



Town of Wyoming
Council Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Vice Mayor Denison called the Meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vice Mayor Denison

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Vice Mayor Denison

ROLL CALL

Council attending: Vice Mayor- Doug Denison, Treasurer- Kyle Dixon, Tracy Johovic, Secretary and Council Person- Melissa Wooleyhand.

Staff attending: Chief Baker, Town Manager, Michael Wooleyhand; Town Clerk- Roseann Lamar; Clerk of Council, Audrey Lindale and Dave Reed.

Audience attending: The ALI Group, Donna Mason, Joyce Stockslager, Cathy George, Sheryl Ford, Sarah Denison, Nora Denison and Eugene Gunter.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Ms. Johovic to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Winchell wanted to thank town staff for all the work they have done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – GOOD NEWS

- Mr. Denison stated that the Peach Festival was a success. Had great weather with no rain. Thanked committee and staff for an amazing job.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- July 10, 2023- Council Meeting
- July 10, 2023- Executive Session

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Ms. Johovic to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Mr. Dixon presented balances, profit and loss reports and check register to council for review.
- Mr. Dixon advised that audit has started and property taxes had been sent out. Town has collected 83% of taxes.

Ms. Johovic moved with a second by Mrs. Wooleyhand to adopt reports as presented. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

- Chief Baker presented July's police report to council.
- There were 510 traffic tickets, 78 warnings, 7 criminal arrests and 1 felony arrest, 4 local fugitives, 1 DUI and 259 total complaints handled by the WPD.
- Speed trailer data not available due to download failure.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

- No report was available due to Kent County systems being down.

C/W SEWER & WATER REPORT

- No Report

PLANNING & ZONING

- Mrs. Lamar advised that Planning and Zoning cancelled meeting due to no agenda items.

BUILDING PERMITS

- Mrs. Lamar presented July's reports to council.
 - 5 new permits, 34 open, 1 closed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Mrs. Lindale advised that there were no violations in July.

PARK/STREET

- Mrs. Wooleyhand advised multipurpose court floor and hoops installed on 7/27, fence installed 8/2 and grading and seeding done on 8/9. Bulletin board will be set with rules and schedule.
- Pickleball net had to be reordered and will be installed on 8/21.
- Playground twirly swing has bad bearing. Part is covered, labor is not. Will be replaced within next couple of weeks.
- A total of 102 paid pavilion rentals so far this year.
- Mrs. Wooleyhand advised that Mr. Reed would explain the photos that were presented.
- Mr. Reed explained that the ropes on the swings have been cut, trash being left behind in pavilion and problems with confetti all over after pavilion usage (not always rentals).

- Chief Baker asked if they could be informed of rentals so that police can patrol the park during this time.
- Mr. Dixon suggested a sign that pavilions have to be rented. Not a first come, first serve.
- Question was asked if cameras cover the pavilions and parking lot. Rectangle pavilion and parking lot only are covered.
- Mr. Wooleyhand recommended putting large blue trash cans chained to pavilions for party trash.
- Concerns were brought up about stickers being placed on the fence in the dog park.
- Mrs. Mason questioned as a resident that if she did not rent the pavilion, would she be allowed to picnic under pavilion?
- It was explained that ideas were being put out there for resolution of problems that are occurring in the park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mrs. Lindale advised that National Night Out was on 8/22, Block Party on 9/16. Everything was set for both events.
- Christmas Parade is set for December 9th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Nomination
 - Mr. Denison advised that he is currently acting mayor, but council may nominate a member of council to fill the spot until the next election in February 2024.
 - Next election would have a mayor seat but only to fulfill the rest of the term which would be 2 years.
 - Nominating a mayor would leave an open council seat which council could appoint someone to fill the seat for the duration of that seat's term.

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Ms. Johovic to nominate Mr. Denison to serve as Mayor until the next election. Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

- Remus Lane
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised that a tax bill was generated for the property at 61 Remus Lane which was annexed into town in October 2007.
 - Mr. Fields feels this is a breach of contract as they were told they would have tax abatement for as long as they owned the property.
 - Mr. Denison explained that the Town Charter is law and it states that tax abatement cannot be longer than 7 years.
 - Mr. Denison advised that any prior taxes will be waived until the current tax year. Taxes will start with the 2023-2024 tax year.
 - Mrs. Field stated that the previous mayor came to them about annexing into town.
 - Mr. Denison apologized that a mistake was made regarding abatement but that the law must be followed per the town's charter.
 - Mr. Field advised that they would be seeking legal counsel and looking into the de-annexation process.

- Friends of Caesar Rodney
 - Jason Bonner explained that Friends of Caesar Rodney is a non-profit that raises funds for scholarships for CR students.
 - Organization planned to hold a festival in Wyoming in October but due to lack of volunteers, the event was cancelled.
 - Organization is now proposing to hold a 5K on October 7 (same day as CR homecoming) to raise funds for the scholarships.
 - Mr. Bonner explained the proposed route and stated that they are limiting the race to 150 runners. He is also working with Mike Marasco and Jeff Gravatt on this 5K event.
 - Questions were raised about road closures through town and recommended that organization speak with Del-DOT regarding the course.
 - Chief Baker expressed concerns regarding having to close major roads that feed into the town.
 - Mr. Bonner explained that races he has participated in that only closed road when a runner was in that area.

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Ms. Johovic to allow the race to take place in Wyoming with the Wyoming Police Department's help to facilitate road closures with approved course with Del-DOT. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

- ALI Group Signs
 - Mr. and Mrs. McNeil from the ALI Group presented council with proposed signs to display.
 - A sign will be placed on existing poles that were used for the real estate sign. Proposed banner for back and side doors. A portable sign would also be placed near sidewalk for attention.
 - Mr. Denison asked if the portable sign would be taken in daily. The reply was yes it would be removed from location daily.
 - Discussion ensued regarding sign being placed on the side deck near an entrance they do not use for clients.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised that a portable sign must be placed 3 ft from road.
 - Council agreed to portable sign, banner on back of building near their entrance and a sign where existing poles that were previously used for real estate sign.

- Repointing of 1 N. Railroad Ave.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand explained that areas of the mortar on 1 N. RR Ave. have deteriorated.
 - Price for repointing was originally put in with painting estimate but town did not receive funding for repainting.
 - Staff had reached out to other contractors, but no other bids had been received.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised that this is something that needs to be done before winter as some of the spots will allow water to enter through cracks and freeze which would cause more damage.
 - Mr. Denison questioned how long it had been for quote requests.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised 3 weeks.
 - Mr. Denison advised that contractors be given until next meeting to allow time for other quotes.

- Paving
 - Mr. Wooleyhand explained that East and West Broad, Harrison Ave, North St., Church Lane, Chambers Alley and Town Hall parking lot are scheduled for paving this year.
 - Discussion regarding budget ensued regarding the estimates received and what money was allotted to paving.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised that the town would receive \$150,000 from Bond Bill and Mr. Paradee would give \$100,000 towards paving.
 - Mr. Gunter explained the 2 options for Chambers Alley.
 - Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Mrs. Wooleyhand to contract with EFG Paving for \$241,500 for the paving of west and east Broad, Harrison Ave, North St, Church Lane, Chambers Alley and the Town Hall Parking lot. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

- Landscaping on Railroad Ave.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand explained that previous Mayor asked that the shrubbery be ripped out along the railroad tracks.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand stated that stone can be laid spelling out Wyoming or just letting the grass grow in that area.
 - Discussion ensued with council deciding that letting the grass grow is the better choice for now and other landscaping is something that could be looked at later.
- Stop Signs Front/Old North/Caesar Rodney Ave Intersection Remus Lane
 - Mr. Bonner (transportation supervisor for CR school district) explained that they have reconfigured traffic patterns at several schools as there are more parent pick-ups.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised that DelDOT will not place stop signs, they only service curb to curb. They will paint stop bars on the roads.
 - Mr. Dixon expressed concerns that he would like to see this done before school starts so that drivers can get use to the new traffic signs.
 - Mr. Denison advised staff to reach out to DelDOT on a timeline for the stop bars so that signs can be installed at same time.
 - Mrs. Wooleyhand asked about moving crosswalk.
 - Mr. Bonner explained that it was down mid school before, and it went unused as most children walked the other direction and saved time by just going to intersection.
 - Discussion ensued regarding small signs that say “4 way stop” under signs, flashing light on top of stop signs to make them more visible.

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Mrs. Wooleyhand to order stop signs, 4 way stop signs and flashing lights for intersection. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

- Ordinance #70-23 Regulating Placement and Storage of PODS
 - Mr. Wooleyhand stated the town has received numerous complaints regarding PODS in the Greens of Wyoming and Mechanic St.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand and the town solicitor researched what other towns have done regarding these PODS. It was found that most towns have an ordinance.
 - Mrs. Lindale read synopsis as a 1st reading.

- Mrs. Wooleyhand would like to see dumpsters added to this ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 10 S. Railroad Ave.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand advised of additional quotes received for demolition and repair of this property.
 - Mr. Wooleyhand explained the scope of work for repair that does not require building to be lifted.
 - Discussion ensued regarding what space would be used for if building is demolished and challenges of keeping building to rent.
 - Renting building or rebuilding would not resolve parking issues associated with this location.
 - Mr. Denison would like to have community input regarding ideas for the vacant lot.
 - Mr. Denison would also like to see what realtor would price property as is with building still on land.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Special Events Committee Meeting, 8/15/2023 @ 5:30pm- Town Hall
- National Night Out, 8/22/2023, 6-8pm - Wyoming Park
- Planning & Zoning Meeting, 8/23/2023, @ 6:30 p.m.- Town Hall
- Town Hall Town Council Meeting, 9/11/2021, @ 6:30 p.m.- Town Hall

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Mr. Wooleyhand advised that the next Planning and Zoning meeting would include DR Horton presenting their preliminary plans for Savannah Farms.
- Mr. Dixon thanked the staff for all their hard work every day for the town.

Mr. Dixon moved with a second by Mrs. Wooleyhand to adjourn meeting at 8:08pm. Mr. Denison, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Johovic and Mrs. Wooleyhand, Aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Audrey Lindale
Clerk of Council