

Town of Long Beach
Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024
7 PM

Council members in attendance:

Joy Schmitt (JS)
J.D. Haley (J.D.)
Anita Remijas (AR)
Kendra Bartlett (KB)
Shannon Wojcik (SW)
Town Atty. Chris Willoughby
Approx. 38 in attendance on Zoom and in-house

Others attending:

Becky Lempa, court reporter (Zoom)
Trista Hudson, Cender/Dalton (Zoom)
ALCO TV, in house
Guest, Jennifer Heath, Council-
member, Town of Trail Creek

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Schmitt, and the pledge was recited.

President Schmitt, in opening remarks, added "Welcome Signs" back to the agenda under unfinished business.

The floor was opened to Jennifer Heath, Councilmember from Town of Trail Creek. Permission was granted by council for the Town of Trail Creek to utilize Long Beach Town Hall council chambers for their council meetings. Jennifer's request for our Town Hall use on April 16th, May 21st, and June 18th was approved with a motion and second by JS and AR; and a 5-0 vote.

Minutes from Town Council executive meeting of February 12, 2024 were approved by a 5 – 0 vote with a motion by AR and second by KB. Minutes of the regular council meeting held February 12, 2024 were approved with corrections on page 3 referencing the term limits ordinance. The 1st reading of that ordinance was only approved. The correction was made in those February minutes.

There were **Public Comments** from Ellyn Lynch, 2225 Lake Shore Drive; Becky Lipton, 3016 Northmoor Trail; Melanie Davis, 2925 Lothair Way; and Mitch Taebel, 2020 Golden Gate Ave.

Committee Reports were read:

Swistek read the Police Department report for February 2024 (on file). He highlighted a couple of traffic stops made by officers within the month. February 12th- Farthing and Sights's traffic stop on Hwy #12 involving occupants found with crack cocaine and other paraphernalia. February 22nd- Another stop and arrest involving occupants found with meth.

Promotions within the department were announced. Mitch Sights was promoted to Chief Deputy Sergeant, taking over Sergeant Schooley's position after Schooley's retirement and Matthew Farthing was promoted to Corporal. Swistek noted comments from resident Becky Lipton, who lives near Moore Rd, when she spoke of the speeding traffic she witnesses on Moore Rd. He stated Officer Disbrow was on patrol today and was monitoring that area of the neighborhood. There wasn't a police commission meeting held in February, as those meetings are held quarterly.

Town Administrator report was given. Swistek said that the council room had been newly painted and other painting would be done this week in the Clerk-Treasurer's office areas. The street sweeper had been out on the roads last week cleaning up different areas around town. The April spring leaf clean up dates will be announced soon.

John Wall, standing in for Tom Yemc, gave the Fire Dept. report for February, 2024 (on file). The members have been training at the Michigan City Fire Dept. Wall reminded residents to have their addresses visible from the road with, at a minimum, 4-inch numbers on front of the house. He reiterated the importance of residents having keyholders for the homes for emergency situations, and smoke detectors checked regularly. The Fire Commission met on March 7th and at that meeting purchasing of the new fire truck and bank financing was discussed. The meetings for this committee will also change. Beginning in April the committee will meet quarterly.

KB reported for Public Works. At the February 26th meeting the committee made changes to their meeting time. They will now meet at 8 AM on the 4th Monday of each month instead of 9 AM. The drainage project for Stops 17 & 18 has another approximately 4 – 6 weeks. Quotes are being reviewed for a new department truck. The water department has a \$35,000 vendor credit from Utility Supply Co.

February Park Board meeting was cancelled.

The Community Center report was given by AR. The committee is researching the possibility of ADA bathrooms, and kitchen renovations, and if the kitchen is still a necessity in the building. She mentioned the fact that the facility has a full house of renters; with maybe only 1 room left available.

Budget & Finance report of February 7th meeting by C-T Collins: She stated that budget numbers had been distributed to the department heads. There

is a \$500,000 CD for the Town maturing in June. The committee continues talk on Rainy Day funds and transfers of funds. There will be a workshop on March 27th at 1 PM to discuss the Capital Plan.

There were no February meetings held for Human Resources, Tree Board, Building Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or APC.

Building Permits for February 2024: 12 permits issued totaling \$328,619.00 with revenue of \$3,861.00; 3 electric permits issued totaling \$346.00 and 1 street cut permit with revenue of \$100.00

Legal expenses paid in February - \$6,212.50 to Braje Nelson & Janes. Accounting charges paid in February to Cender & Co. (Cender/Dalton) in the amount of \$1,362.81.

All reports were approved 5 – 0 with a motion and second from JS and AR.

Unfinished Business:

Chief Swistek gave an update on the progress of the Public Safety Building. (on file) Holladay Construction Group's Joe Coar and Chief Swistek make a walk-through of the building two weeks ago. They'll be working on their project punch list.

Attorney Willoughby mentioned that the MS4 Ordinance is ready for council review.

Schmitt stated there will be no grant received for an ADA for Stop 15.

Schmitt noted she had received 13 public responses regarding the repealing of the term limits ordinance; 4 in favor of and 9 against. After council discussion regarding the matter, and some public comment from the audience members, JS motions to repeal the ordinance on second reading; KB seconds, and it passes with a 3 -2 vote.

Bartlett stated she received emails about the proposed ordinance: prohibition against feeding deer. 21 in favor, 2 unsure. After changes were made in Section B to read "six feet (6') above the ground and wording in Section C with the important word "intentionally" being used, KB motions to consider the ordinance as is, suspend the rules and pass same night; second by SW; vote is 2-3, and did not pass. KB then motions to pass on 1st read; second by JS, passes with 5 – 0 vote.

There were vacancies filled this evening on a few committees:
Presidential appointment-Bob LeMay to BZA; 1 4-yr term
Presidential appointment-Diana Holt to APC; 1 4-yr term
Council appointment-Margaret Eggleston to Park Board; 2-yr term. This was voted on 5 – 0 with a motion by JS and second by KB

There remains a 1-year term opening on the Fire Commission and one opening on the Community Center Committee.

Chief Swistek updated the council on the value and need for a radar speed limit sign on Chastleton Drive. A quote received for a TC-600 Solar Power radar sign with small LED lights projecting only a faint light totaling \$4,213.00 was approved, after council discussion, with a motion and second by AR and JS; 5 – 0 vote. Cost are being covered by and through the LaPorte County Prosecutor's Office.

JD continues his work on the "Welcome Sign" project. Update in April

New Business:

A motion and second by JS and AR to allow the Notre Dame St. Patrick's Day 5K Color Run on local Long Beach roads. 5 – 0 vote

A motion and second by JS and KB to approve the use of the Community Center facility by LaPorte County for the May 7th 2024 election. 5 – 0 vote

AR reminds all committees and their chairs of managing their meeting dates, times, cancellations and changes for website posting and to forward agendas to the Clerk's office; this helps in keeping in line with Open Door Laws.

AR commented about objectionable loud music coming from certain homes on Lake Shore Drive and reminded everyone of the current noise/nuisance ordinance. Chief Swistek said there are "repeat offenders"; encourages residents to log a call to the police department so the code can be enforced when necessary.

Chief Swistek stated that town rights-of-way should not be blocked or inaccessible for the town to carry through with projects necessary to run town's operations. AR spoke of the current project Woodruff & Sons is working on along Lake Shore Drive properties. A reminder to everyone not to put things in town rights-of-way.

Email blasts going out to all residents with Town information and announcements can be made with the help of residents who can log in to the website and subscribe for such email notifications. Residents can also call the Clerk's office for assistance or leave your email address with the office.

KB will contact Mr. Sweeney of 2919 Lothair Way who had previously attended a Public Works meeting asking to have Ridge Road named after Tony Cline, an NFL professional football player who lived in Long Beach years ago, to advise him that the Town cannot fulfill his request to have a street sign in Cline's name and that Mr. Sweeney is welcome to purchase a fundraiser brick the Community Center could place in the property sidewalks.

JS moves to approve, and AR seconds, the newly proposed phone system that would bring the town charges down from \$432/mo. To \$272/mo. This passes 5 – 0.

AR motions to purchase the new Konica Minolta C360i copier outright, after discussion of different options, for \$5200; second by JS; passes 5 – 0.

With the Town's IT vendor recommending we continue with cyber insurance, and Chief Swistek recommending the purchase through General Insurance Services, JS motions and KB seconds to purchase at \$2,603.50 for the year 2024. This is a reduction from 2023's policy that was \$3,582.00. This motion passes 5 – 0.

Future expenditure projections were presented by John Wall for the Public Safety Building. (spreadsheet on file) John explains the fire department's commitment and the portion of expenses the Town Council will be asked to consider. The immediate needs are radio/microphone equipment and installation, and a fire alarm monitoring system. Quotes are in hand from Chicago Communications and Sentinel Alarm. \$15,400 for equipment and installation and \$1,900 plus \$71 per month for the alarm monitoring system. SW motions that President Schmitt has the authorization to sign the quotes, seconded by JS. The motion passes 5 – 0.

Holladay Construction Group's change request #8 was put on hold according to John Wall.

Motion by AR to approve Invoice #11 from Holladay Construction Group for payment on the Public Safety Building in the amount of \$351,994.50. Second by JS, Approved 5 – 0.

Motion by AR to approve an invoice for payment for \$7,500.00 from iWorQ for Building Department software; second by JS. Passes 5 – 0.

Motion by AR to approve, for payment, an invoice from Haas & Associates for \$19,253.90 for the LSD Water Project; second by JS. Passes 5 – 0.

Motion to approve, for payment, an invoice from Haas & Associates for \$13,666.16 for the drainage project at Stops 17 & 18; second by KB. Passes 5 – 0.

Motion to approve, for payment, an invoice from Woodruff & Sons for \$303,089.45 for the LSD Water Project; second by KB. Passes 5 – 0.

Council Comments:

J D appreciates all the public input on different subject matters the town is working on.

Claims Approval: February 2024

Town Checks #20512 – 20573 totaling \$182,059.43

Water Checks #54913 – 54945 totaling \$311,445.51

February payroll – \$90,102.16

Motion to approve claims and payroll by JS and second by AR; passes 5-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by AR; second by JS; 5 – 0 vote. Adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Deanna Carlson
Deputy Clerk

Reviewed by;
Meg Collins
Clerk-Treasurer