

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
August 4, 2022
6:30 pm

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

GUESTS: Charles Mack, Charles Jonas, Justin Kiel, Brian Pressel, Jan Bailey and Fred Matuszak

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.

Correspondence

Notice from Mediacom that they will be implementing program changes along with rate adjustments.

Appointments Needed

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the minutes of July 7th, 2022 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken, All Ayes.

Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman LaFoone to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 21st, 202. 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 that will have their next meeting on Monday August 8th, 2022.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Fred Matuszak reports 1 Fence, 1 Contractor Registration, and 2 Decks, totaling \$150.00.
 - Fred Matuszak reported that the “Elevator” sold to the Wolf brothers for personal use. President Newburn mentioned his concerns of the Grain Bed being open and that there was a strong odor coming out from it. Fred said that it was open due to them cleaning it and that it was empty.
 - Councilman Cook brought to our attention that Solar Panels are starting to be introduced to the town. He asked Attorney Shoffner if we could amend our Ordinance to include Solar Panels, also stating that they can’t cover 25% of their property and there would be a fee involved. Attorney Shoffner said that he would check into and amend our current ordinance with Councilman Cook’s requests.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC – Clerk Ebert attended the Finance & Personnel meeting along with the Full Commissions meeting held on July 21st, 2022.
- Other – Clerk Treasurer Ebert brought to the Council’s attention that that Fines & Fees schedule needs to be updated. The last time it was updated was in 2020 and 2007 before that. She also mentioned of a recent situation where a LaPorte County officer gave a ticket to a

truck driver going through a “No Truck Pass Thru” on #421 and our fee was only \$10.00, where theirs at the LaPorte Co office was \$250.00. Councilman Mayo suggested that we mirror their fees.

- Clerk Treasurer Ebert asked permission from the Council to pay James Mandon the remaining \$595.00 from his previous invoice for \$1,595.00 regarding the Boring Company Ordinance. In the June 2nd, 2022 meeting it was said for him not to exceed \$1,000 dollars but would revisit if he needed more. Motion by Council Cook; second by Councilman Mayo to approve the payment of \$595.00 to James Mandon.
- Clerk Treasurer Ebert reminded the Town Council that we would be having a Public Hearing on September 1st, 2022 at 6:15 PM to discuss our 2023 Budget.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack informed the council that the ceiling in the Historical Society had collapsed and needs replaced. Wasn't sure of a handyman that could fix it and was open for suggestions. The council asked Chuck to get some quotes on how much the job would cost.
- Chuck Mack received the draft of the Boring Ordinance and would like to meet with James Mandon, Town Council, and Attorney Shoffner to discuss all the details. There might be additional costs for James Mandon to attend this meeting.
- Casey's is getting close to breaking ground once they receive the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

New Business

- None

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to approve and adopt the 01-2022 Salary Ordinance roll call was taken, all ayes.
- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the 1st reading of the 02-2022 URT-New Water Rate. Vote was taken, Councilman Cook abstained, the rest all ayes.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken, Councilman Cook abstained, the rest all Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Brian Pressel, representative of the Scarecrow Festival, provided the agreement of expectations. Festival is planned as normal. Thank you to the employees and the Town to help us with the Festival yearly.
- President Newburn received correspondence from the state stating that there was no need for trucks to be routed to the right lane.

Public Comment

- John Cannon, from the Attorney General's office was on the agenda but canceled. Will attend the following council meeting held on September 1st, 2022.
- Jan Bailey spoke on behalf of Sean Manaea asking the town to get a sign for him on highway #30.

Adjournment

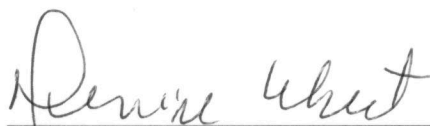
President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Mayo. A vote was taken.

All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

