

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present were Council President Peter Byvoets, council members Jane Neulieb, Bob Lemay, Nick Meyer, Joy Schmitt, Attorney Julie Paulson, Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Fire Chief Dave Albers, Street Supt. Tom Dolph and Chief Robert Sulkowski; there were approximately 45 + present this evening.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance** Byvoets opened the meeting by reading guidelines for conduct, and comments and responses from the public and the Council. These guidelines were quoted from the Citizens' Planning Guide of the State of Indiana.

Minutes were approved unanimously for the meeting on February 8, 2016.

Police Department – Chief Sulkowski read the police report for February 2016 and added that a suspect was apprehended while engaged in a Lake Shore Drive break-in.

Police Commission – Pete Byvoets said the dispatcher issue was again discussed. The La Porte County 800 megahertz system for radio dispatch should improve reception for our department. The 30 day rental ordinance was discussed and continues in effect. However, any fines collected will need to be refunded. Placards for the north parking lot must be renewed for 2016.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – Dave Albers read the report for February with Y-T-D statistics. He asked the public to speak to him when conflicting information is presented. There was no Commission meeting but Albers made a brief statement about the expansion of the firehouse and associated expenses which are in development.

Street Department/Commission – Tom Dolph spoke about salting, patching and debris and branch removal on the streets. Spring Leaf pick up will be a one week project as it was last year beginning april 25th. Council approved a \$4,000 contract for Healy Landscaping to perform this service. Street cutting procedures and bonding requirements were discussed and will continue to be developed with some input from Michigan City.

Jane Neulieb mentioned the February commission meeting had been cancelled. She discussed the Stop 23 pillar which was severely damaged by a cement contractor.

Byvoets asked for further study on the front loader purchase. Discussion followed on the installation of a gate to provide security for the street building and associated equipment.

Jane explained the ongoing work with Haas Engineering to remediate flooding issues at Stop 22 and Stop 23. Byvoets said the initial estimate is \$70,000.

Bill Hazelgrove, a resident, suggested a method to dry up latex paint left by wayward residents.

Park Board –Joy Schmitt reported and thanked Bill Hazelgrove for his presentation on the Melrose Park project. Park Board requested the current ordinance salary survey be adjusted to reflect an increase for the gardener's salary range from \$10-17 to \$10-20/hr.; the board wants to continue with the current gardener at an increased pay rate.

Long Beach Community Center – Joy Schmitt reported that minutes of the last meeting are on the website. She said that Horst Bauchowitz, Joe Jogmen and Doug Wickstrom were performing minor maintenance and repairs and hoped that a method for them to purchase hardware/lumber could be instituted. Wi-Fi was approved for the Town Hall Council room with final costs to be developed. Installation of Wi-Fi at the LBCC will continue to be investigated.

Water Board met on February 22nd at 9:00 a.m. Nick Meyer reported Choice Recovery Agency was working for the Water Dept. on collections; however, Attorney Paulson said Choice Recovery cannot work on behalf of the Town's collections.

Budget and Finance met on March 9th. Byvoets mentioned a list of expenditures in the next couple of years including a front loader, leaf machine, salt storage \$50-60,000, Community Center Roof \$60,000, fire station/truck, erosion \$70,000, chiller at C.C. Cender & Co. to give a 3 year study survey; for council approval -\$2,500; A motion and second carried this forward.

Human Resources Advisory Committee –de Funiak indicated the requested salary survey has been completed and is attached to the proposed Salary Ordinance for 2016.

Building Commission – Lemay gave the report for February, on file. Talked about community input regarding seasonal fences; said the website had the explanation of fence use. Said the changes to the building code went to the APC. He mentioned Julie Paulson was making revisions to BZA procedures. Stated the Building Commission issued a "Stop Work" Order on the 3 seawalls at 2822, 2826, and 2900 LSD. Julie read the Building code ordinance – no motion accept was made. Frank Parkerson, a resident, spoke regarding "entry to homes" as mentioned in the proposed building code.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer reported that emails and letters to residents were sent out announcing the kick-off of the Comprehensive Plan. March 19th will be a presentation at the community center at 9:00 a.m. April 16th at 9:00 a.m. is a "visioning" session. On March 21st at 7:00 p.m. the APC will review the building code. There will be a hearing at the same meeting on the zoning code changes. Nick made a motion to suspend open meetings of the council at the CC until the comprehensive plan meetings conclude; Jane seconded, all approved. Bob McFadden, 2714 Duffy Lane, questioned the survey in the Comp. Plan; Pete said the survey was not developed yet. Jane Neulieb made a motion to allow Nick to purchase overhead projection equipment for the council chambers for future use, approximately \$731.00; also Wi-Fi in the chambers; second by Joy Schmitt, approved 5-0.

C-T de Funiak read the **February permit revenue report**: Fees of \$950.00 collected on project costs of \$123,762.00; 3 electric permits issued at \$436.00 with town revenue of \$43.60; 1 street cut permit with a fee of \$100.00.

Legal Expenses paid in February were \$7,975.00.00 to Harris, Welsh & Lukmann. Council approved \$2,455.00 portion of the invoice to HWL.

Motion and second to accept all reports as read. Approved 5-0

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance #2016-02 - Council approved the first reading of the 2016 Salary Ordinance with some modifications to the salary ranges. A 3% raise was approved for full-time and regular part-time employees, exclusive of the building commissioner position. Unanimous approval was achieved to suspend rules and proceed with a second reading. Second reading of the salary ordinance was approved unanimously.

Byvoets reported that Bob Gallagher and Joe Jogmen were working on a revised parking plan. Revised building codes were submitted to the APC.

NEW BUSINESS: Land Conservation-La Porte County indicated to Long Beach that 3 parcels were available because of unpaid taxes. Subsequent action by taxpayers reduced that to 1 strip between 2 residences; after receiving authorization from La Porte County that parcel will be offered to the two residents for purchase.

Council approved a plan to request 2017 budget estimates from committees, commissions and boards by April 15, 2016.

Byvoets filled the vacancy on the APC/BZA committees; his appointment to fill both positions is Rich Jercich, 2049 Lake Shore Drive.

Schmitt reported that the first open house meeting occurred in February with Joy and Bob Lemay as moderators. It was positive but consumed 3 ½ hours. Minutes are on the website.

Byvoets said that Doug Wickstrom was evaluating two alternatives for the move of the Building Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Parkerson spoke about attorney-client privilege for attorney bills.

Donna Kavanagh asked about the rental policy and water quality.

Jim Dehner read an informal opinion report from the public access counselor regarding a previously held comprehensive plan committee meeting.

Rich Crain questioned the "website" contract stated at last month's meeting (ie Blue Streak & CyberBlue) Nick Meyer stated the council made the contract with Blue Streak.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Jane Neulieb commented on the exemplary service to Long Beach of Fire Chief Albers. She also asked about the expenses incurred by the attorneys hired by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Claims Approval:

Motion by Lemay and second by Joy to approve salaries for February of \$ 59,542.15 and checks #13487 through 13554 totaling \$181,022.36: 5-0 approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Bill de Funiak
Clerk-Treasurer

