

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING @ Town Hall
NOVEMBER 11, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Attending tonight's meeting were council members Bob Lemay, Pete Byvoets, Nick Meyer, Joy Schmitt, Jane Neulieb, Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Police Chief Bob Sulkowski, Street Superintendent Tom Dolph, Town Attorney Chris Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Janes, Marilyn Jones & Associates videographer and court reporter; and ALCO TV. There were approximately 25 audience members present. LBVFD Chief Wall was absent.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance**, the minutes of the Council meeting of October 14, 2019 were approved with a motion and second by Schmitt and Byvoets.

Reports were Read:

Police Department /Police Commission- Police report for October was read by Chief Sulkowski. There was no Police Commission report to read this evening.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – John Wall was absent so no reports were read and no commission meeting was held.

Street Department/Street Commission – Tom Dolph reported that maintenance has been performed on street department vehicles and the street building.
Jane Neulieb reported that work is underway with Tom Dolph and Haas & Associates to prepare the grant proposal to INDOT for 2020 paving funding.

Park Board – Joy Schmitt complimented the volunteers who planted 450 dune grass plants at Stop 18.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Joy Schmitt reported that 2020 leases were being reviewed for all renters and that a status report will be presented at the December meeting.

Water Board – Nick Meyer reported on the new service order software and that new laptop computers had been purchased for the 2 water service employees.

Budget and Finance – Byvoets made a statement praising the work of the Budget and Finance Committee over the past 8 years.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – de Funiak reported that the Anthem Health Insurance premiums will be the same for 2020 as they were in 2019. The insurance broker reported that Long Beach and 2 other clients were the only customers out of 31 that did not experience a premium increase for 2020. He then urged the Council to approve a 3% COLA increase for 2020 salaries. It was determined that salary discussions would be deferred until the December meeting.

Building Department – Byvoets reported on the most recent meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals – There was no BZA meeting in October.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer stated that the Shoreline Protection Ordinance was discussed once again at the most recent meeting. He indicated that the 40 to 50 letters and comments were beneficial in crafting the ordinance that was approved by the APC and will be considered later in this meeting.

October 2019 **permit revenue** report:

De Funiak reported 12 permits were issued with fees of \$4,334.00 collected on project costs of \$402,840.00. 3 electrical permits were issued with town revenue of \$41.70 on total fees of \$417.00.

Legal Expenses paid in October totaled \$10,707.50; \$5,707.50 to Braje, Nelson & Janes, LLC and \$5,000.00 to Austgen, Kuiper & Jasaitas.

A motion was made by Schmitt and second by Meyer to approve all reports. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Old Business – Joy Schmitt reported that the Haas report was submitted to the Michigan City Sanitary District (MCSD). After review, MCSD will schedule a public hearing for Long Beach. Nick Meyer urged that sufficient notice would be given so that interested and affected residents could attend.

Joy Schmitt discussed the possibility of ceding 3 lots owned by the town to Save the Dunes to ensure that they would be left as green space and not be developed. Attorney Willoughby explained that the current council could not mandate that future administrations would be barred from selling or developing the subject lots. Resident and Land Conservation member David Hoppe and Save the Dunes director Natalie Johnson spoke in favor of the property transfer. Attorney Willoughby stated that the environmental study by Save the Dunes would be quite expensive and urged the council to do additional research to assess the viability of this potential activity. A motion by Meyer and second by Byvoets for Willoughby to perform this assessment and report at the December meeting was approved 5 – 0.

Council asked de Funiak to get specific acceptances/opinions from residents in close proximity to the potential new NIPSCO pole at the corner of Rosamond and Storey.

New Business – Nick Meyer discussed the bids for development at Stop 24. He expressed disappointment that the town consultant had developed a plan that was expected to be bid between \$200,000 and \$220,000; however, the bids ranged from \$693,500 to over \$850,000. The consultant will develop a more efficient scope and plans for project evaluation and initiation will be scheduled for Spring, 2020. Nick has been in contact with Coastal Grants Administration and the \$100,000 grant remains in effect.

De Funiak presented the change order for \$42,779.63 to the CCMG Paving Project, adding to the scope of the Walsh & Kelly project. The additional expense was approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2019-06, amending Title XV, Chapter 154, was presented on first reading by President Lemay. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Byvoets and seconded by Schmitt and was approved by 5 – 0.

A motion by Byvoets and second by Schmitt to suspend the rules was passed unanimously.

Byvoets presented a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-06 on second reading. Schmitt seconded the motion and the Ordinance was accepted 5 – 0.

Nick Meyer presented a snapshot of the new website. Training will be conducted for de Funiak, Carlson and Palmieri later in November. Website will go live on Friday, December 6, 2019.

Public Comments – Justine Keltz complained about a letter which she received, disparaging a local resident. She asked to be removed from the mailing list. Council explained that the letter was sent from an anonymous source; and was, therefore, outside the purview of town administration.

Council Comments – Jane Neulieb complimented the Street Commission, Street Department and Clerk-Treasurer’s office for their work in securing the CCMG grant, which was the largest in town history. Bob Lemay asked, with the election behind us, that we practice civility for the next several years. Nick Meyer announced that he would not be attending the December council meeting; therefore, he wished to compliment Jane Neulieb, Pete Byvoets and Joy Schmitt for their service to the town.

Claims Approval: Schmitt then made a motion to approve check #16752 through #16833, totaling \$170,402.38 be approved, and salaries for October of \$57,635.56; second by Byvoets, approved 5-0.

Motion and second to adjourn by Byvoets and Schmitt, approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak,

Clerk-Treasurer