

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Higgins, President Newburn, Councilman Sutton, Vice President Mayo, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Justin Higginson, Donna Travelbee, Fred Matuszak, Chuck Jonas, Greg & Debbie Smoker, Chance Dodds, Kevin Dodds, Archie Howard, Bryan Spears and his sons.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

- Councilman Higgins-Here, President Newburn –Here, Councilman Sutton - Here, Vice President Mayo-Here, A quorum is present.

Correspondence

- Councilman LaFoone has resigned effective 10/7/2024. Allen Stevens is aware of this vacancy and trying to find someone to fill it.

Appointments Needed

- Planning Commission-replacement for Phillip LaFoone. President Newburn asked if there were any volunteers from the Council to fill this position, but no response was given.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Higgins to approve the minutes of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 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 in December.
- Animal Control – Officer Spears reported that resident Deborah Reed called and said that her cat was stuck in the crawl space of her house. No action was needed as the cat came out the next day. He also reported that Stephanie Durham called about a cat under her car. She called the LaPorte County Police because Bryan was out of town. No officer ever came and resident never let Bryan know if the problem was resolved.
- Building Commissioner –Fred Matuszak reported 1 Driveway, 1 Contractor Registration, 1 Accessory Building and 1 Peddlers Permit totaling \$245.00. President Newburn enforced the fact that if someone comes to your door selling construction, new windows, etc., to make sure the first thing you ask is for their Peddlers Permit. It is a requirement of the town.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she had completed the lease agreements for 2025 and everyone was up to date on their insurance for their rental property.
- NIRPC –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she had attended the Executive Board meeting held on October 17th, 2024
- Other –Clerk Treasurer Ebert asked the Council if they reviewed the Walking List she provided via email regarding possible replacement for Councilman LaFoone. No response was given, but she asked if they could revisit that so that position would be filled by the end of the year.
  - She also reported that she needed guidance with Indiana Farm Bureau regarding the accident at the REMC building. The estimates received to fix the building was so much lower than what Tonn & Blank was estimating to fix it. Councilman Mayo and Higgins stated that they would send me additional contacts for construction bids to see if they would be comparable to what we already have.

Public Works

- Chuck Jonas reported that on November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> they will be shutting off approximately 35 residents on Earl Street so they can replace hydrants. Jonas said that the resident would be without water for approximately 2 hours and would have to boil water for about 2 days before drinking it. He also reported that they will be doing some Tree Trimming in the town along with the Striping for the roads.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve Resolution R1-2024 Transfer Funds to Rainy Day. Roll Call was given; All Ayes.
- Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Higgins to approve to prepay Holiefield Pest Control for a 5% discount.

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Mayo to move forward with the rezoning of the Smokers Property.
- The first reading of Ordinance 06-2024 Wastewater Rates was given by Clerk Treasurer Ebert. Roll Call was given; All Ayes. Discussion was held on the two options given, one being an increase for 19.5% and the other to be for a 25% increase. The option for a 25% increase was advertised in the local newspaper. The consensus was to lean towards the higher increase but the approval for which option the Council would vote on would be at the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- None

Public Comment

- Archie Howard reported that since they have black topped Condon Rd. that there has been a lot of cars speeding down that street. Councilman Higgins said that he will look into getting speed limit signs and or Flashing signs.

Adjournment

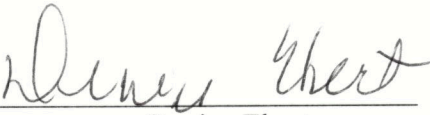
President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Higgins. A vote was taken. All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM



ATTEST:

  
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Denise Ebert  
Clerk-Treasurer