

Westmoreland City Council  
May 14, 2020 minutes

The Westmoreland City Council met on May 14, 2020 for their monthly meeting at the Westmoreland Community Center.

Governing Body members present: Mayor, Mark Goodenow; Councilmembers, Jim Smith, Waide Purvis, Jeff Rosell and Ashley Rice.

Governing Body members absent: Councilmember Mark Jack.

City Staff present: Bob Krohn, Maintenance Supervisor; Teri Varriale, City Treasurer; Amber Krohn, pool manager and Vicki Zentner, City Clerk.

Those attending via phone call due to the COVID-19 restrictions: Summer Dierks, City Attorney and Cale Prater, reporter for The Wamego Smoke Signal.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Goodenow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

*Approval of agenda:*

Councilmember Purvis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

*Approval of April 9, 2020 minutes and May 3, 2020 special meeting minutes:*

Councilmember Rosell moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2020 and the May 3, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Purvis seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

*Approval of monthly bills:*

Councilmember Purvis moved to approve payment of the monthly bills. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

*Discussion on payment of past due utility accounts due to COVID-19:*

City Clerk Zentner presented a draft copy of a letter to send to those accounts that are past due because of COVID-19 to set up a payment plan. After some brief discussion, the council decided that Zentner could send the letter only if it should become necessary. Zentner will get with Councilmember Jack, liaison for utilities, before sending the letter.

*Passage of Resolution #03-20 regarding lease/purchase of 2020 Chevrolet 2500HD pickup truck with Farmers State Bank:*

Councilmember Purvis moved to approve Resolution #03-20. Councilmember Rosell seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

*Discussion on delaying payment to American Legion for ball field:*

City Clerk Zentner asked the council if they wished to request a delay by one (1) year on the ball field from the American Legion due to the high school team not playing games in 2020 and the possibility of the summer rec ball season being cancelled due to COVID-19. The council replied no.

*Discussion on donation to Westy Rec Commission:*

The council decided to wait on donating to the Westy Rec Commission for equipment needs until a decision from the board was made for having a summer ball season.

*Cemetery fence correspondence:*

Maintenance Supervisor Krohn informed the council that the new fence at the cemetery is installed. However, there is still the issue of the property line. Krohn stated that the current property line is located between the cemetery road and the fence and the property is owned by a trust.

Councilmember Rosell stated that the city needs to have the property surveyed before the city attorney sends a letter asking for an easement in this area or a reasonable purchase price.

*Correspondence regarding the RV Park meeting building:*

The city clerk informed the council that Mr. Frank was willing to donate between \$30,000 to \$50,000 towards the building of a meeting building at the RV Park for

camping clubs to use. All he asked was that a plaque be installed on the building in memory of his late wife.

Maintenance Supervisor Krohn stated that the city could build the building but would need to hire out for concrete and electrical wiring.

After some brief discussion, Councilmember Rosell asked that Krohn bring back figures for adding heat and air conditioning to the building. Councilmember Purvis stated that the city could give Mr. Frank both options-with and without heat and electricity-for him to decide which building he would prefer.

*Future agenda items:*

Councilmember Purvis stated he did not have any future agenda items but did want to state that if citizens have any issues, that they please come to a council meeting and have a discussion with the council and not comment on social media.

Councilmember Rosell stated that a goal setting meeting needed to be held possibly in July or August. No date was set.

*Staff Reports:*

**City Agent-** The council would like the city agent, Jeff Zimmerman, to look at the boarded-up house on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

A friendly letter will be sent to the owner of the Saloon Bistro and Boutique regarding his plans for the holes in the back of the property.

A call will be made to the owner of the property at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & Campbell Streets regarding the scrap metal and trailer frame placed in the creek area of his property.

**Pool Manager-**Amber asked if a decision on whether to open the pool this summer had been made.

Mayor Goodenow stated that he was deciding to close the pool for the season due to COVID-19 and instructed Maintenance staff to drain the pool and that a press release be sent to the local papers.

**Treasurer's Report-**Councilmember Purvis moved to approve the treasurer's report as given. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

**Maintenance Report**-Maintenance Supervisor Krohn reported the following:

Utilities:

- B&B Services completed the annual maintenance to the valves at the water vault.
- Installed water service, setter, meter and meter pit at County Fleet Maintenance site at 533 Cochrun.
- RDK Construction completed the replacement and activation of 342 AMR (automatic meter reader) water meter SmartPoint Sensors for Sensus throughout town.

Parks:

- Sprayed weeds.
- Mowed properties.
- Pulled weeds in flower beds.
- Ordered flowers to be planted in City planters throughout town.

Cemetery:

- Sprayed weeds.
- Placed mulch in flower beds.
- Placed ditch liner in areas that needed erosion control.
- Mowed property.
- Pulled weeds in flower beds.
- Opened/closed one (1) burial.

Pool:

- Sprayed weeds.
- Mowed property.
- Filled and started up pump and filters.
- Pulled weeds in flower beds.

Buildings:

- Pulled weeds in flower beds.

Planning and Zoning:

- Issued a chicken permit for 502 Armer.

Equipment:

- Holm Automotive will keep us aware of build date and delivery of new 2020 Chevrolet 2500HD and will probably see a delivery date of September or after depending on when the factory starts back up.

Krohn gave an update on the creek erosion project funding. At the present time, funding has been approved. Zentner informed the council that a decision needed to be made regarding the designing of the project. She stated that the city could use SMH Consultants or they could go with USDA which would cut down on extra "hoops" to jump through for the funding.

After some brief discussion, the council decided to let USDA design the project.

**City Clerk**-Zentner informed the council that she would be out of the office on May 22, 2020 and June 19, 2020.

### **Councilmember's Reports:**

**Streets**- Councilmember Rosell stated he had talked to Hall Brothers regarding the streets overlay project and after explaining the situation with funding, they had indicated they would be willing to wait until 2021 to begin the project. Councilmember Rosell, however, felt the city could go ahead and do half of the streets this year. He stated he would talk to them again and ask them to come and look to see what streets they could do this year.

**Utilities**-Due to the absence of Councilmember Jack, there was nothing to report.

**Animal Control**-Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

**Planning and Zoning**-Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

**Pool**-Councilmember Rice asked the Mayor again if the pool was to be closed. Mayor Goodenow stated yes.

**Fire Department**-Due to the absence of Councilmember Jack, there was nothing to report.

**Cemetery**-Councilmember Purvis had nothing more to report.

**Parks**-Councilmember Purvis stated that the ball diamonds are closed due to COVID-19. He inquired what happened if a team went ahead and had practices during the closure. Both City Clerk Zentner and City Attorney Dierks stated that it would be a violation of the Governor's Executive Order and that the Sheriff's Department could get involved.

**Mayor**-Mayor Goodenow had nothing more to report.


City Attorney-Attorney Dierks stated that municipal court would be on June 9, 2020 with a status hearing on two (2) cases.

She also stated that she had received a response from Rural Water District #4 and a meeting between herself, the city auditor and Ransom Financial will be set. She will let Councilmember Rosell of any answers she receives from the meeting.

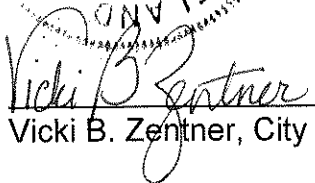
There being no further business or discussions, Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed four (4) ayes to zero (0) nays with Councilmember Jack being absent.

Mayor Goodenow declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Approved by the Governing Body on June 11, 2020.

Signed:   
Mark A. Goodenow, Mayor



  
Vicki B. Zentner, City Clerk