

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

October 12, 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: Jerry Auer, Roger Christner, Jen Gilmer, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Chad Robertson, Ron Thomas.

Attorney Update: Wagner explained the sewer rate study to the council. He said the shut off hearings and how it will proceed will be a separate policy. Ecker made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-09 Sewer Rate Ordinance on the first reading. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes: Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from September 14, 2023 and joint meeting minutes with North Township Advisory Board August 15th, October 4, 2023 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business: 2024 Budget: Ecker made a motion to approve Resolution 09-2023 - 2024 Budget for the Town of LaPaz. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

LaPaz Commons Update: Kevin Berger provided a copy of the natural landscape design for the area around the LaPaz Commons town houses. It will be all native plants, a few raised beds, spruce trees in the back as a buffer and wildflowers out front with a mowing strip around the wildflowers. He asked the council to give his building an exception to our tall grass ordinance due to the prairie grass in the design. This design meets with the National Green Building Society as a sustainable landscape. After a full discussion Ecker made a motion to approve the exception to our tall grass ordinance for the NGBS sustainable landscape design for LaPaz Commons. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Deputy Clerk Position: Jen Gilmer has applied for a deputy clerk position. She will train with the current clerk until she retires at the end of 2023. On January 1st Gilmer will be appointed to the clerk-treasurer position. Ecker made a motion to hire Jen Gilmer as a deputy clerk. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried: 3-0.

Park Project: Ecker made a motion to award the contract to do the park improvements to Brown and Brown in the amount of \$297,100.00. This equates to the base bid minus the alternative of \$8,500.00. The award is pending OCRA release of funds. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Pending the obtainment of the release of funds the council needs to have a nomination of who will execute the agreement with Brown and Brown. Welch nominated Roger Ecker to be the town representative as the executer. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Welch-aye, Young-aye, Ecker-abstained. Motion carried 2-0.

Police: no report

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MVH: Christner reported Haskins Excavating will be redoing the manhole cover that is caving at the corner of 1st road and Michigan beginning the first week of November. He will also inspect the manhole cover by First Source Bank on Michigan Street. Leave pick-up will begin November 1st on Wednesdays and Fridays. The town will go through Marshall County for the salt-sand mix for the streets this winter.

Sewer Dept. Superintendent Stacy was unable to attend the meeting. He sent an email with his report for the town as follows; "Updates we have the new tractor, it is a great piece of equipment. Mapping is in process waiting on iPad to come in then I can get refreshed with training and get things going. Still waiting to hear from Ferguson for an appointment on plow and light installation. We had a check valve and valve leaking at the plant that is being replaced today by Mathew Haskins and his dad. I want to put a plan together for next year to start replacing the check valves, valves, and pipe at the other lift stations around town as they are 30 plus years old and could have issues at any point. Walnut St. lift station is the worst. I will see about budgeting for one station per year until done. Other than that, everything is going well. Jerry will be at the meeting for anything needed there. I would like to thank you all for allowing us to have good equipment to help us do our job properly and efficiently. I have attached a picture of the new tractor for you to see." Ecker asked for a key to the plant fence.

New Business: Book Collection: Steve Barber is collecting used books for free distribution as was done at our festival. The clerk discussed with Mr. Barber having a box at the town hall for collection. They discussed having a book box located in the park for distribution when the new construction is completed. **Preliminary Fire Territory Budget:** The original budget was 999,940.00. At the last joint meeting it was revised to \$1,248,080.00. The North Township Advisory Board approved the new budget to submit to Baker-Tilly on Monday October 9th. After the council's discussion, Ecker made a motion to submit the final budget of \$1,248,080, as well as the first budget of \$999,940 as a comparison. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Patron Comments: Kevin Berger asked to speak with Chad Robertson of the LaPaz fire Department after the meeting regarding the lock box and do a walk through for the LaPaz Commons.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve APV's for Sept. 15 – Oct. 12 APV's #4403-#4451 for \$125,735.62. Young seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Update: Clerk presented the council with Ordinance 2303-08 Additional Appropriations. Ecker made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-08. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. The clerk informed the council the building at 123 S Michigan Street went up for tax sale again today. This is the third time as a Commissioner's Sale. She did not have the results of the sale at the time of the meeting. The clerk asked the council if the property was not sold, could the town suspend billing for the sewer because it cannot be shut off since the building shares a tank with Masterson's building. If sold in a commissioner's sale the town would not be able to collect all the liens. Ecker made a motion to discontinue the billing for the sewer until there is a new owner for 123 S Michigan Street. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

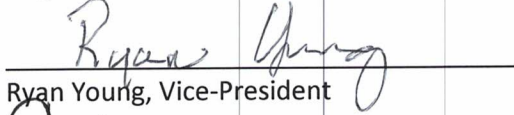
Adjournment: Ecker made a motion to adjourn. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM

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Roger Ecker, Council President

11-9-2023
date



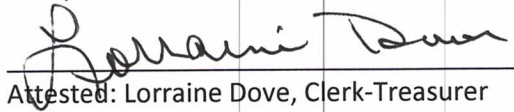
Ryan Young, Vice-President

11-9-2023
date



Cathy Welch, Council Member

11/9/2023
date



Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

11/9/2023
date

