



Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2014

The regular meeting of the LaGrange Town Council met at 7:00 pm, at the LaGrange Town Hall.

Council Members Present: Gregory Kenner, Juan Arroyo, Raymond Hoover, Suellyn Mickem, Edna Bowser

Also present: Laurie Miller, Bill Eberhard

Absent: N/A

President Kenner opened the meeting at precisely 7:00 pm.

Council Member Mickem made a motion to approve minutes from the December 1, 2014 meeting and the December 8, 2014 Executive Session. Member Bowser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard Yoder of the LaGrange Food & Clothes Basket requested that the parking area in front of the south entrance (E. Michigan Street) be changed to a “loading” zone. He gave an overview of how many families are served and how cars are currently being loaded. After discussing the matter, Member Hoover made a motion to approve having the Town Attorney construct an ordinance designating the area as a loading zone. Member Mickem seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER: Jeff Moore presented a Monthly report for November 2014. The summary included:

- ❖ Received & discharged 11.924 MG of treated wastewater
- ❖ Reports submitted to IDEM
- ❖ No Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Moore then discussed a proposal from Industrial Control Systems of Sturgis to upgrade Ethernet communications at the Wastewater plant. The project is expected to cost approximately \$6498.25, which includes electrical work by Billingsley Electric. After discussing why the upgrade is needed, and explaining to the council that due to the proprietary nature of the equipment, software and project overall, it was impossible to have more than one quote, Member Hoover made a motion to proceed with the project. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water: John Leu reported that he has been discussing RF metering systems with other communities. Also a new service installation at 702 N Maple Street is installed.

POLICE: Marshal Richard Snyder gave a monthly details report for November 2014.

- ❖ 29 Agency Assists
- ❖ 538 Business Checks
- ❖ 32 Traffic Citations; 78 Warnings and 15 Criminal Arrests

Asked the council to consider paying Deputy Evans, Dubea and Bontrager for Holidays that they were not able to take due to Deputy Sprunger being off on worker’s compensation leave. Evans has 6 holidays missed; Dubea and Bontrager each have 7. Member Hoover made a motion to approve the request, Member Bowser seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marshal Snyder then asked the council to approve hiring a part time officer to cover hours until Sprunger is able to return to regular duty. Member Hoover made a motion to advertise for a part time, temporary officer. It was noted that the position will be temporary and will not include any benefits, the pay will start at \$20.00 per hour. Member Bowser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FIRE – No report

Town Manager:

- ❖ Cemetery: Working on completing a list of safety requirements for Downey Insurance.
- ❖ Macallister will be in town this week to service all generators
- ❖ Receiving applications for the Street Department vacancy
- ❖ Power repaired for Christmas lights downtown.

Reported working with North Central Co-op on a contract for fuel for 2015. The current price would be \$2.16 for regular fuel; \$2.45 for Road Diesel; \$2.38 for mid grade fuel and \$2.42 for Diesel for generators. This is down about \$1.00 per gallon from the price set for 2014. We used approximately 16,000 gallons this year. Member Hoover made a motion to sign the contracts at the projected pricing. Member Mickem seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLERK: Presented the 2015 Wage and Salary Ordinance. Member Hoover made a motion to approve and sign the ordinance. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presented a resolution to transfer \$25,000.00 from the General fund into the Rainy Day fund. Member Hoover made a motion to approve the transfer. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presented the proposed meeting dates for 2015. The schedule will remain the same as 2014 with meetings on the first and third Monday's of each month, unless a holiday falls on the scheduled Monday. In that case, the meeting will be held on Tuesday. Member Mickem made a motion to approve the schedule, Member Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY: Presented an amendment to the Employee handbook for the council to review. Will meet with Marshal Snyder to discuss how to amend the Police Standard Operating Procedures to address changes that need to be made.

Shared an email received from Clay Township Trustee Bill Connelly regarding fire contracts. The Town Manager and Clerk were instructed to analyze the expenditures of the Fire Department and report to the council so we can discuss re-negotiating our contracts to include the western 1 mile of Clay Township.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Member Mickem asked about the Snow Emergency ordinance that was passed last winter. The ordinance is in place and will be implemented if needed.

President Kenner stated that he will be resigning from the Council as of December 31, 2014 to begin his term as LaGrange County Prosecutor. Member Hoover made a motion to accept the resignation, Seconded by Member Arroyo. Motion carried. Kenner was thanked for his service to the town.

ALLOWANCE OF CLAIM: Member Mickem made a motion to approve claims, Member Bowser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURN : Member Hoover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.


Gregory Kenner, Council President

Attest: 
Laurie D. Miller, Clerk Treasurer