

# BOROUGH OF WESTVILLE

Special Council Meeting

165 Broadway

July 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

*Meeting Minutes*

Mayor Welsh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Clerk read the public notice and roll call was taken, with the following persons in attendance:

Mayor Russell W. Welsh, Jr., Council President Michael O. Ledrich, Council Members: Paul C. Mailley, Fritz H. Sims, Jr., Administrator/Deputy Clerk William J. Bittner, Jr., and Public Works Assistant Superintendent Martin E. Finger, Jr.

Absent: Council Members: Donna Moan, Charles D. Murtaugh and Bruce Nordaby and Public Works Superintendent Donna Domico

Administrator Bittner provided a brief synopsis of the meeting by stating this was an informational session and that comments would be taken from members of the audience regarding the possible sale of the Borough's Water Utility system. Administrator Bittner advised meeting attendees Council had not made a decision at this point and that there will be more informational meetings regarding the possible sale. Administrator Bittner confirmed the decision to sell the Water Utility will be put to the residents of Westville in the form of a vote that will be included on the November 8, 2016 ballot and if the voters of Westville decide not to support the sale of the Water Utility, council cannot proceed with the sale. Administrator Bittner also commented, if the voters approve the sale, Council still has the authority not to move forward with the sale of the Water Utility. Administrator Bittner advised meeting attendees the documents specific to the sale of the Utility are on the Westville web site and Facebook page.

Louanna Sills, 303 Edgewater Avenue, asked why Aqua has an interim president. Administrator Bittner advised Ms. Sills to write the question down so that they could research the answer with Aqua. Ms. Sills asked if the sale goes through, will there be Aqua staff available to handle emergencies and Administrator Bittner clarified Aqua will be maintaining the water plant but would have to clarify that issue with Aqua. Mayor Welsh stated in the bid specs, Aqua guarantees 24 hour service.

Joyce Lovell, 328 Summit Avenue asked if the discounts currently provided to senior citizens and disabled individuals would be honored by Aqua and Administrator Bittner advised Aqua would continue to offer the discounts to those individuals who qualify under current Ordinances. A discussion took place with Ms. Lovell asking questions about: how much Aqua would charge for fire hydrants, a five year rate freeze and the logo on the water tower. Mayor Welsh also advised Ms. Lovell that Aqua agreed to all of the Borough's requests in the Bids specs.

Brian Waters, 226 Summit Avenue, asked if there was any real property involved in the sale. Administrator Bittner advised the only real property involved in the sale is the property attached to the water system, e.g. well properties, water tank property and treatment plant. Mr. Waters also confirmed that if the residents vote "no" that would be a binding vote and Council could not overrule that decision and Administrator Bittner advised that was an accurate statement. Mr. Waters also confirmed if the sale goes through, residents would not go to tax sale for delinquent water bills but rather only for sewer or taxes and Administrator Bittner confirmed this was an accurate statement. Mr. Waters also addressed the issue of free water for the Borough.

Mayor Welsh closed the meeting to the public and reminded attendees of the next regular council meeting scheduled for August 8, 2016. Mayor Welsh advised attendees that at the August 8, 2016 meeting, Council may adopt an Ordinance to consider the sale of the Water Utilities. Mayor Welsh further advised attendees by August 19, 2016 the Borough must submit information to the County so that the question of the possible sale of the Water Utility can be placed on the ballot. Mayor Welsh also remarked on the required timeframe for holding meetings and the documents specific to the sale of the Water Utility that have been uploaded to the web site. Mayor Welsh encouraged residents to contact him if they have any questions about the potential sale of the Water Utility.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council President Ledrich and seconded by Councilman Sims. *Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

*Respectively Submitted,*

*William J. Bittner, Jr.  
Deputy Municipal Clerk*

**Next Council meeting scheduled for August 8, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.**

*[Introduction of an Ordinance Authorizing Execution of a Sale Contract (Water) with the successful respondent & placing a question on the November General Election Ballot for the sale.]*