

Battle Ground Town Council

Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2022

Attending in person: Council President James Miller, Councilors Steve Hahn, Greg Jones and Mary Jo Totten. Also attending: Clerk Treasurer Georgia Jones.

Attending virtually: Guests Joe Kline and Bill Jones

Absent: Matt Coppock

James Miller called to order at 6:04 p.m. with verbal roll call, and opened the public hearing on the proposed Ordinance 2022-609 Waste Water Rates and Charges per Indiana code IC 36-9-23-26 which was introduced at the April 11 meeting. The hearing to receive public comment was advertised as required.

Clerk Georgia Jones advised the council that the previous rate ordinance was implemented in 2012 in response to a major reconstruction of the sewer plant. No adjustments to the rate were made in the past 10 years. Current projects to correct deficiencies in the collection system require financing of at least \$2,550,000. A rate consultant retained in 2021, London Witte Group, provided the rate level necessary to support the projected loan for Hawks Nest, Tomahawk Land and the Main Lift Station, and fund a second half-time position for the Waste Treatment Plant.

The council met in April to review alternatives for rate structure changes, and determined that the initial recommendation of a phased increase would not be sufficient to meet financing needs in the short term. The full increase would be requested in 2022. The ordinance also includes a cost-of-living increase of 4% for 2023 and 2024 to stay current with rising costs of insurance, materials, and payroll. This is lower than the advertised public notice, which published a 7% increase. This does not present a procedural issue as the rate has been lowered from the published notice.

The new rate per 1,000 gallons would be \$17.83, the minimum residential bill at 2000 gallons will be \$35.66 and the unmetered service will be \$58.84. The bill for unmetered sewer service is still based on 3300 gallons. The full ordinance was available for inspection at town hall prior to the meeting.

When there were no additional questions, Mary Jo Totten moved to close the public hearing. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried with unanimous roll call vote, 4 Aye and one absent.

After discussion, Mary Jo Totten moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-609. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried with unanimous roll call vote, 4 Aye and one absent.

A motion to suspend the rules and consider the ordinance on second reading was offered by Mary Jo Totten, with second of Steve Hahn. This motion carried with unanimous roll call vote, 4 Aye and one absent. The council again discussed the increase, with the expectation that three current projects for Shawnee Ridge, Tomahawk Lane and the historic town's main lift station would correct major deficiencies in antiquated and undersized mains and lift stations, and provide lasting benefits for customers.

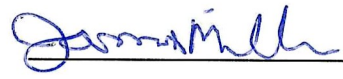
Mary Jo Totten moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-609 on second reading, with second of Greg Jones. Motion carried with unanimous roll call vote, 4 Aye and one absent. The new rate will take effect May 15, for the bills calculated after June 15 reading. A news brief will be sent with June utility bills.

Council discussed the CCMG 2022-1 grant award from INDOT, and determined that the bid advertisement would be done without the assistance of Butler, Fairman and Seufert and there would be no contract for inspections. The project description contains enough information for the bid process.

Motion to adjourn 6:46 p.m. by Mary Jo Totten, with second of Steve Hahn.



Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer



James Miller, Council President

Memorandum of Open-Door Law Compliance

Date: May 2, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present in person: Council President James Miller, Councilors Steve Hahn, Greg Jones, and Mary Jo Totten.

Also Present: Georgia Jones (Financial Clerk)

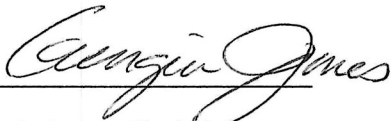
Members Present Virtually:

Guest Present virtually: Bill Jones and Joe Kline

Absent: Matt Coppock

Electronic Means of Communication Used For Members and Public: ZOOM.us

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer