

## MEETING MINUTES

### PUBLIC HEARING – WATER UTILITY PLANNING PROJECT

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537  
Thursday November 12, 2020 6:00 PM

#### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.  
Ryan Young  
Kelli Chavez

**Council Members present:** Roger Ecker, Kelli Chavez

**Council Members absent** - Ryan Young

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

Call to order – meeting started at 6:15PM due to technical problems– Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

**Patrons:** Steve Stacy, Linda Sanders of Wessler Engineering, Shannon McLeod, Cesar Bratta, and Bill Haghee both of Surf Broadband.

**Bussines:** Shannon McLeod brought everyone up to date regarding the OCRA grant water utility study and the issues because of no city water for the town. Letters of support from community members and the school were submitted by the board. The need was clearly shown to proceed with the study. 1. Economic growth. 2. Fire safety, the town would have hydrants. 3. Insurance rate would go down. 4. Water quality. Shannon stated what will be needed to complete the grant application. The company that was chosen by the board to do the water study was Wessler Engineering of Indianapolis. The grant request will be submitted to OCRA for the amount of \$35,000.00. The town should hear back within the next 2-4 weeks. When approved, the town will initiate the contract with Wessler to begin the study in January 2021. The town's local match for the grant will be \$4500.00. President Ecker stated the issues that he was aware of: 1. Fire Issues – LaPaz fire trucks (2) hold 600 gallons of water each. With this amount of water, it is not enough to knock down a big fire. LaPaz would still have to bring in trucks from area departments. 2. Union-North School system approached the town wanting better water. They have had well problems and clarity of water problems. 3. Economic growth – Housing is needed in our area. Water would bring developers. Expansion of town to the new US 31 bypass would be able to be developed for business. Bringing in business would add to the tax base for the town. Having town water would give LaPaz a higher ability to get grants. 4. Water Quality – Residents of LaPaz have high levels of iron; have to have water softeners, water filters for taste. The McCollough sub division has very bad water as well.

**Resolutions & Ordinances:** Four Factor Analysis, Authorization of Submission, and Local Match Resolution 10-2020 are related to the grant application. President Ecker made motion to approve the Four Factor Analysis Resolution and the Authorization of Submission Resolution. Kelli Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – nays –none. Motion carried 2-0. Ecker made a motion to approve the Fair Housing Ordinance 2020-10. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2- nays 0. Motion Carried 2-0. Ecker made a motion to approve the Local Match Resolution. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2- nays 0. Motion passed 2-0.

**Adjournment:** Ecker made a motion to close the meeting. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2 – nays 0. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Council Meeting*

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537  
Thursday November 12, 2020 6:36 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19

**Council Members**

Roger Ecker, Pres.  
Ryan Young  
Kelli Chavez

Call to order – Called to order at 6:36PM

- \* Council Members attending – Ecker, Chavez
- \* Council Members absent – Young
- Town Attorney present
- Clerk present

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve October 8, 2020 minutes as written. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Roll call. 2 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**LED Sign:** Roger has not heard back from I&M concerning the 60' setback. Talks with the fire station will be continued. The sign should be ready for delivery by years end.

**Resolution 10 – 2020 –** A Confirmatory Resolution Regarding Resolution # 09-2020 Designating an Economic Revitalization Area and Qualifying Certain Property and Improvements for Tax Abatement. President Ecker made a motion to pass resolution 10-2020 on the second and third readings. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2- nays 0. Motion carried 2-0.

**Ordinance Violation:** Regarding property located at 123 South Michigan Street. Instead of removing vehicles as requested by the board, he has added a trailer now. Tony is perusing 2 different options. The Aggressive approach, is trying to get the commissioners assigning the tax certificate to the town. Second option is to proceed to enforce the ordinance through a suit in small claims court. President Ecker asked that he proceed on both options.

Regarding the dispute between neighbors at 208 South Street, Holderman and Shaffer: this is a private matter. Town will not get involved.

**MVH:** Leaf Vac quotes tabled till Next meeting.

**Sewer Dept:** Mark Haskins is working on lift station at 6 & 31.

**New Business:** Ecker updated the board on the Covid virus. In the last 24 hours 860 new cases in ST. Joe County. ST. Joe Hospital Mishawaka anticipates in the next 2 weeks they will require 120 beds. They are at capacity now. Marshall County has only 11 beds available. Everyone is short of personnel.

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New Business Continued

Surf Boardband Solutions: Cesar Bratta's company provides fixed wired fiber internet service to South West Michigan down to Indianapolis. He in area to research need in Plymouth, LaPaz and Lakeville residential service. Roger asked if fire station can get free internet - Can talk about. Mr. Bratta will need a letter of support from the town to pursue survey with resident's level of interest. Having LaPaz as a gig city will be a big draw for people to choose LaPaz to live and establish new business.

Salary Ordinance: President made a motion to approve the salary Ordinance # 2020-09 for 2021. Chaves seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2- nays 0. Motion carried 2-0.

Appropriation: Ecker made a motion to approve the Appropriation Ordinance 2020-07. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: ayes 2 – nays 0. Motion carried 2-0.

Patron Comments: LaPaz post office requested parking sign. Residents continue to park on wrong side of street.

Attorney Update: Documents found by Bill Reed regarding easement property were not conclusive. Still need to get the property surveyed.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve APV's from October 10th - November 12th. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> - roll call – 2 ayes / 0 nays- motion carried.

Close: Ecker made a motion to close the council meeting. Chavez 2<sup>nd</sup> – roll call – 2 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried. Adjourned at 7:15 PM

Announcements: Next Council meeting will be December 12, 2020 at 6:00 PM

  
Roger Ecker, Council President

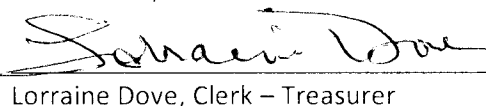
12-10-2020  
date

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Young, Council Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

  
Kelli Chavez, Council Member

12-10-2020  
date

  
Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

12-10-2020  
date