

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 2nd, 2023
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Newburn, Councilman Cook, Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Mayo, Councilman Oehmen, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Chuck Mack, Chuck Jonas, Brad Ebert, Justin Higgerson, Trent Clamness, Dwayne Tate & Fred Matuszak.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

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

Appointments Needed

- None

Correspondence

- Mediacom-Program changes

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve the minutes of February 2nd, 2023 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 reported that they will meet at their regular meeting time.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Fred Matuszak reported 1 Driveway, 1 Contractor Registration and 1 Accessory Building totaling \$145.00. He also reported that Casey's received their gas meter approval and were on permanent power. Expected day of opening is April.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – No report
- Facilities Coordinator – No report
- NIRPC – No report
- Other – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reminded the Councilmen that the deadline to add their name to the ballot would be August 1st, 2023 at noon. They would have to go to the Clerk's office at the LaPorte County Courthouse to obtain the forms necessary to fill out.

- Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she was awarded as an Indiana Accredited Municipal Clerk from the ILMCT Co-Education Development Committee.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack reported that the pipe is ordered for the Drainage project for this summer.
- The ceiling in the Historical Society has been completed. He would like to paint the room since it was empty and help assist the Historical Society to get everything back in the room when that time came.
- Met with Spectra-tech regarding the manhole cleanout. A survey was performed for the manholes that needed the most rehabbed which totaled 17 which would be taken care of this summer. Said 143 Vertical feet needs treated and they were charging \$275.00 per foot. Stated that it would cost close to \$40,000 and we could use the money from the ARP fund. Suggested that moving forward we should budget \$10,000 a year to clean the remaining manholes. Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Mayo not to exceed \$40,000 for the manhole project.
- Discussion was also held on treatment for the water system but will have more specific information at the April Council meeting.
- Chuck will be working with Jim Menard to help clean up the Lagoon.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman Cook; second by Councilman Mayo to give Nipsco Boring permission on Stoneyard Drive.

Unfinished Business

- Attorney Shoffner discussed with council that Mediacom filled out their application correctly and that he was comfortable with approval from the Council. Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Mayo to give Mediacom Boring permission to install coax cable for telecommunications.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Attorney Shoffner reported to the Council that a letter was sent to Speedway and found out that the address he had was not their registered agent address but was able to send a letter to the official one. They had 30 days to respond with a plan of action to clean up the trash and debris behind their facility.
- He also sent a letter to Dallas services regarding payment for the cleanout he performed on 703 Dorothy Court this past summer. If he does not respond in 14 days then no payment will be issued by the Town for his services.

Public Comment

- Trent Chamness lives on 1100 over by the Dollar General and would like to build a shop but said he would have to purchase a mound system. He is asking the Council if he could tie into our water/wastewater system. Councilman Cook reminded him that if they would allow it, that he would have to get his property annexed. Councilman Mayo suggested that he tie into the water and sewer system and he take care of the Annexing of his property. Trent referred to an Indiana Code that stated if he was within 300 feet that the town could force his hand to tie into our water/wastewater system. He gave that code to Attorney Shoffner. Also asked the Council that if he had to get a mound system that the Council provide a letter of such stating they won't force his hand to tie into the water/wastewater system. Attorney Shoffner said he would like time to look into this matter and will have a more definitive answer at our next Council meeting.

- Dwayne Tate from the Cass-Clinton Fire Dept. addressed the Council on behalf of their contract ending as of December 31st, 2023. There will be a negotiating meeting held on April 10th, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Fire Station. Councilman Cook and Councilman LaFoone was appointed to attend.

Adjournment

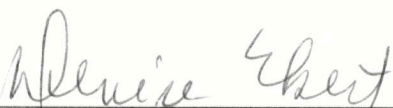
President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

