

MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537
Thursday June 10, 20, 2021 6:00 PM

Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.
Ryan Young
Kelli Chavez

Council Members present: Roger Ecker, Ryan Young, and Kelli Chavez

Council Members absent – none

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

Call to order – meeting started at 6:00PM

Patrons: Paul Tyler, Steve Stacy, Linda Sanders from Wessler, Kevin Berger from Easterday Construction, Phil Ellinger, Eric Sorensen.

Approval of Minutes: President Ecker made a motion to approve May 13, 2021 minutes as written. Chavez seconded the motion. – Roll call. 3 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried.

MVH: Tyler reported he had the pot holes filled in town. Not able to cut grass along east side of Michigan St due to problems with drainage. Have to wait for water to drain. Territorial Engineering has submitted a proposal of \$2100.00 to do the survey of the alley and the Abbot parcel. Tony is asking them to create a legal description for the Abbott property. Ecker made a motion to approve Territorial Engineering up to \$5000.00 for the survey work to be done. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Sewer Dept: nothing to report.

New Business: Apartment building at 101 S Michigan St. - Wagner has a signed deed from Beverly Conley. He did a review the property history in the county records. Found no outstanding liens. May be passed due taxes. If so the county may forgive the debt. He did not see any issues with accepting the donation of the building. Ecker made a motion to accept ownership of the building located at 101 S Michigan ST., LaPaz. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0. Wagner will file for the deed.

Ordinance Violations: Ecker spoke with the Steve Howard Marshall County building inspector regarding the Valdez unsafe house at 102 S Michigan Street. Demolition – remodel has stopped on the building. Mr. Howard informed Ecker the town is now responsible for building issues within 2 miles of the town limit. Chavez explained to the council that the Marshall County Unsafe Building and Property Board decided last October since their budget would not be able to cover the county and all of the towns, it will now be the town responsibility to take care of issues within their limits. Ecker said per Mr. Howard, we are to enforce violations now not the county. When asked about build permits pulled by Valdez, Mr. Howard said he only pulled an electrical permit. Wagner question as to why the Marshall County Unsafe Building Board exists if they are now passing everything back onto the towns.

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His suggestion is for the building board for an inter-local agreement with the towns so to apply for a grant to tear down the approximate 12 unsafe houses/ buildings within the county. Discussion made on how to go forth on this property and find funds. Chavez said the next meeting for the MC Unsafe Building Board will meet on Thursday 24th. She will bring up the grant that Shannon McLeod spoke of. Wagner stated LaPaz will need to amend our unsafe building ordinance if the county is refusing to do inspections. Suggested was if county does not want to do town inspections, that the towns should go together to hire an inspector and leave the county out. If the towns have to do this, then the towns should be able to collect the fees building permits. Ecker will contact the county regarding this. Kevin Berger stated Culver is finding the same thing with the county.

108 Wood St. Antonio Nate stated he will not mow the hill along First Road. Discussion was made regarding the GIS and property lines. Wagner stated the property owner owns to the center of the street per the law in Indiana. The town or county just has a right -a- way. Tyler stated he was told for a county road the property owner owns to the center of the street. For the town of LaPaz, the town owns the street, alleys and the right-a-way on both sides. Tyler also stated Mr. Nate has been pulling the stop sign on Indiana Lane. After speaking with Officer Haskins he was told to mark out the street. Take photos. Put in sign and take photos again. Wagner will talk to Janet at the county on this matter of property lines. To be continued at the July meeting.

516 S Michigan St – Mitchell – the street department has been mowing the tall grass on this abandon property. They are up to 32 hours. Wagner stated they should do the bare minimum on the property. Recovery of fees will be due to a tax sale. The bank is beginning the foreclosure in the bankruptcy.

Ordinance #03-2021-Establishing Workforce Guideline- This ordinance will be retroactive to March 2021 for COVID pay. Ecker made a motion to approve Ordinance #03-2021. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes- 0-nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Digital sign Policy: Much discussion on what is to be in the policy. Wagner gave the council a first draft on our sign policy. Our sister towns are still debating their policy on their signs. Council put the policy on hold for now.

4th of July: Cornerstone Community Church asked the town permission to hold a parade for the LaPaz community. The proposed streets to be closed will be Vandalia, Kimble, Cortland, Washington and Hudson from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Ecker made a motion to hold a parade on town streets. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes-0 nays. Motion Carried 3-0.

Old Business: Kevin Berger brought his update to the council. He is still working to secure funding. He reminded the town Troyer Street will need to be extended, to keep this in mind for our budget.

Wessler: Linda Sanders questioned the council regarding applying for the SWIF grant, possibly putting something for the storm water project. We need to put in a survey by June 15th. Applications for round one are due July 15th. The town can also wait to do the grant application in round 2 in January 2022. Ecker made a motion to have Wessler complete and submit the survey for the town of LaPaz for round 2 - drinking water. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

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Patron Comments: none

Clerk Update: The clerk has been working with Shannon McLeod on the application for the police grant. It is due in by June 22. Clerk will file sewer liens after June 16th.

Financials: President Ecker made a motion to approve APV'S from May 14th – June 10th. Chavez seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment: President Ecker made a motion to close the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 3 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM



Roger Ecker, Council President

7-8-2021

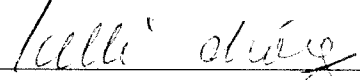
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Ryan Young, Council Member

7-8-2021

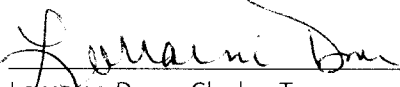
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Kelli Chavez, Council Member

7-8-2021

date



Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

7-8-2021

date