

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 3, 2022  
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Newburn, Councilman Mayo, Councilman Oehmen, Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Cook, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert

GUESTS: Charles Jonas, Charles Mack, Brad Ebert, Attorney Schoffner, Andrew & Gabrielle from Commonwealth, Dominic Notaro, Nick Notaro, Justin Kiel, James Irwin, Mayor Tom Dermody, Sherriff Boyd, Paul Brettan, Andy Snyder, and Michael Lippelt.

Call To Order:

President Newburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

President Newburn-Here, Councilman Oehmen-Here, Councilman Cook-Here, Councilman Mayo-Here, Councilman LaFoone-Here. A quorum is present.

Welcome Ward #3 Councilman Philip LaFoone appointed by the Republican Committee Caucus.

A Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Mayo to add a Resolution for LaPorte County Common County for Public Safety Income Tax to the Agenda. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Correspondence

None

Appointments Needed

- Planning Commission – President Newburn has requested the Councilmen to look thru their Wards for replacements.
  - Greg Mohlke resigned as of 1/7/21. Still need a replacement
  - Talytha Holtz resigned as of 5/5/21. Still need a replacement

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to approve the minutes of January 6, 2022 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Plan Commission – No Report
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn reports a meeting will be held at regular time
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Fred was not present. Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported: 4 contractor registration, 1 demo and 1 addition permit. Totaling \$1205.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – No report
- Facilities Coordinator – Right of Way rented out Suite H from January 25- January 27 for \$75 each day. Total Revenue was \$225.
- NIRPC – I attended the NIRPC Financial & full commission meeting on January 20, 2022 for the new budget discussions.
- Other – I submitted the Town of Wanatah Annual Financial Report (AFR) to Gateway on 1/27/22 and to the Regional News for publication which it will be in tomorrow's paper.

- Just a reminder that a committee needs to be formed by the Town Council to create a plan to spend ARP (American Relief Plan) money. President Newburn, Councilman Cook, Councilman Oehmen, and Clerk Treasurer Ebert will meet to discuss a plan. Councilman Mayo reminds that a special meeting publication needs to be put out for that meeting since a quorum would be present.
- Also reminder that we are having a Public Hearing at 6:15 pm on March 3, 2022 to reestablish our CCD Fund.

#### Public Works

Charles Mack was present. Charles Mack states a quote from Peerless Midwest is in your packet for the wells and pumps. A motion by Councilman Cook; second by Councilman Mayo to move forward with the Quote presented from Peerless Midwest to rebuild pump 2 for about \$15,900 unless more parts are needed which would be paid out of water. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Charles Mack also brought up the concern for a newer vactor or a local trade in to clean sewer lines. Charles Mack suggests that the wastewater utility would initially buy the vactor. Then set up a fee schedule for every time the water utility or Town used the vactor; we could invoice them to pay back the wastewater utility. A motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen for Charles Mack to research on a used vactor for the Town. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

#### Old Business

- Commonwealth – PER Form Andrew from Commonwealth provided a jump drive for the wastewater maps so we can make copies. Andrew updated the progress of the PER; a handout was given to the Council with progress details. GSA agreement and task order was presented. A proposal quote of \$2500 was given for the water loss needed for 2020 audit only and 2021 audit & validation for the due date of August of 2022. A motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman LaFoone to move forward with the water loss audit. Vote was taken. All Ayes.
- Attorney Shoffner presented an ARP Resolution to start the process with a Plan that can be revised as needed. After the ARP committee meets this document can be updated quickly for approval.

#### New Business

- R3-2022 A Resolution Recognizing Alan Sirinek: motion by Councilman Oehmen; second by Councilman Cook to read and approve R1-2022. Vote was taken. All Ayes.
- Goetz Irrigation Services- Goetz Irrigation is offering a 3% discount if prepaid before February 15, 2022. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to prepay Goetz invoice. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

#### Financial Report and Claims Approval

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

#### Any Other Business to come before the Council

Mayor Tom Dermody of the City of LaPorte, LaPorte County Sheriff John Boyd, LaPorte Firefighter Chief Andy Snyder, Chief Paul Brettan, Laporte City Officer Michael Lippelt presents the public safety crisis as requested by the County Council that a vote in favor be presented to all local Towns & Cities within LaPorte County. Mayor Dermody states this will help us retain our current officers & EMS staff along with helping get a handle on drug trafficking. Sherriff Boyd presents issues with staffing shortages for LaPorte County. A resolution was presented in support of the public safety lit tax. A vote was taken Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to approve R2-2022. Roll call vote was taken. All Ayes.

#### Public Comment

None

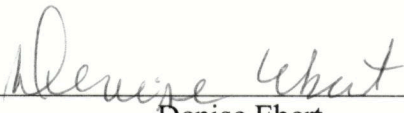
Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.  
Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen. A vote was taken.  
All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

ATTEST:



  
Denise Ebert  
Clerk-Treasurer