

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Rick Hudson by asking Council and others in attendance to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Angela Spangler; Matti Vance; Fred Duby; Lynley Carey; Teresa Ponn-Lemaster; and Walter Norris. Roaby Browning was absent.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)- All those in attendance voted to excuse the absence of Lemaster from the previous meeting.

Public Comments

- John Stabler, JCEDP, 22 S. New York Avenue, Wellston came to speak about Resolution 2023-44, which grants the City membership to the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA). Stabler gave the background information on the program and explained how the organization is looking to make a bigger impact across Appalachia. He then spoke of outdoor tourism, specifically bicycle tourism, and how the Bailey's Trail System is revitalizing small towns in Athens County. The County Commissioners have agreed to join ORCA. Up to three people county-wide will need to be chosen for the ORCA Executive Committee, one of those (and an appointed proxy) being from Wellston. He stressed that there is no cost to the City and grant opportunities will be available. In addition, Jackson County will receive \$11,000 for an outdoor activity/asset survey.

Minutes- All those in attendance voted to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting.

Correspondence- Clerk reported an email has been received from the State Auditor who is still missing Fraud Assessment Risk Surveys from Norris, Spangler, Doobie, and Browning.

Reports of Special Committees

- Finance- Spangler- Met prior to Council to discuss planning for the Recreation Levy, the Harvey Wells House, and Police Officer Retention. Spangler reported there are no recommendations at this point, but expects a meeting to take place in August.
- Health & Safety- Lemaster
- Public Service- Browning
- Planning Committee- Carey
- Community Action Liaison- Browning
- Recreation- Norris

Old Business- none

New Business- none

Legislation

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-34- An Ordinance establishing the annual salary of the City Auditor at \$35,000.00 plus benefits to be effective January 1, 2024.
Sponsor: Vance
Discussion: The Auditor salary will take a slight cut since there is a concern over how raises were established for this position in previous years; however, the Auditor salary will now be even with the Treasurer's salary.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Vance, seconded by Spangler, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-35- An Ordinance establishing the annual salary of the City Treasurer at \$35,000.00 plus benefits to be effective immediately at the beginning of the next term of the City Treasurer.
Sponsor: Vance
Discussion: Current salary is \$5,000 per year. Mayor says there is no way the City will find a replacement that will be willing to put in the work and hours that Barber has done for years. He asks that this be passed as an emergency on the 3rd read.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Vance, seconded by Spangler, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-36- An Ordinance establishing the annual salary of the City Mayor at \$50,000.00 plus benefits to be effective January 1, 2024.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: This is the same salary as the Mayor of Jackson.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Vance, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-41- An Ordinance of the Legislative Authority of the City of Wellston authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Indigent Defense Contract with the Jackson County Commissioners so as to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with violations of the Wellston Municipal Code for 2023.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Yearly
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Vance, seconded by Norris, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-42- A Resolution declaring the necessity of a Street Levy, being a Renewal Levy of 2.0 Mill for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges for the City of Wellston and certifying the Street Levy issue to the Board of Elections and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Lemaster
Discussion: 2.0 Mill is estimated at \$129,000
A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Spangler, seconded by Vance, and approved by all in attendance.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Norris, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-43- A Resolution declaring the necessity of a Parks and Recreational Services Levy, being an additional levy of 5.0 Mill for the purpose of maintaining Park and Recreational Services, including the design, construction, and operation of a pool for the City of Wellston and certifying the Park and Recreational Services Levy issue to the Board of Elections and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: 5.0 Mill is estimated as \$340,000; Lemaster asked the Mayor to clarify the number of levies on the ballot, which he replied two- the Street Levy Renewal and this new Recreation Levy; Norris asked how the funds would be maintained if passed. Mayor Brenner replied as far as the pool is concerned, operating costs would be figured out during the engineering/design phase of the project. Brenner also stressed that although a pool will generate revenue, these funds cannot be depended upon to cover the needed operating costs. The passage of the levy would provide the operating costs, as well as fund numerous other parks and recreational activities within the City; Norris asked what other funds would be used to help support a pool or any parks and recreation projects. According to the County Auditor, passage of this Levy would generate \$340,000. The Mayor responded that this would have to cover the annual operating costs of the pool, along with the loan amount; Discussion then led to all areas of recreation expected to generate revenue, including the pool, RV Park, and Ballfields. He reassured everyone there would be no monies taken from the General Fund, Street Paving, and/or Infrastructure to maintain a pool. He expects to schedule at least 2 Town Hall Meetings.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Vance, seconded by Norris, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Norris, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-44- A Resolution of the City of Wellston to partner with the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) at no cost to the City.

Sponsor: Lemaster

Discussion: John Stabler presentation during public comments; Brenner added that the City needs to embrace Recreational Tourism. It was decided this Resolution would be passed as an Emergency next meeting.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-45- A Resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$1,500 to be paid to the Wellston Masonic Lodge for use in conducting and promoting an event as part of the City's Sesquicentennial Celebration and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Vance

Discussion: Brenner made reference to the \$30,000 previously approved by Council for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. This is included and will be used toward the Club's Annual Car Show. He checked with Kirby to ensure the legality of this donation. After research, Kirby advised to let Council decide and the funds needed to be "for the good of the City." Since this is helping to promote a special event to promote the City's Sesquicentennial during the OHillCo Festival, Mayor Brenner said this is for the good of the City. Lemaster worried by passing this Resolution, Council would be setting a precedent of other groups declaring their own events as being for the betterment of the City. President Hudson replied Council should look at these requests on a case-by-case basis. The Mayor agreed, but reminded this was solely for the 150-year Anniversary. Spangler reminded Council this is allocating a portion of the previously-approved \$30,000; Lemaster said the Car Show does turn a profit by charging participation fees. Hudson and Brenner replied these fees usually cover the prizes and trophies. Vance explained once the Resolution is approved Council will have no control of the money, but is asking the Lodge to promote and make the Car Show bigger than in previous years to market the 150.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Vance, seconded by Spangler, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Vance, and approved by all in attendance except Lemaster- who cast the only no-vote.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-46- A Resolution authorizing an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000 to be paid to the OHillCo Society for use in conduction and promoting events as part of the City's Sesquicentennial Celebration and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: Lemaster asked if there were any additional expenses the City incurs during the OHillCo Festival. The Mayor replied there is extra trash and extra work is put into cleaning downtown.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Vance, seconded by Spangler, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Norris, and approved by all in attendance.

Mayor

- Brenner had to call the traffic light installers to make an adjustment to the sensors and are now working perfectly.
- The Traffic Study will begin when school starts. This Study will determine the need for a third lane of traffic from 14th Street to the Bus Garage and help to obtain the necessary funding to do so.
- The City is replacing the section of sidewalk in front of Dollar General because the store agreed to pay for half the concrete. The store plans to pave the entire lot soon.
- There has been a good turnout for the 150-Planning Meetings, and the Mayor encourages more of the public to attend instead of just the Civic Clubs. The more involved, the nicer the event.
- The Sewer Separation Project is moving at a rapid pace. It has been estimated this Project will save the City from treating a million gallons of rainwater per year. This is a \$4 million project. The sewer lines are being replaced right now; next will be storm.

Service Director

- In reference to the sidewalks, Camp reported that the Crew poured 33 yards in the past two weeks.
- Strip Mines have been cleaned
- Nine water leaks have been repaired
- Valve exercising is being performed
- Preventative leak detection was done on the northeast side of the City
- 280 feet of waterline on 12th Street. The City is now replacing waterlines instead of patching and repairing.
- President Hudson asked if the City is still dependent on the North Water Plant. Camp replied not as much, but yes.
- Divers have cleaned the water tanks.

Law Director- none

Auditor- none

City Clerk's Reports- none

Treasurer's Report- none

Fire- none

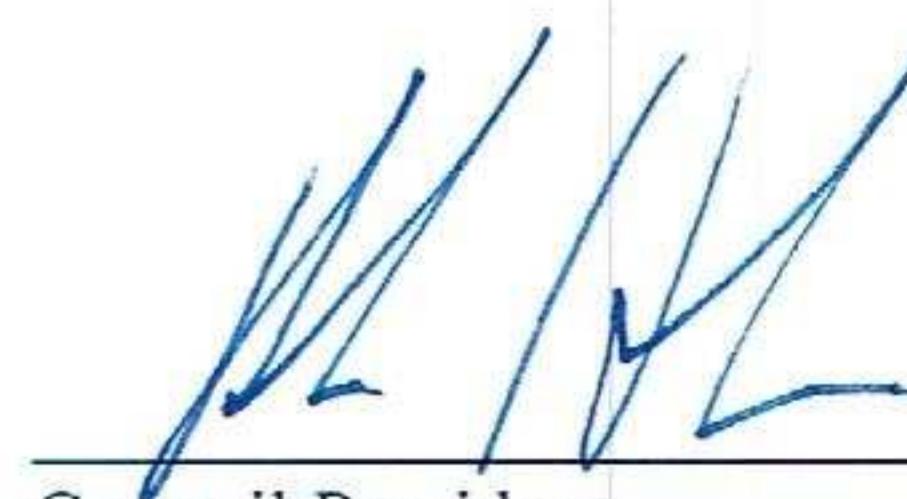
Zoning- none

Police- Chief Robinson spoke on the 20-year Anniversary of the loss of Officer Kelli Lambert and thanked her for her sacrifice. He then invited everyone to the ribbon cutting and rededication of Kelli Lambert Memorial Park the next morning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Council Clerk



Council President

