

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

September 8, 2022 6:00 PM

Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.

Ryan Young

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 6:03PM

Patrons: Paul & Linda Tyler, Phil Ellinger, Sandy Fisher, Bruce Gadziola, Jerry Auer, Steve Stacy, Amber Godlewski, Laura Walls - MCEDC, Angela Cornell – Pilot News, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Justin Sherman - USI Consultants.

Approval of Minutes: Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from August 11, 2022 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business: Park Proposal from Troyer Group to develop the master plan to design the LaPaz Park. The cost to do the design and do a public survey is \$9300.00. Ecker made a motion to accept the proposal. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Kevin Berger gave the council an update on the progress of the LaPaz Commons. Taps are done, will wait on the 1,000 gallon tanks for sewer till other base work done. He spoke with Fire Chief Haskins regarding the knock box for the development. He is ready for the town to install the rock base for the street. Ecker to contact Betcher's to put down and grade the rock. Easterday Construction finishing the 5th building in Plymouth and will be in LaPaz before winter.

Park Board: Attorney Wagner stated that the Town has an ordinance that states the council is designated as a park authority, so a park board is not needed at this time. He cautioned the council to have a separate meeting and need to post the notice. It can be either before or after the regular meeting. There can be an advisory committee that answers to the council.

MVH: Leaf Vacuum is in poor shape Tyler stated. He wants one on a trailer. Tyler wants see if True Vac can replace the engine on the current one. Ecker will be checking around for a used one, while Tyler is to get quotes for a new vacuum system. The town needs storage for equipment. Ecker made a motion to peruse inquiring the purchase of the old Swifty Station property located at 1020 Michigan road, owned by John Moore. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0. Ecker asked the attorney advice on an email received from resident at 101 Vandalia wanting the town to put gravel along the side of the street where he is parking. Wagner stated by where the property owner is parking is really where the original tree lawn existed (right away) of the town is, not his driveway. The right away is maintained by how the town chooses to maintain it. The town is not obligated to put stone along the street if the budgeted MVH money has priority needs elsewhere.

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Sewer Dept: Jerry Auer met with Territorial Engineers today regarding the church on Tyler Road. He showed them the man hole and line where they could tie into to be part of the town's sewer system. The church will have to bore under Tyler Road and Michigan Road to tie in. If the church decides to go forward with the project they are to contact Jerry regarding specifications on pump, floats and control panel. Other business; Jerry has started the winterizing for lift stations and the plant. He had to replace a sewer lid cover for Mike C Leed due to him running it over. The council stated Mr. Leed needed to be charged for the replacement. The clerk asked the attorney about charging the consumer for tank pumping. Normally the pumping is part of what the monthly billing money goes towards. Her question was whether or not she could add a charge to the lien of persons who never pay their sewer bill for the \$240.00 pumping of their tank. Wagner's answer was no, since it was part of the regular maintenance that is covered by the sewer monthly bill. She also questioned whether or not to pick up trash totes for those who do not pay. Discussions were done on the subject with no decisions made.

Police Department: Officer Gadziola gave the council an update as to the progress in replacing, updating the equipment for the department and on the repairs for the Ford Explorer. Uniforms, vest, gun, gun accessories are on order. He is working on his 80 hours of online training course for the academy, He has been re- certified on CPR, AED, his personal gun and the gun model that is on order. He is working on getting an AED unit for the patrol vehicle. Bremen PD has donated a Taser gun to LaPaz. Marshall county Sheriff Department donated a radio and is donating a rifle to LaPaz. Bruce spent time doing a deep clean to his new office. Regarding old evidence in the safe, Bruce contacted Marshall County for disposal of items. Only a few will require a disposal order from the state. Ecker asked Officer Gadziola if he had a "wish list", that Don Balka has ties with the Community Foundation for grants. Discussion was made to take sealed bids to sell the old police car once the equipment removed.

New Business: Ecker made a motion to approve the amendment of the 2022 Salary Ordinance 2202-04. Changes were made due to the new position of a full time police officer. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

AIM virtual workshop for council members. The members choose to do a recording verses attending virtually.

Police Grant: The clerk informed the council with the resignation of Council Woman Emmons there is a position to be filled on the grant. Ecker stated he would take her place as the designated liaison with the police department. The council decided that each member would be a liaison for each department. Cathy Welch will be liaison for sewer department; Ryan Young will be for MVH and Roger Ecker the liaison for the police department.

Patron Comments: Laura Walls of Marshall County Economic Development Corporation gave a presentation to update the council on the developments occurring in Marshall County. She stated Chelsea Smith is doing a fine job for LaPaz. Ms. Walls gave a handout showing the new business coming into the county. Discussion was made why LaPaz is looked over for ready grants from MCEDC. Cathy Welch will be attending the MCEDC luncheon meeting on September 14th in Bremen to represent LaPaz.


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Attorney Update: Trial date for the property at 227 S Michigan Street is September 19th. Wagner will submit photos of the property. He will update the council through email. Wagner will work on the agreement for the property located at 1020 Michigan Road. Ecker made a motion to authorize Attorney Wagner to go forth with the acquisition for the property. He is to speak with Ecker on price for the acquisition. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried for Attorney Wagner to instigate acquisition of the property located at 1020 Michigan Road.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve AP vouchers for APV numbers 3753-3830 in the amount of \$98,858.87. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Ecker made a motion to pass Resolution 04-2022 appropriation to transfer due to the need to balance appropriations for needed. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0. Ecker made a motion to pass Resolution 05-2022 appropriation to transfer funds from the LaPaz Sanitation Bond & Interest Fund account to Sewer Wastewater Operation Fund. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

Clerk Update: Clerk stated she submitted 36 persons to TRECS trying to capture owed money to the town for sewer, trash and storm. TreCs will be sending her money on September 30th for 8 of these people listed. After September 15th liens will be filed on the accounts that she can file on. Vermillion is to do the installation of new security system on September 19th. The clerk is working with Republic to set the fall clean up date. She will post the date at all public sites. Dove reminded the council the trash service contract will be up in December 2022. She wants to contact the vendors to submit bids for the October meeting. Dove received the new golf cart stickers for 2022 that were ordered in June. She asked the council if they should waive the registration fee for 2022 since there are only a few months left in the year. Ecker made a motion to waive the fee, give out the stickers and register the golf carts for now, informing the residents of the new ordinance. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

Adjournment: President Ecker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.



Roger Ecker, Council President



date



Ryan Young, Council Member



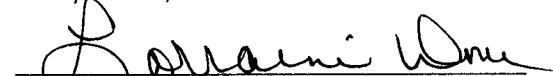
date



Cathy Welch, Council Member



date



Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer



date