

Town of Long Beach
Special Council Meeting
Minutes-November 1, 2023
7:30 PM

Attending the meeting in-house this evening were council members McFadden, Johnstone, Wall, Kocher, Atty. Chris Willoughby, and Police Chief Mark Swistek. Council president Bob Lemay, Clerk-Treasurer Perry and Deputy Clerk Carlson were absent. Zoom attendees were Marilyn and Becky of Marilyn Jones & Assoc. There were approx. 6 in the audience.

This evening's meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by John Kocher after which, the Pledge was recited.

New Business:

The matter of the Building Department and the supervision of its employees was presented and suggestions were called for. McFadden suggests the Town change the handbook organizational chart to reflect the building department inspector and secretary answer to the Town Administrator, their now determined department head. McFadden declares that in motion form; second by Johnstone. It is noted that this would be only for the building department secretary and building inspector. It passes with a 4 – 0 vote.

Employee health benefits renewal for 2024 was presented by Swistek. General Insurance submitted a renewal policy to the town with a 4.1% increase, surprisingly lower than the anticipated 12% first notification the town had received from Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. One unfortunate change is the employee deductible for a single employee increases \$250.00 and the family plan will increase \$500 from the current plan amount. The current monthly premium is \$19,917.27 and that will increase to \$20,734.32 a month, always subject to changes according to employee plan changes. This was figured into the 2024 budget. Swistek would like council approval to move forward with the renewal process. Kocher moves to go forward with the renewal proposal with General Insurance; McFadden seconds. It passes 4 – 0.

Public comment:

Anita Remijas, 2300 Florimond Ave, thanks Chief Swistek, his department, and the Fire Dept. for the amazing Halloween event last night – Trunk or Treat at the community center. She mentions John Wall as the only council member, also of the fire department, that was at the event. She is proud to come to meetings and what she gives to the community and results she sees through community involvement. She is proud of the town and proud to be able to work on the Park Board.

Council Comments- John Wall spoke, read, and addressed the council about things he's seen and heard in the public arena, and on social media. Doesn't like that politics can seem to get messy. He saw something in a Beacher ad that tends to misrepresent and, so, he wanted to make some corrections. Noted an ad for a certain clerk-treasurer candidate with some specific issues; Wall responded to those issues. Discussed the building commission and the town ordinance as it pertains to his brother, Larry Wall, as building commissioner with regards to conflicts of interest and working as a general contractor in the Town of Long Beach. Wall spoke

of 501c3 organizations in response to the Ernie Summers Beacher ad, the Long Beach Public Safety Building and John's involvement with it and the fire department. John spoke of cronyism, nepotism, and favoritism on quite a few issues within the town hall, the clerk-treasurer's office and those in office. (Full comments on video/not on file)

The meeting was adjourned without a motion or a second at 7:52 PM.

Respectively submitted after viewing the Zoom recording of meeting,

Deanna Carlson
Deputy Clerk