



TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE, INDIANA
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 20, 2022

The Regular Council meeting of the Town Council of Clear Lake, Indiana was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:00PM. Present were Town Council President Darin Thorp, Council Members Brent Schlosser, Dan Rippe, and George Schenkel. Absent was Council Member Molly Weber. Clerk/Treasurer - Jessica Swander, Street & Sewer Superintendent- Guy Rodgers, and Zoning Administrator - Larry Lillmars, and Marshal – Chris Emerick was also in attendance. There were twenty-seven residents who signed the guest register and five attended via Zoom.

Council President Darin Thorp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. starting with the sighting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Zoom instructions were given by Larry Lillmars.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

1. Approval of minutes from the Regular Town Council meeting held August 16, 2022, at 7:00PM. Darin Thorp presented the minutes to the Council. Darin then asked for any additions or corrections. No Corrections were given.

George Schenkel made a motion to pass the Regular Town Council minutes as presented. Seconded by Brent Schlosser. Motion passed.

2. Approval of Voucher Register with Warrants – Jessica Swander presented the Voucher Register with Warrant details.

Disbursements on the Voucher Register are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Funds: | \$100,770.27 |
| Sewer Funds: | <u>\$39,716.98</u> |
| Total Disbursements: | \$140,487.25 |

Brent Schlosser made a motion to accept the Voucher Register with Warrants. Seconded by Dan Rippe. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

1. Financial Report – Jessica Swander presented the financial report showing financials through August 31, 2022. Report is on file.

2. Marshal's Report- Chris Emerick discussed Marshal activity around the lake. Report is on file.

Chris Emerick discussed an estimate for ten Golf Cart signs and posts for \$1454.12 approved at the August Council meeting had gone up to \$1740.92 due to shipping and if the Town would like to purchase those, he would like an approval to get them purchased.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to purchase the signage for \$2,100.00. Seconded by Dan Rippe. Motion passed.

Chris Emerick discussed the new Dodge Durango that was approved for purchase on March 15th, 2022, will be delivered the next day for the cost of \$36,726.00 from La Port, IN.

Chris Emerick gave estimates for equipment from Cops Gear for \$15,943.77 and Tri State \$17,735.28. Tri State's quote did not include the body cameras.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to approve Cops Gear equipment for \$17,735.28. Seconded by Dan Rippe. Motion passed.

Chris Emerick gave an estimate of \$1,000.00 for graphics for the new vehicle and different options.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to approve the graphics for the new vehicle for up to \$1,000.00. Seconded by Dan Rippe. Motion passed.

Chris Emerick discussed whether to park the boat in the barn at the cost of \$227.00 or park it at the marina for a cost of \$1,119.00. Council discussed the cost difference and the access needed to the boat if there was an emergency. Brent Schlosser and George Schenkel recommended storing the boat at the Town Hall.

3. Fire Department Report- Brent Schlosser read the Fire Department Report. Report is on file.
4. Zoning Administrator- Larry Lillmars discussed activity around the lake. Report is on file.
5. Superintendent- Guy Rodgers discussed activity around the lake. Report is on file.

COUNCIL REPORT:

Brent Schlosser introduced Isaac Lee from the Steuben County Economic Development Corporation who discussed their involvement in the community and what the Town's annual agreement and involvement and why it matters.

Dan Rippe presented and went over Town Metrics with each department.

Dan Rippe presented the five-year road plan, how it is put together, and what is required for the grant applications with council member through slides. Dan went over all segments of the roads that are within the Town, the PASER ratings, and deterioration and draining issue photos of two sections of West Clear Lake Drive and Quite Harbor. Council Member George Schenkel discussed an issue receiving information on the five-year road plan that was dated from 2018 five days prior to the meeting. Council discussed open communication outside of Council Meetings and the open-door laws that prevent discussion and open communication with each Council Member prior to a meeting.

Unfinished Business:

1. ARP purchase was discussed by Dan Rippe. Dan Presented a GIS system quote by GIS Landmark, LLC, and the departments use of the GIS system. Council President Darin Thorp talked about the importance and need for the GIS system for all utilities, roads, and the Zoning Department. Council discussed the options for the GIS system and the timeline.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to open to the public for comments. Seconded by George Schenkel. Motion passed.

Resident Terry Brown asked if the information on the GIS system would be available on the website.

Darin Thorp stated it would be more of a PDF version if it becomes available on the website.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to close to the public for comments. Seconded by George Schenkel. Motion passed.

Dan Rippe made a motion for the purchase and development of the Land for \$36,000.00 of ARP Funds. Seconded by Brent Schlosser. Motion passed.

Dan Rippe stated that the second project was still being worked on but expect them to be presented at the next meeting. These were projects for the Town Hall updating to reduce utilities, updating electrical for the generator to include more features for the Town hall to prevent closures.

2. Third Quarter Objectives were updated, and summaries were given from each objective leader.

New Business:

1. Public Hearing Budget and Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates was introduced by Brent Schlosser, Dan Rippe, and Jessica Swander.

George Schenkel discussed the increase from the year after year and his desire to reduce the spending. George went over line items he desired to reduce or remove. George asked for street repairs from the MVH funds be stricken from the budget. Dan Rippe stated that this would impair the Town's ability to repair match the Community Crossing Grants that were approved to be submitted at the August Council meeting. Brent Schlosser stated that the budget is an outline. Larger ticket items would still need to be approved in a council meeting. Council Discussed other options to cut from the budget that were not designated values.

George Schenkel requested to remove \$55,000.00 from the Rainy Day and \$25,000.00 from the CCD. Removing \$80,000.00 from the total budget.

Darin Thorp discussed the road projects and the bigger ticket items in the budget and applauded Dan Rippe and Brent Schlosser on their budget assumption on what Council should be looking at coming into next year and what could happen, and what the Town would need in the budget. Darin stated the roads do not get better if we are not fixing them. Darin stated we had two years with Covid and caused delays in road projects getting completed.

Dan Rippe made a motion to read Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates 2022-10 with the changes stated. Seconded by Brent Schlosser. Motion passed.

Brent Schlosser read Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates 2022-10 out loud.

Dan Rippe made a motion to open for public comment. Seconded by Brent Schlosser.

Resident Kay Kummer stated that she had budget meetings with all of council together when she was Clerk Treasurer, and it would be ok if she called them budget workshops. She stated it wasn't public it was a workshop with all of Council to go line by line and work out the numbers.

Jessica Swander asked her to clarify if it was in a public meeting.

Resident Kay Kummer stated that it was not a public meeting it was a budget workshop and all she had to do was announce that she was having a budget workshop. Council would

work out the numbers line by line in their workshop. She was not sure if they would have more then one or not.

Darin Thorp stated to Kay that he was only given papers regarding the budget for those years and there was no budget workshop for him.

Jessica Swander stated that she did not believe that followed the guidelines of the open-door law.

Resident Terry Brown thanked council and stated there was a lot of work that goes into the budget and that he appreciated the performance metrics. He suggested appropriations to revenue metrics so the public can see transparency.

Resident Don Schenkel thanked everyone for their time and that the Town can't keep growing expenses.

Resident Pat Helton stated she would like to see Council have more discussion prior to Council meetings.

Resident Chris Schweikert talked about the Rainy Day fund and encourage the Council to use every opportunity to fund the Rainy Day and thanked Council for their efforts and asked for more transparency.

Resident Bill Hanna stated he was glad the discussion occurred. He stated the Town should get rid of the old police vehicle.

Resident Kathy Schenkel asked if the Town receives a grant if it could be moved to something else.

Darin Thorp stated the Community Crossing Grant is project specific.

Resident Kay Kummer discussed all the different funds that are used on roads.

Resident Bob Hill thanked Jessica Swander for spending over two hours with him going over the budgeting process. Bob Hill asked Council if they had the specifications of the road projects. He also stated various areas that he has seen flood and those he has not.

Resident Tiffany Woodward stated that the road does flood and has been in water up to her knees at 22 West Clear Lake Drive.

Darin Thorp stated that water coming to the Lake and Roads need to be taken care of as they are a hazard. Darin stated that this has been an inconsistent process.

Resident Bob Hill stated that it is resident responsibility to fix drainage issues not the Town.

George Schenkel asked Bob Hill if he and his neighbors put in catch basins to get the water off the road.

Resident Bob Hill stated that he did, and his neighbor just put one in this year and. It's the resident's responsibility and not the Towns.

Brent Schlosser stated that roads being flooded is a problem and it could be a combination of mother nature and a resident garage it's a hazard and the Town should get involved. George Schenkel stated that the only road he has heard Guy Rodgers complain about was 176 and that he was sorry he has not encountered water at 22 West Clear Lake Drive. Guy Rodgers stated that he has seen 22 West Clear Lake Drive flood.

Dan Rippe stated that the Conservancy has a project right now so that it doesn't flood the County Road and the Town should be looking at each situation and collaborate on a solution that is best for everyone. Dan stated that the estimates were done by DLZ and when they come to Council for approval all the details will be provided by DLZ.

Brent Schlosser made a motion to close for public comment. Seconded by George Schenkel. Motion passed.

Dan Rippe made a motion to suspend the Rules and read Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates 2022-10 by title only. Seconded by George Schenkel. Motion passed.

Dan Rippe read Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates 2022-10.

Dan Rippe made a motion to pass Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates 2022-10 with the corrections as read to the Adoption Hearing October 18th, 2022.

TRAINING AND REVIEW:

1. None.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Residents thanked Council again for everything they do.

There being no further business or discussions, Council President Darin Thorp adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.



Darin Thorp, Council President



Attest: Jessica Swander, Clerk/Treasurer