

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING @ Town Hall
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Attending tonight's meeting were council members Mary Lou McFadden, Nick Meyer, John Kocher, 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 30 audience members present. Council President Bob Lemay and councilperson (and Fire Chief) John Wall were absent.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance**, Nick Meyer called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the following meetings were approved by a 3 – 0 vote:

December 9, 2019 Council meeting
December 30, 2019 Year-End Council meeting
January 2, 2020 Special Council meeting
January 6, 2020 Council meeting
January 16, 2020 Special Council meeting

Reports were Read:

Police Department /Police Commission- Police report for January was read by Chief Sulkowski. There wasn't a police commission meeting in January to report.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – No reports.

Street Department/Street Commission – Tom Dolph gave his report for January, noting that the department is still working on the mapping system, and the community crossing grant has been submitted for the spring road work. New members of the street commission met but no meeting to report.

Park Board – Kocher gave the current park board report that included mention of sidewalks at the Stop 14 area and work in the near future for Stop 28. Copies of meeting minutes, in length, are always available on our website www.longbeachin.org.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Kocher mentioned that Ray Post will be hired to do some maintenance work at the center; Room 13 heating issues have been resolved; and the newly received Historical plaque will be placed at the center for display. The committee meets again on March 2nd. Minutes of their meetings are available on our website.

Water Board – Mary Lou stated the water board met on January 27th. Greg and Austin are working with the street department on the mapping system. They will also be attending a one-day class in March in South Bend. There will be an executive meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Town hall chambers. Their next regular meeting is February 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Budget and Finance – de Funiak stated this committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12th at Town Hall.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – de Funiak mentioned that the committee will meet on the 21st with an outside vendor for possible Town HR work.

Building Department – Kocher reported for January business.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Kocher reported the committee met on February 4th and noted a preliminary hearing for 2027 Oriole Trail, an administrative appeal for 2521 Lake Shore Drive, and a public hearing for 1802 Lake Shore Drive which was denied. A petition for the Stop 24 project was withdrawn.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer said the January APC meeting was pretty much an organizational meeting. They will meet in February on the 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Building Permit Revenue Report for December, 2019:

19 permits approved with Fees of \$7,528.00 collected on project costs of \$689,392.00

and for **January, 2020:**

19 permits approved with fees of \$15,195.00 collected on project costs of \$1,458,159.00

\$40.70 revenue collected in December for additional electric fees due totaling \$407.00 and \$67.60 revenue in January for 5 permits in January totaling \$676.00.

A total of \$5,125.00 was paid for **legal expenses in December, 2019**; \$3,937.50 paid to Braje, Nelson & Janes and \$1,187.50 paid to Austgen, Kuiper Jasaitis.

In **January 2020**, \$5,512.50 was paid to Braje, Nelson & Janes and \$25.00 was paid to Austgen, Kuiper Jasaitis.

A motion made and second by Kocher and McFadden to approve all committee reports; approved 3-0.

Old Business – Extensive Discussion on the proposed Sewer project was conducted by Sewer Committee members John Kocher and Joy Schmitt with input by Attorney Willoughby. Rough estimates of \$7 million for the entire project were presented. Because of capacity issues with the Michigan City Sanitary District (MCSD), the project is only being considered for Lake Shore Drive residents. Current plans suggest that the State Revolving Fund (SRF) application be made by MC with the financial guarantees being made by Long Beach. Plans are to make this a resident paid project with the bond repayment over several decades. Plans are for a MCSD Public Meeting to be scheduled before March 20, 2020.

The proposed Tree Ordinance was introduced by Dr. Annabelle Juhasz. She discussed the need to identify and recognize “heritage trees”. It was determined to defer decision on this ordinance until the full council was present. Nick Meyer encouraged the public to review the draft ordinance on the website and provide comments and suggestions.

New Business – Lakefront Erosion Mitigation discussion was led by Building Commissioner Larry Wall. He indicated that the recent storm action had threatened several homes on the north side of LSD. While the financial responsibility for protecting those homes rests with the individual homeowners, the threat to LSD and the gas, water and electric utilities underneath the street is borne by the town. Larry quickly

convened a meeting with the LBVFD, the LB Building Commission, the LB Street Dept., the LB Water Dept. and NIPSCO to develop plans for mitigation of these problems. Large sandbags, concrete barriers and sheet pilings were used. Wall assured the public that the current ordinances were considered and that all of the remediation work was temporary. Nick Meyer asked about town expenses for stop protection and Larry indicated a figure of \$100,000 was projected, although the costs for removing the temporary barriers could extend those figures.

Tom King complained about the vibrations which affected his home.

Mary Carol Lombard also complained about the vibrations which disturbed her and threatened her home.

Bob Boyce urged people to consider the homeowners on the lake who are trying to save their homes.

Dr. Juhasz asked if the beach erosion was going to affect utilities and the proposed sewer project.

Susan Keenan, Floral Trail, representing the Long Beach Civic Association addressed costs to upgrade the landscaping at the entrance to Long Beach on Mt. Claire Way and Moore Rd. The Civic Association would like to pay for this project with ongoing maintenance by the Beach Garden Club. McFadden motioned to approve, seconded by Kocher and approved 3 – 0.

Dr. Richard Houck was motioned for approval to sit on the Special BZA by Meyer, seconded by McFadden and was approved by a 3 – 0 vote.

De Funiak proposed that the **2020 Title VI Implementation Plan attached to Resolution 2020-001** be approved; Motion by Meyer, second by Mc Fadden; was carried by a 3 – 0 vote. (copy attached)

Meyer presented a proclamation to compliment the League of Women Voters for their service to the Town of Long Beach, the State of Indiana and the United States of America. This proclamation was accepted unanimously by the Council.

Dr. Juhasz requested a donation to the Humane Wildlife Center of \$150.00 for their continued service to the Town of Long Beach and education of children and adults. Motion by Meyer and second by McFadden for this contribution was approved by a 3 – 0 vote.

Resolution #2020-002 -To Transfer Real Estate to Save The Dunes Conservation Fund was read by Meyer. He made a motion and Kocher seconded, to authorize Save the Dunes to proceed with the environmental study as a next step to transferring 3 parcels of town property to Save the Dunes. This transfer will not be completed without preparation and joint approval of an agreement between the 2 parties. There was a lot of discussion and questions from the public as to why we are giving the land to Save the Dunes, and how many acres are we giving? Melli Hoppe of Save the Dunes said there are 3 parcels, approximately 24.53 +/- acres. Resolution was passed by a 2 – 1 vote. (copy attached)

Public Comments – A resident urged the installation of speed bumps or radar detectors on Moore Road to eliminate speeding, particularly during the summer months.

The League of Women Voters thanked Long Beach for their recognition.

Julie Sosa, Bellevire Ave., spoke of a talk she would like to present to the public, Climate Crisis, at the community center and requested the use of the gym. She also supports the proposed tree ordinance.

Rima Binder suggested the council use the provided microphones for all to hear.

Council Comments – Mary Lou Mc Fadden spoke about the selection of committees and boards. She mentioned that many residents were used on multiple commissions and urged the public to put their names forward to serve the town.

deFuniak read the claims for approval: Checks #16958 through #17033 totaling \$210,234.44; Salaries for January, 2020 were \$76,240.57; motion to approve by McFadden, second by Kocher; 3-0.

Motion and second to adjourn by McFadden and Kocher, approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak,

Clerk-Treasurer