



TOWN OF  
*LaGrange*  
INDIANA

Laurie D. Miller, Clerk/Treasurer  
Mark W. Eagleson, Town Manager  
1201 N Townline Road  
LaGrange Indiana 46761  
260-463-3241

Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the LaGrange Town Council met at 7:00 pm, at the LaGrange Town Hall.  
(Also available via Zoom)

**Council Members Present:** Raymond Hoover, Fred Romer, Carolyn Glick, and Diane Cameron

**Also present:** Laurie Miller, Bill D. Eberhard, Jr

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

Member Romer motioned to approve the agenda with flexibility, Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Romer made a motion to approve the August 17 ,2020 minutes, Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Clerk Treasurer presented the 2021 Budget as advertised on Gateway, noting the total budget at \$4,278,300.00. President Hoover asked if there were any questions from the citizens present and on Zoom. No questions were asked. Hoover then stated that the public hearing was closed, moving on to the regular Council meeting. .

Marlin Miller requested the council consider rezoning his property located on 200N (Marquis Drive) to Industrial. Council advised that they would like to see an engineered plan for roads, plots, storm water, and utilities. When they can review the plans, they will make a recommendation to County Zoning.

**WASTEWATER:**

- Passed the latest WETT testing, which means no additional testing necessary until next year (This is an annual test)
- Byler Electric will be scheduling the lift station work when the equipment is in stock
- Working with IDEM on permit modifications since Dometic is leaving.
- Town Manager Eagleson asked the council consider quotes for a new vehicle for the department, as well as the Cemetery. The Chassis are the same for both departments and quoted as such:

<b>McCormick Motors - Nappanee, IN</b>	<b>\$34,813.00</b>
<b>Jeff Wyler Chevrolet - Canal Winchester OH</b>	<b>\$40,945.00</b>
<b>Byer's Chevrolet - Grove City OH</b>	<b>\$39,620.00</b>

Equipment for the Wastewater vehicle was quoted by WA Jones (Columbia City IN) at \$36,392.00, and includes Knapheide Heavy Duty Service Body, Venturo Power Crane and all Safety lights.

Equipment for the Cemetery vehicle also quoted by WA Jones at \$21,430.00, and includes 9' Dump Body, 9'2" Boss V-Plow and all safety lights.

Eagleson noted that WA Jones is the only company that is local that will build the trucks in the area.

Regarding the truck for the Wastewater Dept, Member Romer made a motion to purchase the chassis from McCormick Motors and additional equipment from WA Jones at a total cost of \$71,205.00. Member Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regarding the truck for the Cemetery, Member Romer made a motion to purchase the chassis from McCormick Motors and the additional equipment from WA Jones at a total cost of \$56,243.00. Member Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**WATER:**

- The new main is installed and operational on Walnut Street.
- Installed a hydrant, water, sewer and electrical conduits at the new park.
- Working on various projects for contractors

**FIRE:**

- Received 5 new volunteer applications in August
- Wildland turn out gear arrived last week
- Received a \$1000.00 donation from a local insurance group.
- New ISO ratings are in. The current rating is "5" within 5 miles of the fire station, up from a "5" within 1000' of a fire hydrant. Locations more than 5 miles from a fire station have a "10" rating. The new rates go into effect on December 1, 2020.

**STREET:**

- Completed 280' of buggy rut repairs on Townline Road.
- Trimming trees that were hitting town vehicles
- Preventative maintenance on sewer lines is in progress
- The County Highway did chip and seal on South Townline Rd.
- Assisted the Water dept on various jobs.
- Sanitary Sewer line repairs on Lafayette St, will be billed to Centurylink

**PARK:**

- Making progress on the splash pad installation.
- Presented the sign proposal by Miller Sign
- Discussed a citizen that would like to see upgrades to the skateboarding park. He is willing to seek grant funds and do fundraising.

**CLERK:**

- Presented the August Bank Reconciliation reports to the council for approval. Member Romer made a motion to approve the documents, Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussed 2020 Halloween dates and hours. Member Romer made a motion to set town wide trick or treating for Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Council then discussed the Annual Breakfast with Santa event. The Clerk will look at options for social distancing and report back to the council at the next meeting.
- Member Glick made a motion to move forward with planning the Town Employee Christmas party at Romer's Restaurant, Member Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried. Member Romer abstained from the discussion and vote.

**TOWN MANAGER:**

- Received quotes for taking down and trimming trees at Greenwood Cemetery as follows:  
**Michiana Tree Service      \$6950.00**  
**Jon Klopfenstein            \$8000.00**  
**OnSite Tree Service        \$10,100.00**

Cemetery Sexton, Amber Coburn noted that Michiana Tree Services is a relatively new contractor and has not worked in cemeteries before, she would recommend Klopfenstein. He has worked around headstones in the past. The sections of the cemetery with the trees needing work has older, more unique stones that make them irreplaceable if damaged. Member Romer made the motion to award the work to Jon Klopfenstein, based on experience and the recommendation of Coburn. Member Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried. Kim Hummel thanked the council for awarding the work.

- Court granted our restitution request for the \$1000.00 in the matter of the the State vs Cassandra Centers.
- Regional Mural Project will begin this week.

**ATTORNEY:**

- Discussed the need for a wastewater rate increase. After gathering the needed figures ( # of users, amount of water billed for on average, and the monthly monetary shortfalls), from the clerk, it was recommended that the council move forward with a rate increase of about .43 per thousand gallons of water billed. With an additional, 14.9% for out of town consumers. This would re-pay a temporary loan from the Sewer's General Improvement fund in the amount of \$100,000.00 over a 5 year period and bring in the additional revenue for day to day operations. Baker Tilly has stated that they will be willing to provide rate sheets for the utility office for a cost of approximately \$500.00. A Public Hearing to present the rate increase officially was set for Monday, October 5, 2020.
- Asked Member Cameron to present the documentation she had discussed regarding a fireworks ordinance so the Attorney can move forward with the fireworks ordinance.
- Presented the updated Street Cut permit and regulations ordinance to the council, Council would like "Street Superintendent" changed to Street Dept Supervisor. Attorney Eberhard asked the members to review the ordinance and contact him with any other concerns. He will bring the ordinance to the next meeting for a vote.
- Also working on an ordinance outlining water and wastewater connections and regulations, and the ordinance amending weeds and grass.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- Member Cameron asked about security at polling places. Polling places are the responsibility of the LaGrange County Clerk and Election Board.

**ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:** Member Romer made a motion to approve claims, Member Glick seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** Member Romer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Member Glick seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.



Raymond E. Hoover

Raymond Hoover, Council Vice President



Laurie D. Miller

Attest: Laurie D. Miller, IAMC, CMC  
Clerk Treasurer