

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING via Zoom
November 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.

All council members, Bob Lemay, John Wall, Mary Lou McFadden, Mike Johnstone, John Kocher participated in the online Zoom meeting this evening, along with Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Police Chief Mark Swistek, Street Supt. Tom Dolph, Attorney Chris Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Janes, and Marilyn Jones & Associates. There were over 40 public participants also.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance**, Bob Lemay called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the following meetings were approved by a 5 – 0 vote:

Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021; motion by Lemay, 2nd by McFadden.

Town Council Special “Zoom” Meeting of October, 2021; motion by Lemay, 2nd by McFadden.

Reports were Read:

Police Department /Police Commission- Police report for October was read by Chief Swistek. McFadden related that she had been working with Mark Swistek to identify houses which were not being maintained and were more than unsightly and even presented a safety hazard to the community. Attorney Willoughby said that he would work with Mary Lou and Mark to utilize existing ordinances to bring these houses into compliance.

Swistek complimented the organizers of the Bolt for the Heart run/walk and the Long Beach police personnel who assisted in the event. The race raised over \$100,000. Mark mentioned that there is an opening on the Police Commission because Bob Gallagher has moved. He complimented Bob for his exemplary service on the Police Commission and other town committees/commissions.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – John Wall read the report for October. The Fire commission did not meet in October.

Street Department/Street Commission – Tom Dolph stated that the 2021 CCMG paving project is essentially completed, except for some punch list items. Leaf pickup has begun.

John Wall stated that no October Commission meeting was held, but planning for the 2022 Paving project has begun.

Park Board – Kendra reported that there will be no Beach Stop Improvements until Spring, 2022. Sarah Plooster has been working on LBCC events, including Tai Chi and Bingo.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – There was no meeting. HVAC has been converted to heat. Tai chi and Irish Dance have begun.

Water Board – McFadden reported of small claims follow-up and minor billing adjustments. The Advisory Committee will work to replace Bob Gallagher. Austin Ashcraft has passed all his tests and is a Certified Water Distribution Operator.

Budget and Finance – de Funiak is working with the Committee and Cender & Co. to develop a Capital Plan for major purchases: buildings, equipment, vehicles, development and significant repair. A check for over \$500,000 was paid to Woodruff & Sons for lakeshore remediation. Money was paid out of the GO Bond fund.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Mary Lou spoke of the work expended on the development of the proposed PTO policy. Plans are to have the policy approved at the December meeting for activation in January, 2022. Lemay motioned with second by Kocher to defer decision until December. Motion passed 5-0.

Building Department – Lemay read report.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Lemay gave summary of public hearings.

Advisory Plan Commission – No meeting was held.

Building Permit Revenue Report for October, 2021: There were 17 permits issued with value of work totaling \$2,049,064.00 w/ Town Revenue of 421,727.00. There were 3 Electric permits issued with fees of \$425.00.

Legal expenses in October, 2021: \$ 13,725.00 paid to Braje, Nelson & Janes.

A motion made and second by Lemay and McFadden to approve all committee and revenue reports; approved 5-0.

Old Business – Lemay stated that La Porte County was now in orange COVID protocol. A motion by Lemay and second by McFadden to not modify procedures was passed unanimously.

John Wall provided an update on the LSD Sewer Project. No significant changes in our plans have surfaced. The policies for LSD residents may be found on the town website. An informational webinar will be held on 11/16/2021; all LSD residents are urged to attend this meeting.

PTO Policy – A motion by Lemay and second by Kocher to defer further PTO discussion to December was passed unanimously.

2022 Salaries – Mary Lou discussed the work performed by the HR Committee to complete the 2022 Salary Ordinance. She discussed the current C-T salary of \$34,268 and stated that the salaries of municipalities of similar size were \$44 - 61K. She also suggested that the TC approve an increase of paid holidays from 10 to 13. Surrounding communities have 15 to 17 paid holidays.

Garbage Contract – de Funiak indicated that the 2022 contract with Republic Services will be at a 4% increase which will not require an increase in the resident fees. He will provide some estimates from other vendors.

Compliance – Johnstone is working with Attorney Willoughby to develop an Ethics Ordinance.

Public Works Department – Willoughby reported that it was still under development.

Deer Survey – Bob Lemay suggested that the deadline for submitting “the one survey per household” should be extended to 12/22/2021 to accommodate delayed mail issues.

Dogs on the Beach – Attorney Willoughby will review the current ordinance to modify/eliminate the dog restriction.

Dog Licenses – A motion by Lemay and second by Johnstone to eliminate town dog licenses was passed by a vote of 3 – 2.

Staggered Elections – Still a Work in Progress.

New Business –

Discussion was held regarding the Electrical Inspector. Attorney Willoughby mentioned that the Interlocal Inspection Agreement with the La Porte County Building Department could be expanded to all inspections, not just electrical. A motion by Lemay and second by McFadden to approve the Interlocal Agreement was passed 5 – 0.

Citation Books for the Building Inspector would cost \$316.89 and be printed by The Beacher. A motion by Lemay and second by McFadden to approve this expense was approved unanimously.

The Solar Energy Ordinance #2021-015 was reviewed by the APC and passed to the Council with a favorable recommendation. A motion by Lemay and second by Johnstone to approve the ordinance was passed 4 – 1.

Public Comments – There were 4 public comments.

There were no council comments.

Claims Approval: Checks #18434 through #18500 totaling \$690,375.17; and salaries for October, 2021 of \$90301.04; motion to approve by Lemay, second by Johnstone; 5-0 approval.

Motion and second to adjourn by McFadden and Wall, approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

All votes were executed by roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak,

Clerk-Treasurer