

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
May 1st, 2025
6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Kevin Ferrell, Angela Ferrell, Lowell OTT, Jim Metros, Doug Rosenbaum, Justin Higgerson, Gregory Howard, Ian Stull, Jared Campbell, Dennis Otten, Chuck Mack, Chuck Jonas & Fred Matuszak.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

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

Appointments Needed

- Planning Commission-need a replacement for Phillip LaFoone
- Traffic Commission-need a replacement for Phillip LaFoome

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Higgins; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the minutes of April 3rd, 2025 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Plan Commission – Councilman Howell reported that they did meet in April to discuss a rezoning. No official decision was made at this time,
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn reported that they met in April and will meet in May.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner –Fred Matuszak reported that there were 2 Fences, 1 Driveway, 4 Contractor Registrations, and 3 Accessory Buildings for a total of \$490.00

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –No Report
- Other –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that on April 14th, 2025 we launched an Auto Pay Program for the residents to have the option to have their water bills automatically paid through this program.

Public Works

- No Report

New Business

- President Mayo opened the bids for the Garbage contract. Motion by Vice President Newburn. Second by Councilman Higgins to take the bids under advisement and to make their awards at the June 5th, 2025 Council meeting.
- Motion by Councilman Higgins; second by Vice President Newburn to award Rieth-Riley for the 2025 Community Crossing Resurfacing Project.
- Motion by Vice President Newburn; second by Councilman Sutton to read 02-2025 the Reintroduction of the Wastewater Rates. Clerk Treasurer read this Ordinance.
- Discussion was held by Dennis Otten with Bose McKinney & Evans LLP who spoke on behalf of the 01-2025 Bond Ordinance. There will be two Phases of rate increases. Phase 1 would be on July 1st, 2025 and Phase 2 will be on January 1st, 2026. Per the Financial Timetable, the Rate Ordinance 02-2025 will be adopted at the Public Hearing on May 22nd, 2025 at 6:00 PM. The closing on this bond will be June 5th, 2025, and the town will be tax exempt. They are still hopeful that they will get the lowest interest rate at the time of closing
 - Dennis Otten mentioned to the council about the invitation for the Clerk Treasurer to attend the meeting on May 14th, 2025 to approve the Towns application for funding through the CFR Program.
 - Dennis Otten reminded the Council about the May 22nd, 2025 Public hearing to adopt Ordinance 02-2025, the reintroduction of the Wastewater rates. Clerk Treasurer Ebert asked the Council if they would be available for the May 22nd, 2025 Public Hearing, President Mayo said he would not be available to attend, but the remaining four councilman stated they would be in attendance so a quorum would be present.
- Ian Stull from Bakertilly discussed the Re-Introduction of Ordinance 02-2025 amending the wastewater rates for a **read only**. Councilman Howell asked what was the previous interest rate prior to putting this on pause; Stull stated the following:
 - **Previous:**
 - \$3.69 for 2026-2030, \$3.84 for 2031-2035, \$4.13 for 2036-2040, \$4.60 for 2041-2045, \$4.80 for 2046-2050
 - **Current:**
 - \$4.14 for 2026-2030, \$4.34 for 2031-2035, \$4.68 for 2036-2040, \$5.13 for 2041-2045, & \$5.39 for 2046-2050.
 - The rates won't be locked until the conclusion of the Public Hearing.
- Dennis Otten talked about doing a refinance on this bond around the 10 year mark of the 20 year term. If there was a refinancing done, they would recommend not doing a wastewater rate deduction the town could use the extra amount for capital spending.
- A discussion was held regarding the Fiber Optic service we have with Surf Air and Frontier and why it wasn't offered to all residents. Councilman Howell asked Clerk Treasurer Ebert to send an invite to both companies to attend our June 5th, 2025 Council meeting to answer that question.

Unfinished Business

- Motion by Councilman Sutton; second by Councilman Higgins to approve and adopt Ordinance 03-2025 amendment to Animal Waste.
- Motion by Councilman Sutton; second by Councilman Higgins to approve and adopt Ordinance 04-2025 Salary Ordinance 2025.
- Motion b Councilman Sutton; second by Councilman Higgins to approve and adopt Ordinance 01-2025 Bonds.
- Motion by Vice President Newburn; second by Councilman Higgins to read Ordinance 06-87 Amendment to Parking of Commercial Vehicle.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Park Board Laborer, Gregory Howard addressed the Council about a previous concern with the excessive speeding over on Condon Road & Sprunger Drive. Councilman Higgins advised Howard that radar speed limit signs was given to the town in April, however later to realize that it wasn't mobile for the town to move around and didn't have the equipment to utilize the one that was given, However, he would look into other options. Councilman Howell asked if Traffic Commission should handle this first, Chuck Mack agreed.
- Clerk Treasurer Ebert asked President Mayo to revisit the Garbage Contract and state the name of the company and the total dollar amount of each bidder.
 - President Mayo stated that Republic Services placed a bid for \$623,904.00 and Indiana Waste for \$452,039.40 each for a 5-year contract.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

President Mayo asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Higgins. A vote was taken. All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM



ATTEST:

Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer