



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: May 3, 2021

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, Catie Gayheart and Diane Cameron

**Also present:** Laurie Miller

**Via Zoom:** 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 April 19, 2021 minutes, Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeff Rowe, Baker Tilly, was present via Zoom to discuss the need to increase water utility rates. Rowe gave an overview of the rate study in relation to the construction of a new water treatment plant, water tower rehabilitation, and other large cost projects. The proposed water rate increase would be approximately 28%, effective July 2, 2021, and a built in 3% increase January 2023 and another 3% effective January 1, 2024, if needed. The Town and Water Utility have \$2.4 Million to put towards the construction, a \$25,000.00 grant, and \$630,000.00 in expenses paid to date, bringing the total of the SRF loan to \$7,232,000.00. At that time, Ordinance #2021-05-03(A) was introduced to the council. Member Glick made a motion to move forward with a public hearing on June 7, 2021 to hear comment from the utility user in the Town of LaGrange on the rate increase. Member Romer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A pre-closing date of June 7, 2021 was set, as well as a closing date for the SRF Loan on June 22, 2021.

A Bond Counsel agreement on behalf of Beers, Mallers, Backs and Salin LLP was presented to the council. The agreement outlines the work that the firm will be performing on behalf of the Town of LaGrange, as well as the cost. Member Romer made a motion to accept and sign the agreement, Member Gayheart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A local Counsel agreement was presented on behalf of Eberhard, Weimer & Glick outlining the services their firm will be performing for the Town of LaGrange in regards to the Bond agreement. Member Glick made a motion to approve and sign the agreement as presented. Member Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill D Eberhard, Town Attorney then stated that Beers Mallers Backs & Salin, LLP, employed by the Town as bond counsel, had prepared a form of bond ordinance for consideration by the Council in the matter of the construction and financing of additions and improvements to the waterworks of the Town of LaGrange. The Town Attorney then stated that it would now be in order for the Board to consider said ordinance.

Member Diane Cameron made a motion to introduce the bond ordinance, entitled, "An ordinance authorizing the acquisition, construction and installation by the Town of LaGrange, Indiana, of certain improvements, extensions to the Town's waterworks, the issuance and sale of revenue bonds to provide funds for the payment of the costs thereof, and the collection, including the issuance of notes in anticipation of bonds, and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith" and moved that said ordinance be numbered and placed on first reading and that the same be read by title at this time. Said motion was seconded by Member Fred Romer. Ayes: Member Fred Romer, Member Catie Gayheart, Member Carolyn Glick, and Member Diane Cameron.

The ordinance having been numbered 2021-05-03(b), and having been read by title, Member Carolyn Glick moved that the ordinance be read a second time by title and opportunity be given for the offering of amendments. This motion was seconded by Member Fred Romer, and on call of the roll was carried by the following vote: Ayes: Member Fred Romer, Member Catie Gayheart, Member Carolyn Glick, and Member Diane Cameron.

Ordinance No. 2021-05-03(b) was then read a second time by title and no amendments were offered. Member Fred Romer moved that any applicable local rules be suspended and that unanimous consent of the members present be given for consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-05-03(b) on the day of at the meeting at which said ordinance was introduced and for third reading of Ordinance 2021-05-03(b) at this meeting without further consideration. This motion was seconded by Member Diane Cameron, and on call of the roll the vote on said motion as follows: Ayes: Member Fred Romer, Member Catie Gayheart, Member Carolyn Glick, and Member Diane Cameron.

Council President Raymond Hoover stated that the motion for the suspension of the rules and such consideration of Ordinances No 2021-06-03(b) having been carried by unanimous vote of the members present, final action on said ordinance would now be in order. He then directed that the ordinance be read by title for a third time. Said ordinance having been read a third time by title, Member Carolyn Glick then moved that the ordinance be adopted as read. This motion was seconded by Member Diane Cameron, and on call of the roll was carried by the following vote: Ayes: Member Fred Romer, Member Catie Gayheart, Member Carolyn Glick, and Member Diane Cameron.

Attorney Eberhard then presented from the State of Indiana Finance Authority, a document titled "Water Infrastructure Assistance Agreement". After review of the document, Member Romer moved to accept the agreement as provided, Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**WASTEWATER:**

- Proposed an adjustment to the newly approved Sewer Use Ordinance to apply a re-inspection fee of \$250.00, as a penalty to those that do not follow the connection requirements. Attorney Eberhard stated that he and the clerk were also working on another adjustment that was overlooked during the SUO process. These amendments will need to be advertised and a public hearing set for June 7, 2021. Member Romer motioned to approve the public hearing to discuss said amendments. Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussed an emergency issue with rotors in the Oxidation Ditch. Would like to move forward as soon as possible to replace the gearboxes. The cost is approximately \$90,000.00 per rotor, there are 4 rotors to be replaced or repaired. Member Cameron made the motion to repair/replace two (2) of the worst rotors, Member Romer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The remain rotors will be repaired/replaced at a later date.

**WATER:**

- Worked with PlayPros at the splash pad. It is ready to open up.
- Set the valve for the new water treatment plant

**FIRE:**

- Presented a report of fire incidents to the council
- The Clerk presented quotes for 2 Galaxy Tablets for the Fire department as follows:
  1. Amazon.com \$719.00
  2. Verizon \$849.00
  3. Galaxy.com \$649.99The department would also need jetpack or some sort of Wi-Fi for when the tablets, jet packs through Verizon are \$33.00 per month. Member Romer made a motion to approve purchasing the tablets thru Galaxy.com for \$649.99 each. Member Glick seconded the motion. Motion carried. The clerk will look into other options for the wi-fi feature.
- Will be hosting the IVFA meeting at the end of May, requested assistance with setting up a Zoom meeting.
- Would like to apply for a DHS grant to purchase 800 radios, but will need assistance with the application. The Clerk stated that she would be able to help with the Zoom and certain areas of the grant application.

**POLICE:**

- Report of details was provided by the Town Marshal

**STREET:**

- Assisted the water department with several jobs
- Repaired a storm sewer casting at the NW corner of Spring & Poplar Streets
- Took part in a demo on a sewer vactor truck on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Parts for the Bucket truck repairs were expected by April 30<sup>th</sup>, we are hoping the truck is back in service soon.
- Member Cameron inquired about painting the no parking, yellow strips on curbing. It was noted that the department tries to paint certain sections of town every other year.

**PARK:**

- Announced that Cole Miller, Timeless Ventures LLC has committed to donate for the summer activities at the park.
- The grand opening of the Splash Pad will be May 22, 2021. Plans include a magician, 5 food trucks, and a local band. (Second Wind).
- Fencing should be installed this week, as well as the finishing touches on landscaping and the parking lot. Miller's Sign will be correcting spelling errors on the sign and the finishing coat of paint on the sign frame.

- Discussed the skate park, would like to put a "Skate at your own Risk" sign up. The park is being used Member Glick stated that she doesn't want to see the park closed yet. We will look at what it would take to repair the skate equipment and begin to make a plan. The current rules that are posted already state that you are "skating at your own risk".
- Also noted that there is a picnic table in need of repair at one of the older pavilions.

**CLERK:**

- Presented an application for a sewer adjustment from Carolyn Schermerhorn for a leak in her basement at 106 Gum Street. The basement has a dirt floor, the water soaked away. The amount of the adjustment is \$435.81. Member Glick moved to approve the requested adjustment, Member Romer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The Clerk then presented Resolution #2021-05-03 (c) - Establishing a Fund within the Town of LaGrange Wastewater Funds, to track the expenses and revenues of the Septic Haulers disposing waste at the town wastewater facility. Member Glick moved to approve the Resolution, Member Romer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The Clerk then requested a Public Hearing for May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm, during the regular council meeting to do additional appropriations for the Park Donation Fund and the Community Crossing Grant Fund. Member Glick motioned to set the Public Hearing for the date stated. Member Gayheart seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Ordinance 2021-05-03 (D) was then introduced to amend the LaGrange Town Code by adding The ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Member Glick motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-05-03(D) on first reading, waiving all further reading requirements. Member Romer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Requested the council set a work session to begin planning the 2022 Budget. A work session was set for June 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.
- Discussed setting fees for pavilion rentals.
- Announced that Deputy Clerk Tiffany Hostetler has received the IAMC Certification from the Indiana League of Clerks & Treasurers.

**TOWN MANAGER:**

- Eagleson presented, on behalf of Becky & Garry Miller, LLC (Super Valu) Compliance with Statement of Benefits (Tax Abatement documents) and stated that they are in substantial compliance with requirements. IT was recommended that the council authorize President Hoover to sign the document. Member Glick moved to approve Hoover's signature on the document, Member Gayheart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ATTORNEY:**

- Working on several items with the Town Manager, Clerk and other departments.

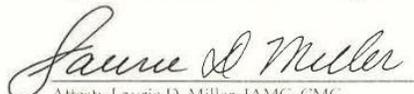
**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- Discussed closing a portion of Mountain Street during the Splash Pad grand opening event.
- Discussed the validity of appraisers going door to door on Hawpatch Street.

**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 Hoover, Council Vice President

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