

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
January 4th, 2024
6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Chuck Jonas

Call To Order:

- Clerk Treasurer Ebert called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

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

Election of Officers

Councilman Mayo nominated Councilman Newburn for 2024 Council President. Councilman Newburn has accepted. No other interested parties. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to approve Councilman Newburn as the 2024 President. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Councilman Newburn is now the 2024 Council President.

Councilman Cook nominated Councilman Mayo for Vice President of Council 2024. Councilman Mayo accepts. Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen to approve Councilman Mayo as the Vice President 2024. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Councilman Mayo is now 2024 Vice President for Town Council.

Appointments Needed

- Town Attorney - Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to accept 2024 Contract as submitted by Attorney Shoffner. Roll Call vote was taken. All Ayes.
- Animal Control – Bryan Spears was hired on 1.1.24 as the new Animal Control Officer..
- Building Inspector - reappointed Fred Matuszak.
- Planning Commission – reappointed Philip LaFoone, Jeff Newburn and Vice President Bryant Oehmen
- BZA – reappointed Noelle Howell
- Traffic Commission- reappointed Nicholas Mayo
- Park Board-reappointed Jeffery Newburn and Rae Steeb
- Library Board-appointment needed for the Trustee to replace Gayla Porch
- NIRPC Commissioner-reappointed Clerk Treasurer Ebert
- Newspaper - Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to reappoint The Regional News. Vote was taken. All Ayes
- Cook Electric-Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Oehmen to reappoint Cook Electric. Vote was taken. All Ayes

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve the minutes of December 7th, 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 met in December and will elect officers at the January meeting.
- Animal Control – No Report
- Building Commissioner – President Newburn reported that there were 15 Contractor for a total of \$1,125.00.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – Bryan Spears has been hired as the new Animal Control Officer
- Facilities Coordinator – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she has completed the 2024 Lease contracts for Right of Way and the United Steel Workers.
- NIRPC – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she attended the Full Commissions meeting on December 7th, 2023.
- Other – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reminded the Council of the Nepotism Form that was in their folder and asked to have them and President Newburn sign it and return back to me

She also let them know that LaPorte County was asking three council members to resign their Oath of Office due to the fact that they had their name on the ballot which required a different form than what this office has. Councilman Mayo NS Councilman Oehmen had to resign theirs as there was an incorrect date on the first copy.

In Chuck Mack's absence, she reported to the Council that Commonwealth sent over their Task Order that needed to be signed, but also said that that Bakertilly would need 20-25K for their financial assistance in the application process. The Council never approved for Bakertilly to be paid, so they were asking Clerk Treasurer Ebert to reach out to Commonwealth to attend the next meeting for clarification.

Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Oehmen to write off outstanding check #12943 to Well Care at \$12.00, check #13070 to Barbara Hanaway for \$15.00, Check #13144 to Kaysie Scifres for \$23.30, check #13220 to Janine Dumitre for \$50.00 and check #8487 to Well care for \$12.00. Totaling an amount of \$112.30. They are deposit reimbursements that the resident didn't cash. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Public Works

- None

New Business

- None

Unfinished Business

- None

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 presented to the Council an updated version of the Storage Container Chapter 18, Article VI; stating that the resident would need the approval of the Council before purchasing/renting a storage container. Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve this update.

Public Comment

- None

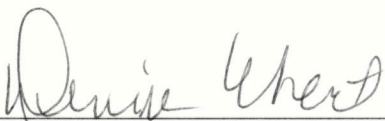
Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

ATTEST:





Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer