

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

October 13, 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 6:00PM

Patrons: Paul Tyler, Jerry Auer, Angela Cornell – Pilot News, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Linda Sanders_ Adam Sitka of Wessler, Steve Barber, Emily Haskins, Matt Haskins, John Lampkins.

Approval of Minutes: Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from the two meetings September 8, 2022 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business: 2023 Budget Ecker made a motion to accept the 2023 budget with no changes. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Wessler: Adam Sitka came with recommendations for 3 options recommended by SFR for the town to consider. Adam gave the council 3 options for doing this. 1. LaPaz owned WTP and distribution. 2. Purchase water from Lakeville; LaPaz owned distribution system. It would be a blended regional option. LaPaz would need a licensed DDS water operator to manage the distribution system and a water tower. A legal contract would be between the two entities for the services, cost, and future options. 3. Purchase water from Lakeville; Lakeville owns distribution system. See handouts for more information. Lakeville is presently perusing financing through SRF for improving their water system. A meeting date will be set for a round table meeting with a member of each of LaPaz, Lakeville and Wessler to discuss what options would be feasible for the two towns. Adam also presented an amendment to their base contract with LaPaz to continue working hourly on SRF financing. Ecker made a motion to sign the contract amendment with Wessler. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Ecker will contact the Union-North School board to include a member in the discussion with Lakeville, LaPaz and Wessler on the water system.

101 S. Michigan ST: Regarding the foundation hole; the owners are past the 120 days in the contract. The building is left with an open hole with a basement foundation with caution tape around the area. The owner reported to Ecker he plans to rebuild with a 2 apartment unit. The council asked the attorney to contact the owner to discuss a safer option around the existing hole if he does not plan to rebuild the structure right away.

MVH: Bids on new truck; Ecker reported he had to get 3 bids. He contacted over 30 dealers. New 2023 trucks are not available yet and 2022 models are hard to find now. The specs he was looking for was a 350 series 6.0 or 6.2 gas with an 8' to 10' dump bed. Diesel models are approximately \$10,000.00 more in cost, higher to service and higher gas cost. The best bid he found was from Andy Mohr Ford dealer in Plainfield, Indiana. He advertised the cost at \$71,000.00 but after confirming our government discount the final cost was \$61,975.75. The other two bids that matched our specs were from Imperial Cars, a dealer in Massachusetts. One truck was a 2022 with 220 miles on it for the price of \$73,490.00. The other truck was a 2023 with a cost of \$78,490.00. The dealer does not honor government discounts.

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MVH continued:

Ecker made a motion to buy the truck from Andy Mohr Ford dealer in the amount of \$61975.75. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Leaf Vac: Tyler reported that he needs a trailer that dumps and the vacuum on the on the front so it can be separate from the truck. The unit he found was for 288 bushel for the cost of \$20,000.00. It would be 6-8 weeks before it would be ready. There are 3 sizes available. Each large size goes up in price by \$1000.00. Ecker asked the cost for just the leaf vac unit with no trailer. Tyler guessed the amount of about half the cost. Ecker asked Tyler to get the cost for the vac itself. He also wanted Tyler to check out prices for used units. Tyler stated there will be none available till long after leaf season. Ecker stated that Bucannon Michigan is using a leaf bailer system where the person gets the leaves out to the curb and then the town bailer is pulled behind the truck to scoop up the leaves and bails the leaves. It would take 3 workers to use. Ecker will check with them if they have a used leaf vac to sell. Tyler will do more research as well. With man power being an issue, another option would be to outsource the leaf pick up all together. Grass Ordinance: Tyler had asked the council to form an ordinance for when people who mow their grass into the street verses away off the street. He stated it is in an Indiana Law that they cannot do that. Attorney Wagner stated an ordinance is not needed. The town police officer can write a ticket to the homeowner for the violation per the statue.

Police Department: Ecker reported the town only received one sealed bid for the police car. Ecker opened the sealed envelope. The bid was from Emergency Remarketing for the amount of \$1069.00. The bid was under the minimum set amount of \$3000.00. Ecker made a motion to hold a re-bidding process with no minimum price set. Bids to be opened at the next meeting.

Sewer Dept: Operations are going smooth. A pump was replaced on Walnut Street. Enyart is doing a rewind with 5 weeks out for parts.

New Business: Trash Contract: Apex at \$20.63 per month, Waste Management \$22.50 per month for a 3 year contract, Republic is at \$21.35 per month, \$22.20 per month the second year, \$23.09 the third year. Ecker stated he did not like changing prices every year. APEX stated how they would do the yearly pick up differently. Ecker made a motion to go with APEX for the new sanitation contract. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Halloween: Trick or treat posted for Monday October 31st from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. the town will have police coverage. Officer Gadiziola will to hand out golf cart stickers and ordinance rules to patrons.

150 year Centennial Celebration: Ecker asked residents about a date. July 4th too much is going on. He would like to see it put on a different date. He will work with area businesses to acquire donations. He thought about 2 weeks before July 4th as a date.

Fire contract: The current contract with the township expires at the end of December. We will see if the township wants changes. The next meeting between the town and township regarding the results of the fire territory study will be a public information meeting so it will need to be posted under the open door policy. Council will attend but no votes are to be taken. Ecker will inform everyone when the date is set.

Patron Comments: Kevin Berger of Easterday Construction has started excavation; putting rebar in and forming the footings, getting ready to pour next week. Matt Haskins reported the fire department is picking up the new fire truck on November the 9th from Midwest Fire in Luverne, MN.

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Salary Ordinance: Ecker made a motion to accept the proposed 2023 salary ordinance with the correction of changing the general laborer from \$12.00 per hour to \$14.00 per hour. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Update: Park board – Wagner sent out emails regarding park board. The state's idea was to have a board as a non-elected position. Park Authority can be the council itself, which the town currently has. He will resend out the emails that divines the differences between board and authority. He is concerned the powers a park board would have as non-elected members. DNR prefers a park board to apply for grants not a park authority. If creating a park board you give non-elected members the power to tax and take property. He feels a board is created for a town of much bigger size than LaPaz. Kevin Berger stated the council should speak with Culver. They recently disbanded their park board for some of the same concerns our attorney has. Linda Sanders offered her advice if needed. She has a degree in Parks and recreation. She has served on boards in the past.

Golf Cart Ordinance: Attorney will revise the town's current ordinance to be age 16 and a driver's license must have \$100,000.00 insurance, rear view mirror, occupation to be manufacture recommendations. and maybe a speed limit. Golf cart Stickers should be in a certain place. The sticker should have big numbers along with year date expires. Wagner will send a copy to Officer Gadziola to look over before the next meeting for his opinion.

Financials: Ecker made a motion to approve AP vouchers for APV from September 9th to October 13, 2022 numbers 3831-3888 in the amount of \$64,960.13. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Update: 11 Liens filed September 16th for a total \$3567.29, waiting on TRECS money for a total of \$1726.93. Keystone system will be having a one day seminar in Wabash on December 1st that the clerk will attend. The seminar is part of the maintenance fee the town already paid for. Vermillion will be installing the new security system on November 2nd. The clerk received a notice from SBOA will be conducting an audit for the years 2018- 2021. The clerk will have the returned mail for Eric Nolen to be delivered by the Officer Gadziola since Mr. Nolen does not have a current PO Box.

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 6:58 PM.



Roger Ecker, Council President

11-10-22
date



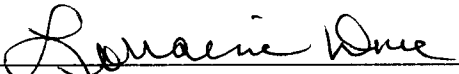
Ryan Young, Council Member

11-10-22
date



Cathy Welch, Council Member

date



Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

11/10/2022
date