

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

March 9, 2023 6:00 PM

### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.

Ryan Young, Vice

Cathy Welch

**Council Members present:** Roger Ecker, Ryan Young, Cathy Welch

**Council Members absent** – none

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

**Call to order** – meeting started at 6:00PM

**Patrons:** Paul Tyler, Linda Tyler, Jerry Auer, Steve Stacy, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Amber Godlewski, Tim Abbott, Doris Barden, Mark Whittaker, Eileen Isenberg, Tim & Cindy McCan.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from February 9, 2023 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business:** water project update; Ecker spoke with Marshall County Commissioners to inform them of what it would take for LaPaz to get the project to the next step. The amount needed would be \$430,000.00 with another million dollars the next year. At this time the town does not have the funds to invest just to see if LaPaz would be eligible for grants. The commissioners will be reaching out to other leaders in the state to see if there could be help for the project. Without help in funding the cost per household would not be affordable. The town needs a water system to promote growth for LaPaz. LaPaz will need commercial, industry business to come into LaPaz to grow. LaPaz needs growth in order to maintain the tax base to stay a town and not be absorbed in the county like Teegarden. For now the water system project will be shelved. Cindy McCan asked if the area behind the school was considered in the water system. She asked if the town planned on annexing the area. Ecker stated the town did not plan on it at this time. Eileen Isenberg is not in favor of the water system.

**New Business:** Picking up trash toters for non-payment and put in shut off valves on sewer connections for non-payment. Attorney Wagner discussed what the town needed to do. Jerry Auer stated he would have to put in a gate valve. Clerk stated it was needed to be put on properties that continually never pay their bill. Baker-Tilly is to do a new rate study. Wagner will do an amendment to the sewer ordinance spelling out that the town has the right to remove the trash toters for nonpayment and the right to put in shut off valve for nonpayment.

**MVH:** Paul will retire May 1<sup>st</sup>. He will be on vacation next week. The council interviewed 2 candidates. Ecker made a motion to hire Roger Christner. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Sewer:** Jerry will retire December 31, 2023. The clerk asked for a job description to post to find a replacement. Possibly testing could be done by a regular firm. Jerry will be putting the UV for the season.

**Attorney Update:** Ecker made a motion to pass the Golf Cart Ordinance 2023-01 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Ordinance 05-2023 will be on hold till next meeting.

**Voluntary Annexation:** The some of the property owners along US 6 are asking to be annexed into LaPaz. Wagner explained to the council the steps for doing the annexation. He will be doing a physical plan. 100% of the property owners must be in favor of annexation. All must sign the petition. A special meeting will be set for the property owners to sign. A public hearing will need to be step up.

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**Patron Comments:** Cindy McCan asked if Surf Broadband will be put in the housing project behind the school. Jerry said yes. Wagner stated Surf should be sending out flyers with information. Tim Abbott questioned on the annexation process about doing it in phases. Wagner stated 1/8 of the properties need to touch the town limits. Then the second phase to annexation of the remaining property.

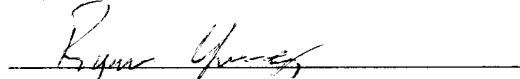
**Financials:** Ecker made a motion to approve APV's for Feb.10th – March 9th APV's # 4078-#4132 for the amount of \$92,954.39. Young seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Clerk Update:** 19 people are on the TRECS collection listing. TRECS notified the clerk LaPaz will be receiving funds from one person. 15 delinquent letters we sent to warn of a lien if bill not paid in full. Last day to file for liens is March 17<sup>th</sup>. The clerk stated she will be filing at least 12 liens of the 19 on TRECS since the never pay. Payment arrangements were made with 2 consumers. 5 people on the TRECS listing have unknown forwarding addresses.

**Adjournment:** Ecker made a motion to adjourn. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM

  
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Roger Ecker, Council President

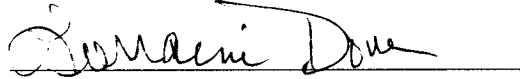
4-13-2023  
date

  
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Ryan Young, Vice-President

4-13-2023  
date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Welch, Council Member

4/13/23  
date

  
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Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

April 13, 2023  
date