

## Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 8, 2021

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, March 8, 2021 in a Regular Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne St, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, Ethan Stivers, Steve Buzzard, Carrie Miller, Tavis Surfus; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison. Financial Consultant Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solutions Group; Ben Adams of Commonwealth Engineering; Brian Sills, Dennis Spitler and Others.

President Stivers opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8 were approved as submitted by consensus.

Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solutions Group further reviewed the proposed water rate increase as presented at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ordinance 2021-4, water rates, was introduced. A Public Hearing on the Ordinance was set for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Also introduced was Ordinance 2021-3, A Bond Ordinance necessary for the 2021 Water Upgrade Project loan from the Indiana State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). Also introduced was a Water Infrastructure Program Agreement with SRF. Both documents will be considered for approval at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Town Council.

Consensus was given to Guerrettaz to continue the Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study. His first phase recommendation was reduction of the Annual Tracker Factor to 0.0500 from 0.07692 noting that the move was due to a change in service provider contract from I&M to Wolverine in 2020. As the Town has seen a savings in cost of purchase of power, the tracker can safely be reduced which would see a customer using approximately 200 kw seeing just over \$5.00 in savings. A Resolution will be submitted for consideration at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting to approve the action. Guerrettaz further summarized the Cost of Service study which will result in the overall update of Electric Service.

Stivers moved to amend Ordinance 2021-1, Accounts Designated as Unpayable, by adjusting the write off amount to \$100 due to fact that Town of Warren bills include Electric fees as well as water and sewer.

The action can be taken after collection attempts. The motion was seconded by Buzzard and approved unanimously. Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, to adopt Ordinance 2021-1 and the motion was approved unanimously. Ordinance 2021-2, Amendment of Town Code as to disconnects, was tabled until the Water Rate Ordinance is approved as certain passages must agree between the two ordinances.

Region 3-A, hired to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Town, has moved forward with the project and will be scheduling a series of meetings with the Steering Committee in the next few weeks. The plan development should take six to eight months.

Ben Adams, Commonwealth Engineering, reported that a final quote had not been readied but estimate was that it would cost \$5000 for the development of a required ADA Plan. No action.

Ordinance 2021-5, Re-establishment of CCD Rate, was submitted in introduction. The Public Hearing is set for March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Ordinance 2021-6, Approving use of ACH and EFT in Financial Management of the Town, was introduced.

Discussed was continuation of the program of hiring students for Seasonal Employment through the summer. Stivers moved, seconded by Buzzard, to continue the program and motion approved unanimously.

A complaint had been received by Council Members in regard to a local business needing to remove and/or clean up several areas within the Town. No Council discussion on the specific matter as it had been addressed previously with owner by a Council Member.

Morrison formally submitted the 2020 Annual Report as submitted to the State. All Council Members signed that they had reviewed, document sent previously, and had no questions. Approved by consensus was the Accounts Payable Register in the amount of \$198,446.02. Payroll report was submitted for Council Review.

Marshal Spitler submitted Monthly Activity Report.

Sills submitted a quote from Casey's Tree service in the amount of \$10,000. Also submitted was a quote from T&B Powerline for pole replacement/copper line replacement in the amount of \$15,072.48. After discussion of policy and procedure, Miller moved, seconded by Surfus, to accept both quotes. Motion was approved unanimously. Submitted monthly utility report.

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The next Regular Meeting of Council will be March 22nd at 6:00 PM.

General discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk-Treasurer  
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Ethan Stivers

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Steve Buzzard

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Carrie Miller

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Tavis Surfus