

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537

August 10, 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 6:01PM

**Attendance:** Steve Stacy, Bruce Gadziola, Roger Christner, Kevin Berger – Easterday Construction, Matt Haskins, Garvin Greer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from July 13, 2023, as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business:** Update on Housing- Kevin Berger stated Roofing is done on LaPaz Commons. Surf Internet will be hooking up to the townhouses. Electricians will be in soon. The clerk stated her office is getting inquiries about who to contact to rent the townhouse. Hoping to rent by the end of 2023.

Ecker asked that a letter be sent to Brian McCartney regarding his vacant property at 317 Vandalia Street. Tony to do it. The roof on the garage and house is caving in. Ecker sent photos to the clerk of the property. The clerk is to contact the Mashall County Building inspector on this property, as well as 115 S Michigan Street and 815 S Michigan Street to see if the properties have been inspected and have current building permits.

**Fulltime Sewer Hire:** Ecker made a motion for the council to hire Steve Stacy full time to start training to resume Jerry Auer's duties when he retires December 31,2023. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Police:** Nolen property is out of compliance with the grass ordinance. This is the second notice. The clerk hand delivered one notice as well. Ecker stated one yard was mowed today. Town had 2 people apply for yard sale permits.

**MVH:** Ecker stated Marshall County asked permission to paint the lines on Michigan Street. The county will charge the town for the paint not the labor. Ecker also spoke to the county regarding the hole in the pavement in front of Speedway. The county will contact the state to fix it due to being on the state highway.

**Sewer:** Stacy reported the DMRQA study.3 done and turn in on time to the state for LaPaz and Lakeville. Stacy is updating all the emails addresses. Creed's informed him there is going to be a price increase coming for pumping the home tanks. The clerk asked for a figure to get into our sewer rate study. Ecker asked Stacy to get quotes for a snowplow with a light package for the plant truck.

**Letters for shut off:** Attorney Wagner will be adding verbiage pertaining shut off value procedure to the new sewer ordinance once the study is ready. The clerk asked for the ordinance to require a 3-month deposit for new customers to be added to the new ordinance.

**New Business:** Salary Ordinance Amendment: The clerk presented the council with an update to the salary amendment reflecting the Sewer Superintendent full time wages. Ecker made a motion to pass the amended 2023 salary ordinance. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Minutes continued page 2

**Patron Comments:** Kevin Berger related to Matt Haskins, LaPaz Fire Chief that the new townhouses are installing lock box on the building in case of fire. Matt Haskins asked the town to take care of the landscaping around the LED sign in front of the station. Ecker stated the Lion's Club is always looking for projects to do. He also asked what the Lion's Club will be taking down their old sign since they are no longer using.

**Attorney Update:** Ordinance 2023-06, the typo was fixed changing line to lien. The council wants to keep the grass height to 9". Ecker made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance 2023-06 on the second and third readings. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Park:** The exchange of properties between the fire station and the town is allowable under state law. Wagner submitted Resolution 08-2023 a quick claim deed of the exchange of properties. After discussion of the properties involved, Ecker made a motion to approve Resolution 08-2303. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

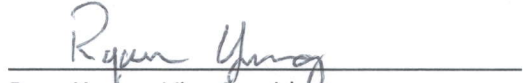
**Financials:** Ecker made a motion to approve APV's for June 14<sup>th</sup> – July 13, 2023. APV's #4312 -#4351 for \$48,782.50. Young seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Clerk Update:** Reminder for meeting between LaPaz and North Township August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Ecker stated he has been sending all emails regarding the to the clerk to have a duplicate file for the INDOT projects. Clerk reminded council of the pre-bid meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM regarding the park project. Ecker will attend this meeting. The clerk asked Wagner if the town could create a cumulative tax for the park like the town did for the fire department. This will be an accumulative fund for upkeep of the LaPaz Park. Wagner will report on it for the next meeting. The clerk advised the council she is trying to update the clerk's office. She wants to leave the office in the best shape possible for the incoming clerk. HWI will be putting in a new computer to eliminate the old, outdated computer tower. A new all-in-one printer, copier, scanner will be installed to eliminate 3 of the old machines, giving more workspace for the desk area.

**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 6:42 PM

  
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Roger Ecker, Council President

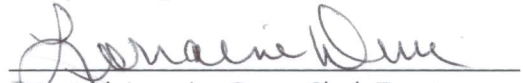
9-14-23  
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Ryan Young, Vice-President

9-14-2023  
date

  
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Cathy Welch, Council Member

9-14-23  
date

  
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Attested: Lorraine Dove, Clerk-Treasurer

9/14/2023  
date

