

Westmoreland City Council
August 11, 2022 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met for its monthly meeting at the Community Center on August 11, 2022.

Governing Body members present: Mayor, Mark Jack; Councilmembers, Waide Purvis, Ashley Rice, John Coleman, Jim Smith, and Bruce Meininger.

City Staff present: Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Krohn; City Treasurer, Amanda Reese; Pool Manager, Amber Krohn and City Clerk, Julie Wren City Attorney, Summer Dierks.

Others present: John Blessing with Waste Management, Resident Tyler Reese, Parker Smither, Linda Asbury, Shannon Fritz and Cale Prater, reporters for The Times, Doug Barrett reporter for 400 North Creative, and Thad Laflin and Ned Seaton via Phone.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Jack called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Additions/Deletions to the agenda: To delete C:3 reviewing the Employee Policy Handbook and revisit another time.

Approval of the agenda: Councilmember Purvis moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Approval of minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting: Councilmember Meininger moved to approve the minutes of July 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Approval of monthly bills: There being no questions regarding the monthly bills, Councilmember Rice moved to approve the monthly bills as presented. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Ned Seaton Publisher of The Wamego Times: Discussion regarding Charter Ordinance 2022-2 re: substituting website as official newspaper- Mr. Seaton joined us via phone at 6:30 pm. He voiced his opinion on discontinuing service with *The Wamego Times* is a mistake. He asked that the Council revoke the vote of last months meeting of passing the new Charter Ordinance. Ned brought to the Council's attention that a website cannot prove when posted, the newspaper is a tangible record and provide proof of being printed 5 years back. Councilmember Meininger asked what the circulation was for *The Wamego Times* in Westmoreland. Ned responded with 15 subscribers but wants to work with that number and try to make it more. Mayor Jack thanked Mr. Seaton for all the information that he provided to the Council and that the Council would revisit this. Mr. Seaton thanked The Council for their time and hung up at 6:55 PM.

John Blessing with Waste Management- Mr. Blessing brought to our attention that Waste Management would be willing to service Westmoreland. It would be weekly trash service which includes a trash can for \$23 per household. Mayor Jack stated the Council wanted

other options for trash services but wasn't sure if possible due to the lack of bids during the last open bid. Mr. Blessing said Waste Management would certainly be interested.

(Mr Blessing left @ 7:04 PM)

Discussion regarding the 2023 budget to fit in the maintenance/cleaning of the storm water ditch at 602 E Main- Maintenance Supervisor Krohn got an estimate cost of \$30,000 for material for this project. There was discussion of possibly fixing it in states. Councilmember Purvis asked to table this until January 2023 meeting and see if it will fit in the budget for 2024.

Discussion on remaining ARPA funds- With keeping the guidelines in mind, Maintenance Supervisor Krohn suggested purchasing a UTV. The cost for the new UTV with trade in is roughly \$19,600 and then with the leftover amount we could replace generators. Councilmember Purvis suggested since we have such a long timeframe before having to use the funds we push the idea back for six months and revisit.

Discussion regarding Firewall system with Networks Plus- City Clerk Wren stated she reached out to an IT acquaintance asking for suggestions for other providers. He stated in our best interest going with Networks Plus would be ideal. Other companies would sell you a really bad device for a lot of money or sell you something similar to networks plus, but not be able to help set up. Councilmember Meininger moved to sign a contract with Networks Plus of \$500 for set up and device, \$125 a month charge. Councilmember Smith Seconded. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Future agenda items- ARPA funds and 602 E Main budget for 2024 be added for January 2023 meeting, Alex and/or Houston with VonFeldt, Bauer & VonFeldt, budget hearing to finalize the published budget, and Maintenance Supervisor Krohn said SMH would like to visit regarding grants that could possibly be used for projects for the city next meeting.

(Mr Barrett left @ 7:15 PM)

Treasurer's Report- City Treasurer Reese informed the Council that we got letters out to residents requesting updated information and informing that e-mailing bills is a possibility and so is Auto Debit. There is a good portion being returned to us completed and there's been multiples signing up for Auto Debit.

There being no questions concerning the treasurer's report, Councilmember Smith moved to approve the treasurer's report as given. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Maintenance Report- Maintenance Supervisor Krohn, reported the following:

UTILITIES

- Fabricated and installed depth gauges in #2 and #3 lagoons.
- Replaced and sent invoice for

AMR

- water meter sensor being mowed over at 201 B N. Walnut.

- Replaced and sent invoice for AMR-water meter and sensor being damaged from meter pit being hit at 103 N. 5th .

STREETS

- Replaced stop sign, post, and anchor at 1st/Campbell due to being hit by a semi-truck.
- Painted school cross walks at approved intersections on Main St. and State St.
- Painted parking stripes on Main St between 2nd/6th streets.

PARKS

- Mowed and trimmed all properties
- Sprayed weed at all properties.

CEMETERY

- Mowed and trimmed.
- Sprayed weeds.
- Repaired damage done to cemetery gate by being pushed open with a vehicle and installed/programmed replacement gate opener control board.

POOL

- Mowed and trimmed.
- Sprayed weeds.

BUILDINGS - PLANNING AND ZONING

- Variance for set back regulations was granted for 312 Quail Dr.
- Issued a building permit for a carport at 312 Quail Dr.

EQUIPMENT

- REED Equipment is still working on repairs to T3 (F650).
- Installed replacement rear tires on M1.
- Discuss purchases from the ARPA Funds.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Attached Chart for inoperable vehicles and mowing/weeds.

MISC - SMH Consultants would like to speak at the September council meeting about the large amount of grants that could possibly be used for projects for the city.

Clerk's Report- City Clerk Wren presented a Thank you card from the Westmoreland Chamber for assistance with the Car Show.

Wren asked the Council if it would be ok to do a shorter version of Council Meeting Minutes. City Attorney Deirks said she would look into the requirements and get back with her.

Wren said a resident called saying he was told he would not be charged a late fee by previous council member. Council stated rules are rules and could not pick and choose who to charge and not charge late fees to.

(Tyler Reese and Parker Smith left @ 7:23 PM)
(Cale left @ 7:25 PM)

Linda Asbury entered the meeting at 7:27 PM

Streets-Councilmember Meininger had nothing to report.

Utilities-Councilmember Coleman had nothing to report.

Animal Control-Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning-Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Pool- Councilmember Rice asked the City Clerk and Treasurer to look into a closing date for the Pool.

Cemetery- Councilmember Purvis had nothing to report.

Parks- Councilmember Purvis had nothing to report.

Fire Department- Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Mayor- Mayor Jack received an e-mail to participate in the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Participation. He stated to have Maintenance Supervisor, Krohn as point of contact and himself as county emergency manager. Councilmember Smith moved to participate in the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and to have Maintenance Supervisor, Krohn and Mayor Jack as point of contact. Councilmember Meininger Seconded. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

City Attorney- Deirks reported that she sent a letter out to the Resident who got a complaint for driving a UTV not registered, and a young child seen driving it. If they do not comply by city ordinance the city will prosecute. They have until September 25th, 2022.

Councilmember Rice moved to enter into executive session at 7:38 PM for 15 minutes with the Mayor, Councilmembers, Maintenance Supervisor Krohn ,City Clerks Wren, City Treasurer, and City Attorney in attendance for personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to protect their privacy. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

Councilmember Purvis moved to exit the executive session at 7:45 PM. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

Councilmember Purvis moved to enter into executive session at 7:47 PM for 15 minutes with the Mayor, Councilmembers, Maintenance Supervisor Krohn, City Clerk Wren, City Treasurer, and City Attorney in attendance for Consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0).

Councilmember Smith moved to exit the executive session at 7:54 PM. Councilmember Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays.

As a result of the executive session, Councilmember Purvis moved to revisit Charter Ordinance 2022-2 substituting the website as official newspaper for possible revocation. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays

Councilmember Purvis moved to enter into executive session at 7:55 PM for no more than five (5) minutes with the Mayor, Councilmembers, City Clerk Wren and City Treasurer in attendance for personnel matters of non-elected personnel and to protect their privacy. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion.

Councilmember Purvis moved to exit the executive session at 8:00 PM. Councilmember Meininger seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Rice being absent.

As a result of the executive session, Councilmember Rice moved to increase the hourly wage for the City Clerk \$1.50 effective with the next pay period. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays.

There being no further business, Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (5) ayes to zero (0) nays .

Mayor Jack declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Signed: _____
Mark S. Jack, Mayor

Julie Wren, City Clerk