was received from Shawn Downey at Larson Design Group.

Mountain Laurel had requested a meeting concerning relocating a water line. The line was traced and found to be an old tannery line.

Visitors.

Mark Moffett from Woodlawn Drive approached council about the condition of a home behind his property that he didn't know existed until the leaves went off the trees. Further discussion on properties and maintenance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Lori Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer