

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

December 14, 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: Jenn Gilmer, Doug Horner, Roger Christner, Amber Godlewski, Jerry Auer, Gavin Greer, Sara Culp, Mathew Haskins, Lori Osborne, Annette Auer, Allison Hutchens

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

Old Business: Fire Territory update from meeting on 12/12/2023. Approval of Baker Tilly presenting contract at 3 meetings help about a month apart. Shift would consist of 2 EMS per shift and 2 firefighters Monday through Friday around 8am-4pm or 7am-3pm. Currently looking for 6 EMS for 24-hour shifts at 2/shift. Already hearing threats of having a lawsuit against this.

Fire Contract Renewal approved by Ecker, seconded by Young. Ecker, aye, Young, aye, Welch, aye
Motion carried 3-0

LaPaz Commons, finishing rough ends and should be insulated soon. Hoping to be complete by the end of January and renting asap after that. Send rental inquiries to Heather at Bradley Company. Betcher will be getting stone number 53 at 4 inches for around \$7,000. With 4 inches being put down and the total needed at 9 inches, the cost could go down as then only 5 inches of stone would be needed at the finishing time. Ecker made a motion to approve, Young seconded, Ecker, aye, Young, aye, Welch, aye, motion carried 3-0.

New Business: Jerry Auer Retirement after 28 years of service, appreciation of years and hard work, plaque presents. Cards/Gift cards presented to Jerry and Lorraine Dove (10 years) for her service on Town Council and Town Clerk. Many kind words were given to each person.

New Position Marshall County: Meeting was held, and bylaws were accepted to become Marshall County ONE. The hopes is this will allow us to get more grants. Instead of each county getting the money it will go to Marshall County ONE. January 2024 an amendment will have to be made for this change.

If holding any festivals, will need to form a committee and start in January 2024. Most businesses have approved a 2024 budget so the sooner they have the option for donations the better. Trying to put on fireworks again.

MVH: Trucks are ready for winter. Presented a park idea that current picnic tables could be refurbished rather than buying new ones. The frames are good, just the wood needs changed. Christner and Horner would like to work on this in the winter. A tree is dead by where the old community center was, Ecker would like to remove and keep wood, no one objected. The idea was mentioned to chain them down after updated. Will keep an eye on the holes on Walnut street and repair as needed.

Sewer: Most of the manholes are finished at this point. Some of them have been covered up and may need to have concrete dug up to get to them. Continuing to do a lot of GPS-ing.

Gate valves have been picked up for shut off services. PD should be on property while shut offs are being placed on. Wagner will be drafting a letter to send prior.

Attorney Update: Sewer rate ordinance has been published in the abbreviated form. Has all the updated rates and updated disconnect language needed. Ready for approval on 2nd and 3rd reading. Rates will stay the same even though the debt of replacement has fallen off, then maintenance has increased so all in all, it becomes a wash out. Without the debt falling off, the rates would have increased. Ecker motioned to accept reading, Young seconded. Ecker- aye, Young- aye, Welch-aye motion carried 3-0.

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Wagner suggested the Fire Territory ordinance is basically fine, there may be some minor cosmetic adjustments within the interlocal agreement. Set to proceed in January 2024. Wagner presented 2024 renewal of his contract that basically stays the same with a few adjustments to an hourly rate if he is working on a specific project. Ecker approved, Young seconded. Ecker-aye, Young- aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0

Patron Comments: The question was presented about the fire territory on who will be paying for this to happen. Essentially, the taxpayers. Taxes will go up around \$150/year for most residents with \$6000/year for farmers. Response was also given that Baker Tilly will be handling all the advertisements for the next meetings, possibly sending out postcards about the meeting. BT presenting 3 identical meetings with a PowerPoint, and a 4th meeting for the board to vote on.

Financials: APVs #4498-4547 dated from November 13-December 14, 2023, in the amount of \$105,923.28 have been approved by Ecker first, Young second, Welch aye. All in favor 3-0

Clerk Update: Publications for bids of LaPaz Street Project CCMG2023-2 will open January 11, 2024.

Approval is needed for 1st Source Bank to switch authority of bank accounts. This will remove Lorraine Dove from the account and add Jennifer Gilmer to the account. Ecker motioned to approve, Young seconded. Ecker – aya, Young – aye, Welch – aye. Motion carried 3-0

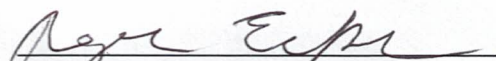
Presented to accept our one-third of BT expense of \$740, approved by Ecker, Young seconded, Welch aye, Approved 3-0

Injection Plastics have been billed for many years for 2 tanks. Recently, it has been determined that one tank has been capped off and only 1 tank has been used. The party did not notify the clerk that this had taken place. Per Wagner, it is the responsibility of the party to inform appropriate personnel. The bill can now be reduced for the use of 1 tank; however, a refund of the 2nd tank will not be given. This tank can be used in the future. Wagner to draft a letter. Ecker approved, Young seconded. Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

The sheriff's sale will take place for 227 S. Michigan on January 23, 2024.

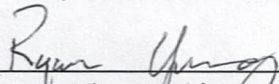
A letter was sent out on 11/21/23 to inform residents that trash service would be discontinued for their address if their bill was delinquent, as well as a reminder on the bill. Suggestions made for the dumpster at the fire department to be under lock and key. Haskins will reach out to Apex to research how this can happen. If trash is building up, there is an ordinance that will then acquire a fee to resident.

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 6:41 PM



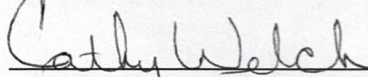
Roger Ecker, Council President

1-11-2024
date



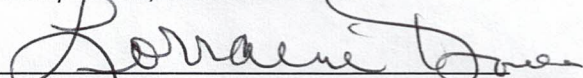
Ryan Young, Vice-President

1-11-2024
date



Cathy Welch, Council Member

date



Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

1/11/2024
date