

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING via Zoom
January 10, 2022
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 up to 49 public viewers throughout the meeting also.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance**, Bob Lemay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Johnstone made a motion to elect Bob Lemay for council president; second by J. Wall; approved with 4 ayes; Lemay abstained from voting.

Lemay opened the meeting with noting that all public comments will be limited to 2 minutes this evening. Also, all votes during zoom meetings are by roll call.

The minutes of December 13th's council meeting and of the special year-end meeting are pending and will be approved next meeting.

All department/ committee reports were read or given by department heads. These council meetings are recorded and are on the town's website for viewing.

Police Department and Police Commission reports for December 2021 were given by Chief Swistek.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – John Wall retired as Fire Chief on December 31st and Tom Yemc took over the position. New officers- Kurt Earnst, Chief; Tom Yemc, Co-Chief -Training; Dan Sells, Chief-Operational; Megan Applegate, Captain, and Brian Wright, Captain. The report was given by Yemc.

Street Department/Street Commission – Tom Dolph gave the street department report. There was no December commission meeting. A meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 12th with Haas & Assoc. will be held for discussing the 2022 CCMG information.

Park Board – Zach Neff mentioned that January and February's meeting will be combined to meet on February 8th at 6 PM and gave an update on park board activities.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Kocher stated the committee will meet on Feb 7th at 4 PM. Gave the report regarding community center projects in progress.

Water Advisory Committee – McFadden stated the committee did not meet in December but will meet on January 24th via Zoom.

Budget and Finance – de Funiak stated tax receipts are in with \$540,000.00 going to proper funds. \$35,000 went to Riverboat fund. Closed the year under budget in all funds. The committee will meet on Wednesday the 12th with Karl Cender attending. The town attorney will have a resolution prepared by the February meeting on a 5- year Capital Plan to be considered. All council supported the plan.

No meeting was held by the **Human Resources Advisory Committee**.

Tree Board -Dr. Juhasz presented a resident's petition regarding cottonwood trees in the 1300 block of Lake Shore Drive. There was lengthy discussion by council before a motion was made by Lemay and seconded by Kocher to allow Juhasz to proceed in getting 2 quotes for service & evaluation by tree companies for this matter.

Building Department – Lemay said the committee had not met since the last council meeting so no report.

Gave the brief summary of what had taken place at the December 14th **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting. Minutes of this committee appear on the website for review.

The **Advisory Plan Commission** did not meet in December.

Building Permit Revenue Report for December, 2021: There were 13 permits issued with value of work totaling \$440,659.00 w/ Town Revenue of \$5,057.00. There were 2 Electric permits issued with fees of \$293.00.

Legal expenses in December, 2021: \$ 7,952.57 paid to Braje, Nelson & Janes

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

Old Business –

Lemay stated there are no changes to the town's executive order since his statement last month. It will be updated each month.

John Wall provided an update on the LSD Sewer Project. Met with Haas & Assoc. and NIPSCo last week and meet again in February. Will hopefully have bids before March 1st.

Mary Lou has been working with Karl Cender from Cender/Dalton Co. on the PTO policy for the town employee handbook. There was much discussion amongst council members regarding the policy with regards to holiday, vacation, sick time, etc. To be continued.

Mary Lou did motion for the council to approve adding 3 additional paid holidays to the work calendar; second by Kocher. That was approved 3 – 2.

There will be a change to the payout method for employees' Health Savings employer contribution in 2023. Although 2022's HSA monies were distributed in the employees' January payroll, Lemay motioned to change that beginning in 2023 by paying it out in 4 equal payments on the 1st payroll of each quarter. Second by Kocher. Approved 4 to 1.

After reviewing the ethics agreement and the proposed **Ethics policy ordinance** prepared by attorney Willoughby, Kocher motioned to present and accept this ordinance on 1st reading with suspending the rules. It was approved 5 – 0 by council.

The “Public Works” Department and all relating to this matter is still in progress.

Lemay made a motion to end the deer hunt issue. The survey had been previously conducted and had been extended beyond the announced deadline for submittals because of mail delay and Thanksgiving holiday; de Funiak read the results – 599 surveys total returned; 288 votes “yes” to question #1 on the survey, 303 votes “no”. 5 “no answer” to question #1. 268 answered “yes” to question #2; 255 -“no” to question #2. 75 - “no answers” to question #2. Mary Lou mentioned the group of people who have conducted lengthy research on this deer issue. Lemay said he would acknowledge anyone who wants to present to council any deer reduction ideas.

The council discussion of staggered elections is continued to February’s meeting.

New Business – New committee position openings were announced this evening; the following positions need to be filled:

- Barbara Morgan ‘s term has expired on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Tom McDonald’ vacancy left open on the Building Commission.
- Two positions on the Advisory Plan Commission where terms expired for A. Remijas and M. Gorman (presidential appointments)
- Police commission has 3 openings for annual positions (presidential appointments)
- Water Advisory Committee has an opening from vacancy left by Bob Gallagher’s move out of Long Beach. His term was through 2022. Laurel’s Kuczynski’s and Rick Remijas’s terms are up. (One position to be filled by the council and all others appointed by the president)
- Kendra Bartlett’s term expired on the Park Board (appointed by the council)
- Budget and Finance Committee-Lemay would like to step down and have John Wall take his position. Johnstone volunteered to be on Budget & Finance if an opening exists.
- One position is open to replace Mike Konicek’s departure on the Human Resources committee.

Everyone’s expired term on the mentioned committees has been extended one more month until appointments are made. Lemay will post the openings to the website and the subject will be revisited at February’s meeting.

Public Comments – William Dubon and Joe Kozma, 1421 Lake Shore Drive, really concerned of the new home going in next door at Lots 31 & 33 (1417 Lake Shore Dr) with ground movements in the dune. Wanted construction halted until engineering studies are done. Lemay directed him to the Friday’s building commission meeting at 1 PM.

Phylliss Baker, Oakenwald Dr, is on the “deer committee” and would like to share a report on deer education.

Anita Remijas, Florimond Ave., and Donna Kavanagh, Avondale Dr. each commented on the deer survey tabulations and the survey results.

Claims Approval: Checks #18622 through #18638 totaling \$113,566.72

A motion to approve by Lemay, second by Kocher; approved 5-0

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak,

Clerk-Treasurer