

**MEETING MINUTES
LAPAZ TOWN COUNCIL**

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537
Thursday October 21, 2021 6:00 PM

Council Members
Roger Ecker, Pres.
Ryan Young
Kelli Chavez

Clerk Note: this meeting was rescheduled from October 14, 2021 due to no quorum to hold the meeting.

Council Members present- Roger Ecker, Ryan Young

Council Members absent – Kelli Chavez

Town Clerk- Treasurer - present

Town Attorney – present

Attendance: Jerry Auer, Paul Tyler, Phil Ellinger, Arturo Valdez & father, Kevin Berger.

Call to order - meeting started at 6:00PM

Approval of Minutes: President Ecker made a motion to approve September 9, 2021 minutes as written. Young seconded the motion. – Roll call. 2 ayes / 0 nays – motion carried.

Old Business:

Ecker made a motion to pass the 2022 budget on the second and third readings. Young second the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-08: Regulation of animal within town. Ecker made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-09 on the first reading. Young second the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes -0 nays. Motion carried.

Salary Ordinance: Ecker made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance 2021- 08 for 2022. Young second the motion. Roll Call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Update on church property: Ecker reported he spoke with the church administrator. They are having a commercial appraisal done. The entire roof will be stripped and a total new roof will be added. He spoke with the Stellar Group regarding to use the splash pad funds to go towards the purchase of the church property to be use as a community building for the town and the group agreed.

Ordinance Violations: Attorney Wagner had sent a letter to Megan & Shawn Brzenzinski for continual violation of tall grass, weeds and trash ordinance. The Brzezinski's also having a pig on the property. He received no response from them. He asked the clerk to get photos this week of the property and send to him. The attorney said it is time to take a legal action against the Brzenzinski. The council asked for a court order to go onto the property to clean it up. The clerk had received an email from a title company regarding this property and the liens we have on it.

105 W 1st RD: The attorney informed the council he checked with the IRS. There is not a judgement against the property. He suggested to the board to give her more time to clean up the property. In speaking with her, she has contacted people to remove the trailer and clean up the property. She just needs till spring to have enough funds to pay for it. She plans on selling the lot once it is cleared. MS. Roberts will keep the council informed. Attorney Wagner is to write her a letter giving her options.

Biding on 101 S Michigan ST.: Attorney Wagner presented the council with a bidding process sheet detailing what the town expects with the tear down process. He also gave a contract for the buyer. All bids will go through his office. Bids will be opened Friday November 5, 2021 at 4:00PM. Wagner will place the advertisement and send letters to adjoining properties.

Page 2 Old Business Continued

Apartment Building: Kevin Berger will be closing within the next 2 weeks. Permits are the hold up. He gave plans to the council on the project. Mr. Berger asked about the tap fees on gravity fed tanks. Ecker made a motion to waive the tap fee of \$4050.00 for the LaPaz Commons project. Young second the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Ground breaking is to be the spring 2022.

Water study project: Ecker had hoped Wessler would be here tonight. Their first over all projected cost was 18 million. He wants to break the project up into 3 phases on pricing based on just the town boundaries, another price with hooking up LaVille School and subdivision, third to go out to the sewer plant. Clerk to contact Linda Sellers at Wessler to do this. Jerry Auer brought up the concern if the power goes out the residents will still have water. The town will need to have generators at each lift station to keep the system flowing without power.

Police Vehicle: Questioning whether to sell the car now that the town acquired the Ford Explorer, the matter was put on hold. The council will wait till the awards for the COPS grant are announced. Ecker asked the clerk to inquire about the insurance on the 2 vehicles.

MVH: Three bids were submitted to the council for the removal of 2 heaters and replace with one for the bay area. Bids were from Perkins Plumbing and Heating for \$4168.00, D.A.Dodd for \$3555.00 and Tyler Heating & Cooling for \$2541.00. Ecker made a motion to accept the bid for \$2541.00 for Tyler Heating & Cooling. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion Carried.

Leaf pick up will be October 15th – December 1st – weather permitting.

SEWER DEPT: Tap fees were addressed in the old business. Clerk asked about additional charge for pumping due to clogs from non-disposables by resident. The council asked Jerry Auer to speak with Ivan Troyer regarding the non-flushable items.

New Business: Attorney Contract 2022: The board asked Attorney to prepare a contract for 2022.

Police Officer: Councilman Young gave a report to the council on candidate Troy Ulch as a possible hire for the LaPaz Police Department. After hearing the report Ecker made a motion to hire Officer Ulch for LaPaz. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 2-0.

Ordinance for Business and Promotion: Clerk asked for the council to adopt an ordinance to create a new fund to be used for town promotion, funeral flowers, etc. The attorney will prepare one for the next meeting.

Meeting with the Town and Township: The meeting will be held at the fire station on Thursday November 4th at 6:00PM. It is open to the public. Topic will be the park. Ecker stated he personally would like the town and township work together to develop a plan to improve the park. We would need an intergovernmental agreement.

ATTORNEY UPDATE: everything address in meeting.

Patron Comments: Phil Ellinger asked about progress on tree removal in his alley. Paul Tyler is to remove it. Ellinger asked about the ongoing kitty litter dump site on his neighbor Charles Welch property. The council instructed Paul Tyler to call and report it to the Marshall County Health Department.

Financials: President Ecker made a motion to approve APV'S from Sept. 9th – Oct. 21st, # 3269 - 19469. Clerk stated the APV's were 6 weeks out. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried 2-0.

Page 3 minutes continued:

Clerk Update: The clerk will be attending the ILMCT Conference in Evansville. Leaving Sunday November 7th and will return on Wednesday November 10th.

Clerk filed 13 liens for a total of \$2757.98 on September 16, 2021.

Sheriff Sale Update: John Moore- 1120 Michigan Street paid all of his back taxes on September 30th and the liens clerk filed for \$1328.88, so property was not sold. Noel Williams – 1400 Albert Street, property sold. Liens paid were \$1326.69. James Card – 123 S Michigan Street, not sold. Outstanding liens totaling \$1752.31. Javier Figueroa - 117 S Michigan Street, owner paid back taxes and liens. Lien total paid \$2303.00. Next Sheriff Sale will be November 23rd. Up for sale is Nathan Mitchell – 516 S Michigan, liens filed \$238.64. Current outstanding bill is \$144.83. Clerk will file a lien on November 16, 2021. Clerk asked the attorney to check the law on where the town stood on filing new liens on the Williams home if they get to live in the home for the year redemption period.

Adjournment: President Ecker made a motion to close the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: 2 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM



Roger Ecker, Council President

11-11-2021
date



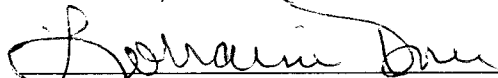
Ryan Young, Council Member

11-11-2021
date

ABSENT

Kelli Chavez, Council Member

date



Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

Nov 11, 2021
date