

Town of Long Beach
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024
7 PM

Council members in attendance:

Joy Schmitt (JS)
J.D. Haley (J.D.)
Anita Remijas (AR)
Kendra Bartlett (KB)
Shannon Wojcik (SW)
Town Atty Chris Willoughby

Others attending:

Marilyn Jones & Associates w Becky,
court-reporter (Zoom)
Heather Stevens, LaPorte County
Clerk, Election Board (Zoom)
Trista Hudson, Cender Dalton (Zoom)
Approx. 20 in attendance on Zoom
and in-house

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Pres. Schmitt, and the pledge was recited.

The floor was opened to Heather Stevens of the LaPorte County Election Board to clarify and discuss how the election process will work in Long Beach with the new 2022 Resolution passed by Long Beach Town Council.

Minutes from Town Council meeting of January 8, 2024, Special Council meeting of January 23, 2024, and Special Council meeting of January 26, 2024 were approved 5 – 0 with motions on each from AR and seconds on each from KB.

There was **Public Comment** from Mary O'Neil of 1532 Lake Shore Drive.

Committee Reports were read:

Swistek read the Police Department report for January 2024 (on file). Noted address identification by residents, department car replacements, service contracts from the neighboring communities of Michiana Shores and Duneland Beach, Sergeant James Schooley's retirement, and the resignation of Yagelski, and the hiring of 2 new officers. A Special meeting on February 9th was scheduled to discuss the hiring of an applicant, Matthew Vopat, from Westville Police Dept., who started today. Three other interviews took place for the hiring of a 2nd officer, Matthew Disbrow, from the LaPorte County Sheriff's Dept. Swistek recommends council vote on hiring Disbrow. SW motions to hire Matthew Disbrow; second by JS; approved 5-0. He was sworn in by Clerk-Treasurer Collins, witnessed by Disbrow's family, in attendance. He then introduced himself to council and thanked them for the opportunity to serve Long Beach.

Town Administrator report was given, giving credit to the Public Works Department's 4 guys' work with regards to the water line project on Lake Shore Drive, the plowing over the last winter storm and 30+ inches of snow

and extreme cold temps and the in-house work on the plow trucks that “saved the town a lot of money”.

Tom Yemc gave the Fire Dept. report for January, 2024 (on file). He noted FF1 and FF2 training, hazmat training, CPR recertification and the “keep off ice” signs. He mentions that quarterly meetings will be held in the future for the Fire Commission with the next one to be march 7th.

KB reported for Public Works, stating pot holes on St. Lawrence were to be patched. New quotes were being received for a new dept. truck, painting of the water tower to take place in 2027. John Wall mentioned the water line project should be complete within 30 days, and is going really well. The Stop 17 & 18 Stormwater project will begin in early March.

KB stated the Park Board met in January with its new members. Some grant funding for the ADA at Stop 15 will not be available so the board has more work to do. There is an opening for one member; information is on the website.

The Community Center report was given by AR. At the February 5th meeting they discussed their budget for certain projects, an ADA bathroom stall, and the status of the kitchen near the gym. They also review pending leases for tenants.

Budget & Finance report of February 7th meeting by C-T Collins noted that the 2023 year was closed, budgets were being distributed to department heads.

Human Resources committee will be looking to update the handbook according to JD. That committee met on January 24th at 1 PM.

Ellyn Lynch, in attendance, gave the Tree Board report from their February 7th meeting. Now that the tree ordinance is complete the committee wants to create a “fact” cheat sheet. They are also working on a resident guide using a previous Long Beach pamphlet as a template.

The Building Commission met on January 12th. JS gave a brief summary of permits reviewed at that meeting. (on file)

The Board of Zoning Appeals did not meet in February.

AR reported that the APC held no meeting in November and December of 2023 and no meeting in January 2024. October minutes of 2023 are on hold for approval until the committee meets again.

Building Permits for January 2024: 11 permits issued totaling \$567,714.00 with revenue of \$6,400.00; 3 electric permits issued totaling \$374.00 and 1 street cut permit with revenue of \$100.00

Legal expenses paid in January - \$5,375.00 to Braje Nelson & Janes.
No Accounting charges paid in January

All reports were approved 5 – 0 with a motion and second from JS and AR.

Unfinished Business:

Chief Swistek gave an update on the progress of the Public Safety Building. (on file) The building should be complete late April or early May. There will be some resident only parking in the back lot. Soil Solutions is working on a design of the septic system which Swistek stated could be near \$75K – \$100K. Swistek to keep council updated on the septic project.

The MS4 ordinance is still in progress and all council members are reviewing the draft.

JS is meeting with Jeff Oltmann of Global Engineering on the Stop 15 ADA project.

Since no new information has been received regarding the Lake Shore Sewer, LLC matter it was removed from the agenda.

JS makes a motion to repeal the ordinance regarding term limits tonight. AR seconds the motion; 4 – 1 vote. Discussion by council of the ordinance contents. JS then motions to approve the 1st reading this evening; second by AR; passes 5 – 0. (corrected per council 3/11/24)

Openings were announced for the following committees - BZA, APC, C.C. and Park Board. They are posted to the website.

KB read, in full, the ordinance draft of “No Feeding Deer” and noted this draft would be put on the website for one month for public review and input.

The subject of the “Welcome Sign” was discussed; anyone with other ideas or suggestions can contact councilmember J.D. Haley. This information is on the town website.

Trist Hudson of Cender Dalton addressed the 2004 Rainy Day ordinance, explained the statute, and mentioned that when the Budget and Finance committee meets next, possible amendments can be discussed and

reviewing of Long Beach finance numbers. She stated Rainy Day funds can be spent on anything.

New Business:

The invoice from LaPorte County for general election costs of \$6,513.15 was approved to pay with a motion by JS and second KB; passes 5-0.

A purchase agreement for \$1,200 from Civic systems for Clerk-Treasurer training was approved with a motion by JS and second by AR; passes 5-0/

With Larry Wall's (Building Commissioner) recommendation of hiring Carter Vravlis as the town's building inspector, JS motions and KB seconds the hiring of Vravlis with a 5-0 vote. Wall states this position will pay \$29.99/hr., general part-time, with no benefits; with work to begin either Friday, February 16 or Monday, February 19.

After Swistek addressed the council on his recommended vehicle lease proposal on a 2024 Dodge Durango from La Porte Chrysler JS motions to approve the lease with her authorization of Town Attorney Willoughby's advanced reviewing of the lease. Second by AR; passes 5 – 0. This vehicle will cost \$66,884.01 before a trade in of \$6,000 of the 2014 Taurus squad car. An additional \$13,102.88 will be necessary for lighting, etc. Swistek noted the town's \$3,000/yr. increased revenue coming in through the Michiana Shores and Duneland Beach police contracts.

Swistek requests and recommends council appoint Brent Soller, employee of the town and town resident to the police commission. JS makes the motion to appoint and SW seconds. It passes 5 – 0.

A radar speed limit sign Swistek asks the council to approve to be placed on Chastleton Drive was tabled until the idea is put on the town's website for public review. If implemented the costs will be covered through the LP County Prosecutor's office. This matter will be continued.

Holladay Construction Group change request #7 was approved with a motion by JS and second by KB; passes 5 – 0.

Holladay Construction Group invoice #10 for \$355,860.00 was approved for payment through US Bank with a motion by JS and second by AR; it passes 5-0.

Holladay Construction Group change order # 3 and change order #4 were both approved with a motion from JS and second by AR; passes 5-0.

Woodruff & Sons' Lake Shore Drive water service project invoice # 1 for \$125,505.65 was approved with a motion by JS and second by AR; passes 5-0.

Weaver Consultants Group proposal for field and engineering services for \$3,650.00 was approved with a motion by JS and second by KB; passes 5-0.

Haas & Associates proposal for 2022-01 CCMG OPC update/St. Lawrence Ave improvement design was approved with a motion by JS and second by KB; passes 5-0.

It was stated by Atty. Willoughby that it isn't possible at this time to combine the Storm Water Board and Public Works Board. It was determined the Storm Water Board required 3 new members and with a motion by AR and second by JS, Joy Schmitt, Kendra Bartlett, and Shannon Wojcik were appointed to the Board. It passes with a 5 – 0 vote.

Chris Gibson of The Corydon Group updated everyone on the IN Senate Bill 253 regarding the installation of public rescue life rings at the public beach accesses and the red rings in Long Beach.

Council Comments:

Anita suggested her idea of AEP training for the general public.

Claims Approval: January 2024

Town Checks #20433 – 20511 totaling \$236,898.93

Water Checks #54882 – 54912 totaling \$110,727.32

January payroll - \$94,122.10

Motion to approve claims and payroll by JS and second by AR; passes 5-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by AR; second by JS; 5 – 0 vote. Adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Deanna Carlson
Deputy Clerk