



Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2013

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

**Council Members Present:** Mark Eagleson, Bruce Eagleson, Greg Kenner, Juan Arroyo, Ray Hoover

**Also present:** Laurie Miller, Clerk Treasurer & Bill Eberhard, Town Attorney

Council Member R. Hoover made a motion to open the regular meeting with flexibility, Member G. Kenner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Kenner made a motion to approve minutes from the January 21, 2013 meeting. Member B. Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Gillenwater presented a request for a Tax Abatement for "Lake Area Designs", a company looking to relocate to the area. They are planning to provide 34 jobs. Rob West, representing Lake Area Designs introduced himself and reported to the Council the plans for the company. Member Kenner made a motion to move forward with the Tax Abatement process. Member Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried. There will be a public hearing to discuss the matter on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. The Council then discussed making the "All That Jazz" property an Economic Revitalization Area. Member Hoover made a motion to approve it as an Economic Revitalization Area, Member Kenner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gillenwater then gave an update on the accomplishments of the Economic Development office. He requested the Council approve another 1 year contract. Member Hoover made the motion to renew the contract, Member Kenner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**WASTEWATER:** Working on a 2012 Annual Report. Repairs to the generator were discussed.

**Water:** Working with the Utility Clerk, Jan Whetzel, on an Annual Report for the IURC. Thanked the Street Dept for their help with a slow sewer line at the Moose Lodge. Reported that he is looking forward to meeting with the Hydrant Maint committee soon.

**FIRE:** No Report

**POLICE:** Received several employment applications for a new police officer. After reviewing the applicants Marshal Snyder requested permission to hire Austin Bontrager at a wage of \$35,000.00 to start, after a 6 month probationary period and review, raised to \$35,500.00.00. Bontrager has already attended the Police Academy and has several certifications. He will be willing to re-locate to LaGrange from Shipshewana. Member Kenner made a motion to hire Austin Bontrager, Member B. Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Asked about getting the red storage building cleared of items belonging to the former clerk. Attorney Eberhard stated he would contact Tony Krauss to get the process started.

Reported that Reserve Deputy Ryan Stewart's newborn is in Ann Arbor due to medical complications, the Police Dept and Fire Dept will be working on a fund raiser to help the family.

**PUBLIC WORKS (STREET, CEMETERY, PARK):**

Park- No report

**Cemetery-** Reported that the new computer equipment is up and running. Adam Bollinger has been working on getting lots, burials, and lot owners updated into a spreadsheet. This will then be converted onto any software that will be purchased at a later date. The employees at the cemetery will be going to Huntington Indiana on February 13<sup>th</sup> to view a software package that they are interested in.

**Street:** Presented prices for new tires for the 4900 & 4700 Snow plows.

<b>Hostetler Tire</b>	<b>\$2679.24</b>
<b>McMahon Tire</b>	<b>\$2813.32</b>
<b>Noble CO Tire</b>	<b>\$3076.12</b>
<b>Montieth Tire</b>	<b>\$1794.00</b>
<b>Best One Tire</b>	<b>\$3006.42</b>

Supt Weir stated that the tires need to be purchased as soon as possible as the tires on these trucks are no longer safe. Council asked if a quote was sought from Steve's Wrecker, then discussed the importance of supporting local business. Member Hoover made a motion to purchase the tires from Steve's Wrecker or Hostetler Tire, whichever was lowest. Member B. Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reported that Spring Clean up is set for Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Prices for certain items will be given to the Clerk for advertising purposes. Member Hoover asked about having a shredder service available. Weir will look into it and report back to the council.

The Street Department is now OSHA compliant. Will be sending representatives from the dept to a tractor show on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Will also be attending a National Truck Show, and Road School.

Jason Boggs, Code Enforcement gave a year end report of details handled in town and throughout the county.

**CLERK:** Asked the Council to consider paying one fireman monthly due to an accident in the Fire Station that was not covered with worker comp insurance. This is to help him with medical bills. After discussing the matter, Member Hoover made a motion to approve the monthly pay for runs and 1/12<sup>th</sup> of Clothing and Vehicle allowances. Member Kenner seconded the motion. Member Arroyo voted yes, and Bruce Eagleson voted no on the matter. Motion carried.

Asked if the council wanted to reconsider the ordinance that applies to fundraisers (chicken bbq's) being scheduled thru the Town Hall and in three locations in Town. The issue was discussed and not acted upon. The schedule remain the same for 2013.

**ATTORNEY:** Working with DLZ on ADA compliance resolutions. A Grievance Reporting Procedures Ordinance (2013-2-4C) was presented to the council. Member Hoover made a motion to approve the ordinance. Member B. Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Asked the council to appoint Laurie Miller to be the ADA Co-ordinator. Member Hoover made a motion to do so, Member Kenner seconded the motion. Motion carried. The council will also need to appoint someone to be a liaison to Emergency Management.

Working on the Employee Handbook, Member Hoover requested the council reword the section addressing Comp Time. Also discussed whether Town Employees should receive Columbus Day as a paid holiday, and would like to see Aunts & Uncles added to the Bereavement policy.

Asked if anyone has done training on Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Supervisors, if not Hoover stated that he would be willing to provide that training.

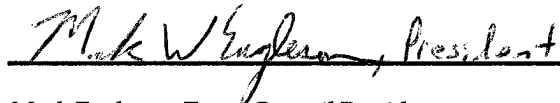
**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS**

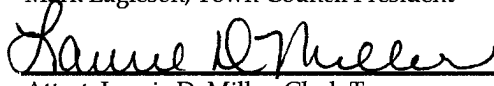
Member Arroyo made a motion, seconded by Member Hoover to allow claims. Motion carried

**ADJOURN**

Member Kenner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member B. Eagleson. Motion carried.

  
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Mark Eagleson, Town Council President

  
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Attest: Laurie D. Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

