

MEETING MINUTES

COMMON COUNCIL

Date: June 25, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Council President Pam Brown

IN ATTENDANCE

Council President Pam Brown, Vice-President, Amy LaOrange, Council Members Linda Allen, Marcus King, and Lee Trippett. Deputy Clerk Treasurer Linda Herget, Town Marshal Jim Bolen, Reserve Deputy Marshal Kevin Ward, Utility and Street Superintendent Doug Reed, Town Laborer Bruce Hiner, Town Attorney, Rebecca Trent and Fire Chief Mike Hill. Residents Present: Pam Hiner, David Kurth, Christy Puczkowski

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Agenda Check

Bruce Hiner raised the issue of the "sink hole" at the recycle area where the trucks back in and out. Doug stated the whole area had deteriorated over the years and they need to get some stone to fill it.

811, Ordinances, & Update on Ordinance Book from ALP – Pam Brown

Ordinance Book went to the publisher and a preview version/summary has been sent back to Rebecca. If we have any 2024 ordinances, we have 60 days to have them included, after that it will go to council for final approval.

Doug spoke with 811. Told them we no longer have any employee qualified to locate electric. We only locate water and sewer. Going forward, Doug and Clerk Treasurer will continue to get 811 notifications but when electric locates are required Doug is to notify REMC who will perform the locate. Per Doug, Travis assured him any cost associated is covered in our current contract. If the contractor who initiated the 811 call causes any damage they are to call 811 and REMC (or Nipsco if gas line is damaged).

4th of July Holiday

The actual Holiday for full time employees is Thursday, July 4. Office is closed 4th and 5th and Bruce (Part Time) and Doug (Salary) will be off both days. Question raised: do we want to make Friday, the 5th a "floating holiday" for Frank. No interest from the council. Frank will work.

WATER USAGE REPORT

Pam Brown read the water usage report. 1,289,000 Gallons were treated and sent last month, and 124,300 gallons were used to backwash.

REPORTS

Town Engineer Report -Pam Brown for Ken Smith

- Clarifier to be looked at next week
- Water project nearly complete
- Alan George and Rodale waiting on pipe/supplies to finish utilities to pavilion
- Consumer Confidence Report done
- Lead Service Line inventory underway
- Water audit underway.
- Street Grant opens Monday 7/1/24 and closes 7/29/24-paperwork ready to apply. Pam mentioned that if we get grant money we still might be able to do some paving in Sept-how much depends on amount of grant.
- Electricians at well are finished. Waiting for the contractor to finish up siding and clean up around building. Someone is coming to wrap pipes so they won't freeze in winter. Bruce Hiner made the observation that although it's too late now, heat in the cement at the well house would have kept the cement from freezing whereas a hanging heater would not.
- Ken is getting Doug a list of contacts for WWTP repairs

Superintendent Report- Doug Reed

- Many trees (especially along 5th St) hanging over the street and trash contractor requesting they be trimmed to avoid scratching new trash trucks. Doug and crew were going to trim but Clerk Treasurer said they couldn't because they were private property. Rebecca said we have an ordinance specifying how much can/should be trimmed if overhanging and she will send a copy.
- Doug said he needs sign posts. Had ordered 10 but Clerk Treasurer cancelled purchase saying she thought she could get cheaper. He thought they were about \$10 each. He can take spare stop signs off posts but then won't have any spares. Needs to post "no trucks allowed" signs. Clerk Treasurer to order another "Joseph Thompson Alley" sign.
- Underground power at 200 block of W Walnut was damaged due to contractor digging when not marked.
- WW skimmer needs replaced
- Changed town sign to delete Legion schedule on one side (Legion no longer active) and "invite to splash pad" on other which should be pertinent all summer.
- Ryan (IT) should have Doug's printer up tomorrow
- Report distributed showing daily work/activity from 6/13-6/24.

Clerk's Report- Linda Herget for Rene'e Collier

- Timecards for periods ending 6/1 & 6/15 were presented to and approved by Council.
- Fund Report was presented to Council for review
- Delinquent payment report was presented to Council for review
- Minutes for 2/27 were presented-motion was made by Amy Laorange and seconded by Linda Allen to approve. Motion carried 5 - 0.

- Claims for Bank 12 and Bank 1 were presented. Amy made motion to approve Bank 12 claims for \$1159.87 and Bank 1 Claims for \$93844.83. Linda Allen seconded. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 1 nay.
- 3 invoices (# 1344,1346,1347) from IMPA for pole replacements were presented for approval to pay. #1344 & 1346 totaled exact amt of quote (\$142,400). Motion was made by Amy and Seconded by Marcus to approve \$142723.20 for payment. Motion carried with 5 ayes.
- Accu-Dig invoice (\$#23368) for \$12,121.14 for tapping new water service at 216 W Main was presented to review amount of overtime for non-emergency project. Asked if we should challenge overtime charges. Council agreed Clerk Treasurer should pursue and if she needs assistance, call on Rebecca.
- Carroll White REMC invoice (#7131) was presented for replacing poles due to car accident on 4/20/24. Invoice is for \$16669.25. Council advised not to pay until insurance settled. Clerk Treasurer has sent to our insurance company. Pam said the 4 poles replaced should not count toward the annual # of poles to be replaced per our current contract with REMC.
- Advised council that Internal Controls Policy needs reviewed.

Town Marshal Report- Jim Bolen

- Cleaning up the town – tagged 4 vehicles and getting ready to talk to resident about not mowing yard.
- CSX and INDOT have been busy. They have given notice to 3 residents/businesses along the tracks on St Rd 43 that they have until July 5 to clean up/move vehicles/debris violating right of way laws.

Town Park Report- Pam Hiner/David Kurth

- Per Pam, Splash Pad has been busy – people she's spoken with come from surrounding area, including Lafayette. Had a couple of parts break but taken care of. 2 canopies shading picnic tables are appreciated – would appreciate donations of more if available. Park is well maintained.
- David is concerned about lack of funds. Not sure what solution is.
- Softball bleachers were repaired by town workers. Park Board had been pursuing free bleachers from Reynolds. Pam Brown said current bleachers were a liability and said council was not aware Park Board was pursuing the donation. Said Park Board needs to be more forthcoming with information from Park Board meetings. Cost to replace boards on current bleachers was minimal (approximately \$280). Mike Hill said he knew where more "free bleachers" were. David said he would check with Eric from softball league to see if any more were needed.

Fire Dept. Report- Mike Hill

- Stated it's very dry and caution is needed. Had a field fire last week in hay field where it's believed a gas pick up in middle of field caused the fire.

Pending Projects

- Splash Pad Pavilion – Marcus – waiting on placement. Contractor has other jobs and we delayed and got moved back on his schedule.
- Cell Phone Booster approved 3/26/24 – Marcus will have next week. Per Jim Bolen, MY-FI at town garage from old police car can be cancelled. Per Pam we need to check into internet vs My-FI.

Miscellaneous/Old Business

Marcus brought up placement of time clock discussed at last meeting. Marcus and Linda Allen thought it was decided we would move it back to town hall. Pam said no, clerk treasurer said it was her fault it was moved to garage and should be moved back -no agreement was reached at that time. Said the 6 people that work from there want it left

at town garage. Doug Reed believes their integrity is being questioned. Marcus made a motion to move back to town hall, there was no second and motion died.

Linda Allen asked Rebecca about the \$800 payment made to Vogel Realty to appraise property on ST Rd 43 which was not authorized. Rebecca said based on the e-mails/texts going back and forth between Pam, Rene'e and realtor, it wasn't clear who was ultimately at fault for communicating whether or not the appraisal was authorized. She said she would send the e-mail thread for perusal by the council members. Linda Allen said the decision to pursue purchase of the property was voted down by the council twice. Rebecca said the realtor had no way of knowing that. Rebecca said if the council wanted to hold the clerk treasurer responsible for paying the bill without authorization that was up to them.

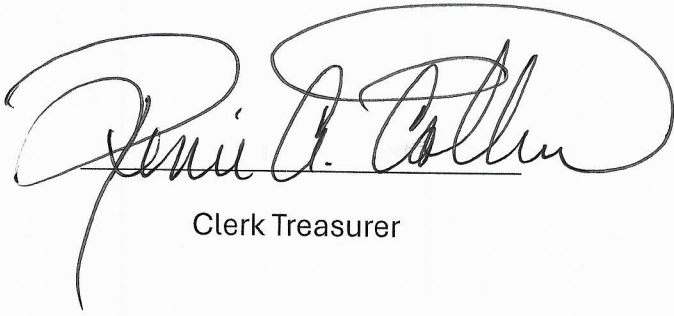
Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Amy LaOrange. Pam Brown seconded the motion which was passed by a vote of 5 ayes to 0 nays. Time of adjournment was 7:08 pm.

Next Meeting will be held

July 23, 2024 @ 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes for June 25, 2024



Jenni A. Collier

Clerk Treasurer



Amy LaBreez VP.

Council President