

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 7th 2023
6:30 pm

- PRESENT: Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Cook, President Newburn, Councilman Oehmen, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.
- ABSENT: Vice President Nicholas Mayo
- GUESTS: Chuck Jonas, Brad Ebert, Andrew & Gabrielle from Commonwealth, Marcus Vance (student), Melissa Vance (Mother), Justin Higgerson, Dwayne Tate and Chuck Mack.

Call To Order:

- President Newburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

- Councilman LaFoone-Here, Councilman Cook-Here, President Newburn –Here, Councilman Oehmen - Here, Vice President Mayo-Absent, A quorum is present.

Appointments Needed

- None

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the minutes of November 2nd, 2023 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Plan Commission – No Report
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn held a discussion on the condition of the Dog Park due to a complaint from John Vos stating that his dog got sick from and cost \$1,000 in veterinarian fees. Wanted Attorney Shoffner to be aware incase Mr. Vos asks the town to pay for that fee.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner –President Newburn reported that there was 1 Fence for \$15.00 and 2 Contractor Registrations for \$150.00, totaling \$165.00

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –No Report-Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she attended the Full Commissions meeting on 12/7/2024 for their 2024 Budget approval.
- Other –No Report.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack reported that he signed up his department for a Webinar that discusses lead line testing. We need to be compliant come October 2024 and would get an exemption if we have all the paperwork.
- We have huge stock piles of good/bad dirt that's mixed with debris down at the burn pile. Too much to sift this dirt to eliminate these ever growing piles. Chuck Mack asked the council to consider letting him purchase a Sifter that would cost approximately \$20,000. Councilman Cook thought that might be an old estimate and asked Chuck to continue looking for a more up to date purchase price. He said he would have that at the next council meeting.
- Chuck Mack told the council that he will be having a knee replacement and would be out of the office for anywhere between 9-12 weeks.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook to approve the Amended 2023 Personnel Handbook Policy. Vote was taken. All Ayes.
- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook to approve prepaying Hatfield Pest Control for a 5% discount for the Town Hall and the Wanatah Library.
- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook to approve the Boring application for Directline Communications.

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen to adopt Ordinance 04-2023-Ammend Section 78 Article 2
- Commonwealth discussed the need to move forward with the application process for the Wastewater plant as the deadline to apply will be the end of March 2024. Once that application is in, we will find out by the end of June or July 2024 where we stand in rank and how much financial assistance we will be able to get from the state. At that point, the Council would have to make a decision if they want to move forward. In the meantime, we would have to get the required Asset Management report that could cost up to \$40,000. Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook to move forward with Commonwealth filing an application for financial assistance.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman LaFoone to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Attorney Shoffner presented to the Council an updated description of the "Storage Container" usage. Councilman Cook asked for it to also say that whether it is for a residential or commercial that they have to get approval from the Council first. Attorney Shoffner said that he would take care of that update and present it at the next council meeting.
- President Newburn brought to the Councils attention if they knew of anyone that would want to fill the Animal Control's position. No response was given but would discuss this again at the January meeting. Chuck Jonas suggested that we check with the County for assistance on this issue.
- Clerk Treasurer Ebert performed a "Swearing In" of the Councilman for this next term. Councilman Mayo was not in attendance but will be sworn in before the January Council meeting.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.
Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman LaFoone. A vote was taken.
All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Ebert".

Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer