

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 13, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present were Peter Byvoets, Jane Neulieb, Bob Lemay, Joy Schmitt, and Nick Meyer; Attorney Julie Paulson, Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Fire Chief Dave Albers, Police Chief Robert Sulkowski and St. Supt. Tom Dolph. There were approximately 50 present this evening.

Prior to the **Pledge of Allegiance** Byvoets opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims and families from the tragedy in Orlando..

Minutes were approved for the council meeting on May 9th, special council meeting of May 19th, Executive council meeting on May 25th, Special council meeting on June 6th, and special council meeting on June 8th.

Bob Lemay discussed the open meeting on June 8th with representatives from Cytek, IDEM, and the Michigan City Sanitary District that spoke to an audience of approximately 40 people. Two monitoring wells continue to operate in Long Beach. Drinking water is safe, but those residents with wells should not be using them, even for lawn irrigation.

Police Department – Chief Bob Sulkowski presented the May report.

Police Commission – Pete Byvoets said letters to realtors regarding 30 day rentals have been sent. Eliminating 3rd shift of dispatchers is still planned for October (exact date not set). Long Beach Community Center doors are still found to be occasionally unlocked. John Meyer of LaPorte County IT will be providing a proposal for server back-up and website hosting.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – Dave Albers read the Y-T-D report Byvoets asked for recommendations for grant writers to help with LBVFD and other capital projects.

Street Department/Commission – Tom Dolph said work continues on storm drains. Stop 22 access was cleaned, the Stop 23 pillar and light have been restored. Preparations for the 4th of July celebration are underway.

Jane Neulieb reported that at the May 18th meeting discussions were held regarding future paving and striping work. An evaluation will be made of the access fee for contractors' use of Stop 24.

Substantive plans are in place for masking the AT & T box on Lake Shore Drive. The next meeting will be held June 15th.

Park Board – Bill Hazelgrove made a progress report on Melrose Park.

Long Beach Community Center – Joy Schmitt reported that at the June 6th meeting, it was reported that Wi-Fi is operational at the LBCC. A maintenance plan is being developed with input from Tom Dolph. Three water fountains are operational in the building. The CC hours of operation coincide with those of the La Porte YMCA.

Water Board – Nick Meyer made the report.

Budget and Finance –Peter Byvoets said that the elimination of the 3rd dispatcher shift would be either October 1st or October 15th. Discussions of a shared expense with the Long Beach Country Club for repair and replacement of a fence will continue. de Funiak explained the “LOIT” (Local Option Income Tax) funds which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Human Resources Advisory Committee –de Funiak reported that the insurance broker was not able to predict health insurance premium increases and suggested using 10 – 15% for 2017 budgets.

Building Commission – Lemay spoke about a projected house demolition on Oriole Trail. Plans for snow fence timetables and rules are being developed. Level 1, 2, and 3 checklists are close to completion. BZA and Building Department coordination continue.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer spoke about the McKenna survey with 450 respondents. A new building height ordinance was approved. Meyer discussed the earlier plans for Stop 24 and Doug Wickstrom provided the architectural background.

C-T de Funiak read the **May permit revenue report**: Fees of \$3,950.00 collected on project costs of \$481,383.00; 4 electric permits issued at \$690.00 with town revenue of \$69.00; 1 beach access permit w/fee of \$100.00.

Legal Expenses paid in May were \$20,748.20 to Harris, Welsh & Lukmann and \$4,215.56 to Harris Law Firm.

Reports and claims were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance #2016-05: Amending Town Code to Authorize Payment of Certain Claims in Advance of Meetings – approved payments under \$1,000 plus emergency payments. Motion made, seconded and approved on 1st reading. Motion to suspend the rules was made and passed unanimously. Motion made, seconded and approved on 2nd reading.

Byvoets mentioned 30 – day rental letters to realtors

Byvoets spoke about IT back – up and computer security

NEW BUSINESS:

Country Club Fence – Byvoets discussed in Budget and Finance report

Michigan City Triathlon will be scheduled from Washington Park to Stop 24; approved 5 – 0. A representative from the Triathlon said \$500 will be paid to Town of Long Beach.

Council approved unanimously the use of Town facilities by the Civic Association for July 4th festivities.

Ordinance #2016-06: Establishing a Local Option Income Tax (LOIT) Special Distribution Fund

Motion made, seconded and approved on 1st reading. Motion to suspend the rules was made and passed unanimously. Motion made, seconded and approved on 2nd reading.

CCD – Byvoets explained the CCD proposal and the pending capital expenses for the town. Motion and second made; approval for CCD to be presented at the July 11th council meeting.

Byvoets spoke of fire safety and building heights. John Wall related the difficulties of fighting fires in new and tall homes.

Bob Kuchler, 2401 LSD, cautioned the use of “story” in any ordinances because of potential adverse tax effects for homeowners.

Ken Purze read a statement for property owner Ted Reese to be on the record and included in this meeting’s minutes (attached)

Byvoets presented **Zoning Ordinance 2016-04: Amending Chapter 154 of the Long Beach Town Code** (re: building heights)

Motion made, seconded approved on 1st reading. Motion to suspend the rules made, passed unanimously. Motion made, seconded and approved on 2nd reading; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Parkerson, 2030 Juneway Drive, spoke about council comments and transparency.

Bob Kuchler, 2401 LSD, asked about steps to the beach at Stop 24.

Greg Alberding, 2102 Oakenwald, commented about lack of transparency.

Randy Scott, 2915 Loma Portal Way, spoke about his concerns over the corrosive nature of the materials infused into the ground by chemical companies. He said his insight into the problem came from 38 years experience as an ironworker.

Mary Kowalski, 2604 Oriole Trail, asked about street work and striping on Oriole Trail.

Jim Dehner, 2300 Fairway Drive, commented about attorney-client privilege.

Allison Jaksa, 1406 LSD, asked about the Palm& Associates survey and when the results would be available. Byvoets said they would be accessible in one (1) week.

Ken Purze, read a letter sent to Aaron Tomsheck, Building Commissioner, from the Indiana Fire Safety Commission (attached)

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Jane Neulieb spoke about open access to information and the Town website

Claims Approval:

Motion and second to approve salaries for May of \$ 66,721.13 and checks #13708 through 13792 totaling \$310,679.87; all were approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak
Clerk-Treasurer