

PENDING APPROVAL

Minutes
Long Beach Town Council
Town Hall
Long Beach, Indiana
April 9, 2012

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Robert Schaefer. The following Council members were present: Robert Schaefer, Robert Angelo, Peter Byvoets, Patrick McDonald and Jane Neulieb.

Also present were Fire Chief Dave Albers, Police Chief Deputy Bullis, Street Superintendent Tom Dolph, Attorney Jim Thorne and Clerk/Treasurer Bill deFuniak. Approximately 27 residents were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes – The Minutes of March 5, 2012 were approved by unanimous vote.

Police Department Report – Chief Deputy Bullis delivered a report for the month of March, 2012. Officer Bullis reported that 177 calls were handled by the dispatchers, 66 of those were courtesy calls. 4000 + miles were logged, 911 hours, 31 overtime, 36 part time, and 16 hours for reserves. A breakdown followed of the traffic and ordinance violations that were issued.

Police Commission Report – Robert Schaefer reported that the Police Commission met three times since the last Town Council Meeting. The first meeting was held on March 7 to discuss the Police Contract with Michiana Shores; the second meeting was held on March 28 and changes to the Police Contract with Michiana Shores were discussed and approved; and the third meeting of the Police Commission was held on April 4, 2012, and the following matters were discussed: replacement of the reserve police car; rifles need updating; fiber optic project was discussed; the parking lot rules and regulations; security plans for the 4th of July, and the transfer of ownership of the Police Dog, Cody.

Mr. Schaefer noted that Cody will be retired from the force and he read a letter of commendation regarding the performance of Cody and his contribution to Law Enforcement. It was noted that ownership will be transferred to Officer Schooly following Cody's retirement.

The next Police Commission Meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2012 at 8:30 A.M.

Volunteer Fire Department Report – Chief Albers delivered a report for the month of March, 2012. To date there have been 10 Fire Calls, 8 of those in Long Beach, 2 in Duneland Beach. 17 Medical calls to date this year, 14 of those were in Long Beach, 3 in Duneland Beach. Average response time for Fire calls was 4 minutes; average response time for Medical calls was 5 minutes.

The Chief also noted that the air compressor used to fill the oxygen tanks was inspected and passed inspection; as well as a ladder test was performed to test the strength of the ladders used by the Fire Department.

Fire Commission Report – Mr. Schaefer noted that the Commission met on March 6, 2012 and discussed the funding that is due to the Fire Department from 2011. It was noted that the Commission requested Chief Albers to submit invoices for payment of those expenses.

Next Fire Commission meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

Street Department Report - Tom Dolph stated that he is working on preparing for Spring leaf pickup. Tom further reported that the swing set at the Old School has been removed and that he and the Water Department are working on replacing water lines where needed.

Park Board – Jane Neulieb recapped the activities of the Park & Recreation Board at their March meeting. It was noted that the playground at the Old School will be mulched after the new swing set is installed. Jane also noted that the Water Board has offered to provide paint to paint the Water Plant at Stop 24 since there are no plans in the immediate future for the building. Jane also stated that the Park & Recreation Board recommended not putting trash cans at the Bus Stops this year and to promote a “Pack it In – Pack it Out” policy. It was noted that signage is needed to promote the new policy. However, trash cans will be available for the 4th of July.

The summer program will run from June 18 through August 3. Jane further stated that April 21 is the Adopt a Beach Day and Long Beach residents are encouraged to contribute to this event as well. So everyone is encouraged to come out and help clean the beaches on that day.

Community Center Report – Patrick McDonald reported that the repair of the eave near the front entrance of the Community Center has been completed.

Jane Neulieb stated that the Community Center Committee had met and the next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2012 at 4:00 P.M. at the Old School.

Water Board Report – Robert Schaefer stated that the Water Board met on March 26, 2012. It was noted that the Water Dept. is working on water meter installations for the Spring. A report will be prepared which shows a breakdown of a water bill. This report will be available for review on the Town website.

The next Water Board meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2012 at 9:00 A.M.

Clerk/Treasurer Building Permit Report – Mr. deFuniak reported that fifteen (15) building permits were issued with a total cost of \$1,784,890.05; fees \$6,875.00; and two (2) electrical permits were issued - \$471.00 with fees of \$47.10.

Budget and Finance Report - Peter Byvoets reported that the Budget and Finance Committee has met and will be meeting again on April 11, 2012. Following is a recap of items that were discussed by the Finance Committee at their meeting on March 28:

1. Michiana Shores Police Contract;
2. investigate all insurance programs;

3. Finance Committee will sign off on all expenses on credit card as well as review all credit cards and will perform review of missing credit card receipts
4. procurement of all contracts with the Town
5. Police issues i.e. the dispatcher program
6. Salary review of the Town employees
7. there was a 17% increase last year
8. possible benefits for part-time employees
9. Study of cash flow
10. research a shortfall for LaPorte County of \$65,000 last year

Building Commission Report – Mr. McDonald reported that a STOP WORK ORDER has been issued for the construction of a new home at 1405 Lake Shore Drive on the hillside. Various violations have been noted and damage to surrounding homes/residences has been identified. Mr. McDonald stated that the Building Commission has ordered a report and is waiting to get results before work can resume on the project.

On motion made and seconded, the reports were approved as submitted.

Two Big Hearts Foundation - Mr. Jim Clarke was in attendance and indicated that the Two Big Hearts Foundation is hosting its annual 5K race on May 26, 2012. The race begins at the Community Center and is open to everyone. The race begins at 9:00 A.M. The Foundation provides heart screening for women to provide early detection of heart disease.

On motion unanimously approved, the Council approved the request for the race. It was noted that the Town is not the sponsor of this event.

Old Business

Police Contracts – The contract for Police service to Michiana Shores was presented for approval. The contract contained the changes as recommended by the Police Commission. Mr. Schaefer indicated that he will be contacting officials in both Michiana Shores and Duneland Beach to discuss their respective contracts.

Outstanding Citations - It was noted that there are several outstanding citations at this time. Mr. Byvoets indicated that these citations relate to moving sand and that the Town needs to address this issue and form guidelines that are clear and enforceable by the Town.

Full discussion followed and it was noted that this issue will be discussed by the Advisory Plan Commission at its next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Salary Ordinance - Pursuant to earlier Council action, an Ordinance was prepared to change the Salary Ordinance to include the two part-time employees who work at the Town Hall to be included in the 3% annual increase rather than .25 per hour.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, Attorney Thorne proceeded with the first reading of the Ordinance. On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved the Ordinance was approved.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved Mr. Schaefer asked for a 2nd reading of the Ordinance by title only. Mr. Thorne read the ordinance by title only. On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the 2nd reading of the Ordinance by title only was approved.

Mr. Schaefer asked if there were any comments from the Council or from the floor.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved Mr. Schaefer asked for a 3rd reading of the Ordinance by title only. Mr. Thorne read the ordinance by title only. On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the 3rd reading of the Ordinance by title only was approved.

The Ordinance was approved as follows: Insert Ordinance Here

Refuse Pick-up Revised Ordinance - Pursuant to earlier Council action, an Ordinance was prepared to amend the Refuse Pick-up Ordinance as it relates to residential charges and changes were needed to remove the “commercial” reference in the new Ordinance.

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Water Works Ordinance – Mr. Schaefer introduced an Ordinance which includes new fees for tap-on charges. The new fee is \$1,250.00 for a new water service hook-up, up to a 1 inch pipe; and labor and costs, at a minimum charge of \$2,000.00 for a larger connection.

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Discussion followed and it was noted that the water bills fees are as follows:

\$30.90, of which one-half is used to pay off the \$4 Million dollar loan; the other one-half is used for operating expenses;

\$3.90 is charged per unit of water which is 1000 gal.

\$8.40 is used to pay off the \$4 Million dollar loan.

It was noted that the \$4 Million dollar loan should be paid off in 14 years.

Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. - Mr. deFuniak noted that this is a program similar to a 401(k) for employees. Mr. deFuniak indicated that he will research the possibility of offering a program like this to all Town employees.

Comments from the Floor - Discussion followed regarding weekly vs monthly rentals. Mr. Thorne indicated that the Town Ordinances prohibit weekly rentals as written. It was noted that not all residents agree with the ban on weekly rentals. This matter will be discussed at the Advisory Plan Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Douglas Waters, of Long Beach Realty, noted that the town could require rental homes to post a bond and thereby keep track of rental owners and hold them accountable for any problems that may arise. Mr. Waters further noted that an Innkeepers Tax to LaPorte County may be required

Mr. Waters also informed the Council that due to the construction at Stop 14, damage was done to his building and it was clear that zoning ordinances were violated as the topography was completely changed, trees were cut down and damages to private property has occurred. He inquired why it took him 3 weeks to get anyone to issue a Stop Work Order. Mr. Waters noted that the process is not working and needs to be reviewed prior to letting work at this location continue.

Mr. Jim Neulieb inquired as to when the Building Commission meets and should it meet more often. He inquired if we have an electrical inspector, and if so, who is the Town's electrical inspector. Also, he inquired if we have a building inspector and who hires him and how does he get paid.

Mr. Robert Gallagher indicated that his neighbor recently had a health issue and was very grateful for the timely response by the Fire Department.

Mr. Gallagher noted that there have been 8 different meetings this month and he asked Attorney Thorne if minutes were required of each meeting that was held. Mr. Thorne indicated that minutes are required of all meetings that are held.

Mr. Randy Eckley noted that the State of Indiana “found” \$250 Million and LaPorte may receive \$2.7 Million in the near future.

Mr. deFuniak read a letter from a resident at Stop 30 regarding a house that is possibly encroaching on the Stop by mulching and planting bushes. Mr. deFuniak indicated that he will look into this matter.

Claims Approval - Mr. deFuniak requested approval of claims in the amount of \$100,559.67, Salaries for March, 2012 in the amount of \$74,952.21 (3 pay periods). Motion to approve the claims was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of all present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
William deFuniak, Clerk Treasurer