

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

July 13, 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 6:02PM

Patrons: Jerry Auer, Steve Stacy, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Yale Moser.

Approval of Minutes: Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from June 8, 2023, as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Update: Attorney Wagner presented the council with the updated amendment to the ordinance dealing with tall grass, weeds, and other vegetation. This amendment now contains a definition of what weeds and other vegetation are and the height of 9". The minimum charges for the town to do the work will be raised to \$60.00 per hour. Ecker made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-06 regarding the amendment for tall grass, weeds, and vegetation on the first reading. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0. The new ordinance will be advertised. The final readings will be at the August 10th meeting. Ordinance 2023-05 - Garage Sale was brought to the table. Ecker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-05 on the second and third reading. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Officer Gadziola will have copies of the ordinance to pass to patrons having yard sales. The clerk will print up permits and post ordinance on the town's website and Facebook. Notices will be put on the sewer billing cards.

Old Business: LPA Amendment; Chad Salzbrenner of Fleis & Vandenbrink was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Ecker stated that Chad was able to get the additional cost for the of the environmental engineering services to be added into the original grant for the sidewalk project. Ecker stated unfortunately, the trees along the west side of Michigan Street will have to be removed for the sidewalk project. The clerk asked if the town could hire a nursery to remove the trees and transplant them to the park. Ecker said it would have to be done in late fall or early winter but could be done at the town's expense. Ecker made a motion to accept Amendment #1 To The LPA-Consulting Contract with Fleis & Vandenbrink. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Update CCMG Application: Ecker is finishing the ADA updates and the ERC Certification for the street-project.

Request for copy of old Festival Book: Welch informed the council that Mickey Davenport attended the town's 150th Sesquicentennial. Mrs. Davenport was very interested in the books the town had on display from prior celebrations. She had asked Cathy Welch if the town would reprint the books and have them available to sell to the public. Ecker said he would see if he had a printer that could do that.

MVH: No report

Police: No report

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Sewer: Plant running well. Jerry Auer reported he spoke with Joe from Lakeville Sewer Plant. They have redone their lift station pumps that were 10 years old. The pumps are very similar to the pumps we use at LaVille Schools. Ours are 30 years old. They have new blades and slides can be used for parts. Lakeville is willing to sell to us at a discount price. Ecker asked to check on what scrap prices are. Possibly the town can trade the pumps for the testing the town does for Lakeville. Sewer Maintenance position is open. Steve Stacey to give the clerk an advertisement for the position to submit to the paper, Facebook, and the town website.

New Business: Ecker wants to have an executive meeting set for Tuesday July 25th at 6:00PM. The meeting will be to interview candidates for the open position of sewer maintenance.

Open Clerk Position: No one has signed up to run for the position on the November ballot. The clerk has asked the council to hire a deputy as soon as possible so a person can train for the job. A deputy does not need to reside in town limits. Since no one is running, the clerk-treasurer position will have to be filled with someone from the Democratic Party and live within the town limits.

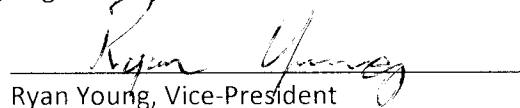
Patron Comments: Yale Moser came before the council to request a variance for his building located at 106 E Randolph Street. He wants to install an aesthetic covering for the front door of his building. He presented photos of what it is to look like. He is on the agenda of the Marshall County Zoning Board for his request. The board meets Tuesday August 8th at 7:30 PM. Mr. Moser asked the council for their approval. Ecker will let Ty Adley know that the council is in favor of the design. Kevin Berger updated the council on the progress of the LaPaz Commons. Framing is ready to start, along with installing windows and doors. Then will be ready for the roofing.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve APV's for June 14th – July 13th APV's #4261-#4311 for \$69,837.44. Young seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Update: Reminder for meeting between LaPaz and North Township Tuesday July 18th at 6:00 PM. 21 Delinquent letters were sent out to sewer customers on July 6th. The clerk will be filing 19 liens after July 15th. The total of the liens to be filed is \$4011.52 plus the cost of the added late fees, \$475.00 filing fees and fees from the county to be added. On June 22nd the town received in lien payments from St. Joseph County \$434.61 and from Marshall County \$5060.54. Of those lines, 13 were paid in full and 5 were partially paid. Lien release fees came to \$325.00. The foreclosure sale date on the property located at 308 Thayer Street is on July 25th at 1:00 PM. The clerk gave a written report on final monies spent, donated, raised for the Sesquicentennial Festival. The winners of the games, 50/50, and raffle prizes were also named. A detailed report will be with the minutes in the town hall. Ecker made a motion to budget \$3000.00 to fund a festival in 2024. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye, Motion carried 3-0. The clerk is also still dealing with Speedway on the fraudulent charges on the town's account. Speedway's fraud department has not gotten back with her. In the meantime, the bill had to be paid in full while the investigation is proceeding.

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 6:36 PM


Roger Ecker, Council President


Ryan Young, Vice-President

8 10-2023
date

8 10-2023
date

Cathy Welch
Cathy Welch, Council Member

Lorraine Dove
Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

5/10/23
date

8/20/2023
date