

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Rick Hudson by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Angela Spangler; Karen Boch; Fred Duby; Walter Norris; Teresa Lemaster; Tami Phillips; and Roaby Browning.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)

- Roaby Browning was excused from the previous Council meeting.

Public Comments

- Rachel Ray, 1500 S. Rhode Island Avenue. Ray requested the road conditions at her end of Rhode Island Avenue be addressed. She stated the City does minor fixes; however as soon as it rains, the asphalt and gravel patches are washed away due to flooding. She continued that she has paid upwards of \$150 for plowing. Acting Service Director Ryan Pelletier said he will investigate as to where the City right-of-way ends. Mayor Brenner responded that according to the map, this end of Rhode Island is an alleyway, and no homes should have been built on the alleyways in the past. The Mayor continued that paving will be coming around that neighborhood soon, so they will look at options for fixing the paved portion.
- Sergeant Jered Warrens, WPD, 203 East Broadway, spoke on the downsides of eliminating the Wellston Police Department Dispatch. Some points that Warrens made: watching prisoners, clerical work, watching juveniles, etc.

Minutes- All in attendance voted to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Correspondence

- Easter Seals Invitation to the Markay on March 21st for *The Library That Dolly Built*.

Reports of Special Committees

- Health and Safety Committee- Lemaster- none
- Public Service Committee- Duby- none
- Planning Committee- Browning- none
- Recreation Committee- Norris- Spring ball sign-ups are fast approaching
- Finance Committee- Spangler- none
- Community Action- Browning- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- Spangler- none

Old Business

- Norris asked about the progress of the downtown parking lot. Mayor Brenner responded that he is now considering making the area a Veterans Park after realizing that the parking will be cramped in the lot due to the abundance of full-size trucks in the area. President Hudson suggested restricting the parking to regular cars only.

New Business

- The City insurance policy is out for bid.
- Lemaster asked if there has been any progress on electrical rates and contracts. The Mayor responded that he has a meeting with IGS Energy soon; however, the Auditors have reached out to numerous suppliers and have found that our current rate is the cheapest.
- Lemaster stated that there are properties on New Hampshire Avenue that need to be addressed by Code Enforcement.
- Lemaster said that she has counted at least 6 campers on the City streets; Hudson has seen them parked on City-owned lots. The Police Chief says they are being addressed.

Legislation

- Second Reading of Resolution No. 2025-04- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of Wellston to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) or agreement on behalf of the City of Wellston for design of Wastewater Facilities; and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Grant submitted by DLZ
- Second Reading of Resolution No. 2025-05- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of Wellston to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) or agreement on behalf of the City of Wellston for design of Sanitary Sewer Separation Project; and designated a dedicated repayment source for the loan.
Sponsor: Boch
Discussion: Grant submitted by DLZ
- Second Reading of Resolution No. 2025-07- A Resolution by the Council of the City of Wellston, Ohio, to approve the appointment of John Jackson, Roger Rader, Kate Martin-Smith, Lexi Coffman, and Tyler King to the Wellston Parks and Recreation Board as members.
Sponsor: Boch
Discussion: The Mayor explained that two of the proposed candidates are from the school board, as required by ORC. He furthered that this committee would serve more as an advisory/steering committee in lieu of working on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Director. This committee will also hear complaints, concerns, and suggestions.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2025-09- A Resolution awarding the Water Treatment Phase 1/Rebid Contract in accordance with the Engineer's Letter of Bid Recommendation, subject to final approval of funding requirements and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Duby
Discussion: Please pass as emergency on 3rd Read. Tree clearing and the pipe have been removed from this bid, making it \$500,000 less than the previous estimates.

Mayor

- The Mayor briefed Council on the latest news concerning the Louvee. There have been bumps in the road with meeting a match for the grant, but he feels the City is moving forward.
- The tree removal for the water plant is out for bid.

- The Brining grant has been closed.
- The Geophysical survey for the RV park has been completed. There will be a meeting soon with the engineers.
- The playground equipment for Blamer has been delivered. Weather will dictate installation. Lights and surfacing bids came 20% too high, so it will be rebid.
- Lemaster asked if the City plans on working on the 14th Street basketball courts. The Mayor responded eventually he would like to. This project would start by removing the brush against the fence and installing lighting.
- The Mayor reminded Council that many federally funded programs are on hold right now.
- The City was awarded a NatureWorks grant for just over \$18,000 for the archaeological survey of the RV park.
- The America250 legislation has been submitted. The Mayor is thinking of establishing a veteran's memorial with the funds if received.
- President Hudson suggested a lower levy for a pool that is centrally located in town.

Service Director (Interim Service Director Ryan Pelletier)

- The water issues have been resolved for the most part and the City is "back to normal."
- Pelletier then addressed the ongoing I&I issues, particularly home drains tied into the storm lines. These drains will flood when there are significant amounts of rain. Preventative measures include a backflow preventor with an approximate cost of \$50.

Law Director

- none

Auditor

- Expense Report and amended official certificate of estimated resources received.

City Clerk's Reports

- Sales and Consumption received

Treasurer's Report

- none

Fire

- none

Zoning/Code

- none

Police

- Chief Robinson asked if anyone sees campers parked on city streets to let him know.

A Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Lemaster at 7:46 p.m. The Motion was seconded by Spangler and approved by all in attendance. The purpose is to discuss contract and personnel issues with no action taken.

Executive Session ended at 8:03 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.


Council Clerk




Council President