

## Town Of LaFontaine

13 W Branson St.

LaFontaine IN 46940

### Town Council Meeting Minutes

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Those present were: John Krhin, Nikki Brubaker, Lori Brane, Pam Whitener, Teresa Snyder, Tracie Hensley, Jeff Smith, Mat Galligan, Chris Harrison, Wendy Black, Maria Smyth, Marlin Pattee, Janet Pattee, Ethel Eib, Ian Stone, Melissa Ford, Alex Downard, Randy Pattee, Idris Krhin, Tara Combs and Tom Simpson.

John Krhin called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lori motioned to approve the June meeting minutes, Nikki seconded. The vote was 3-0 to approve. John made a motion to approve the Special Meeting of the Park Board on July 2, 2025. Nikki seconded, the vote was 2-0 to approve- Lori was unable to attend that meeting.

Chris gave an update on the retention basin overview. After exploring multiple options, they could not find a place, they are now evaluating the sewer plant property which is downstream compared to upstream. The old interurban bridge creates a bottleneck due to the size. Most bridges are 42-49 ft while the old interurban bridge is 31 ft. If this new plan would work, the town may be able to retire the old lagoon systems which would be a good win for the community long term.

Chris gave an update on the water meters. Chris, Jeff, and Matt of Midwest Meters walked the town and looked at the meters and covers, took photos, and documented the problem areas, (there were many). Chris has let Rob Bullici know and they are going to follow up.

Chris stated that they are still waiting on Rural Development to finalize funding. Due to lack of staffing and back log, they do not know when they will get the town the funds.

On the Park project, the 5-year park plan was accepted. Chris submitted to the DNR. He received feedback from DNR - they have some issues with what type of work will be done in Grant Creek. Chris spoke with the dam and levee person at Commonwealth. Chris will be submitting his rebuttal this evening and will copy Wendy, the park board President, on that email.

Mat presented the Marshal's Report. For the month of June there were 24 calls for service. 18 traffic stops and 3 contacts for ordinance issues. There were a couple of arrests of people that had warrants. The town has now paid for the new CAD system; the

deputies will need training on the system. The state contacted Mat concerning the Flock cameras; they are within 30 days from permits being granted.

Tom presented the Fire Report. There were 5 fire calls, of which 2 were vehicle accidents, and 13 EMS calls. He updated that the Fire Barn has been painted.

Jeff presented the Utility report. Half of the meters that were replaced had to be dug up because the risers were too small. There was disappointment with the company who installed the meters. The company is supposed to be back at the end of the month to fix things. The department is also in the middle of flushing the watermain. Jeff explained that the town uses roughly 40,000 gallons of water per day but, in the last 2 weeks there has been 120,000 gallons of bulk water being trucked out per day.

#### Park Board Report:

Wendy presented updates from the Park Board. There is an opening for a Board Member. She asked for clarification as to how a new person will be appointed. John said that they will confirm with Jordan. She asked that another line be added to the budget for the park fundraising so that funds could be separated. She presented some fundraising ideas that would help generate funds and then have a big kick off in the Spring of 2026. She asked about posting park information on the window of Town Hall. The board said yes that was fine. She asked for approval for an event called Chalk the Walk where kids would decorate the sidewalks during the August 9<sup>th</sup> LaFontaine Community Alliance Block Party. The Council agreed to it.

#### Pam presented the Clerks Report:

- Documentation was submitted to the Alliance of Indiana in the amount of \$15,509.74 for reimbursement of Jeff's wages for April, May, and June.
- Pam received a report from the Alliance that Jeff was doing great in all his classes.
- All banks have been balanced and reconciled.
- The town received lien money, mostly from Fountainvue in the amount of \$3157.84.
- The town received \$101,136.61 from the Auditor for the fall tax payment. A portion was withheld from that for the audit that the State Board of Accounts completed. \$21,463.36 was paid to SBOA for our audit. Another payment will come out of the December taxes.
- Pam has a budget meeting with DLGF on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm, it should last about 45 minutes if any of the Town Council would like to sit in.
- Pam reported that all required documentation has been submitted to the State Board of Accounts for the 6 month follow up to the audit. Community Crossing Grant money should be received within 2 weeks.



- The board set up a budget meeting for July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm
- Bills for Approval were \$57,339.26. John motioned to approve paying the bill, Nikki seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Lori motioned approving and adjustment for Acct# 2239000 which was estimated incorrectly in the amount of \$78.37. Nikki seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Nikki motioned to approve a leak adjustment credit for Acct# 2315000 for \$158.34. Lori seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Acct# 1047001 – \$102.16 for pool fill credit. Lori motioned to approve, John seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Acct#2301001 - \$54.03 for pool fill credit. Nikki motioned to approve, Lori seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Acct# 1112001 - \$65.94 for pool fill credit. Lori motioned to approve, Nikki seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.
- Account# 22570001 49.95 – for inaccurate estimate John made a motion and Lori seconded it , the vote was 3-0 to approve

#### New Business:

- Lori motioned approving amended Salary Ordinance No. 7, 2025, for Jeff's merit raise, Nikki seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0 to approve. John made a motion to suspend the rules, Lori seconded it, the vote was 3-0 to suspend the rules. Lori made the motion to approve the Salary Ordinance No 7 2025, Nikki seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve. John then made a motion to unsuspend the rules, Lori seconded and the vote was 3-0.
- Jeff asked the board to consider having an ordinance in place for companies tapping into our lines to have to pay a deposit or purchase some type of permit. Jeff will be checking in with other towns to see how they handle this situation and the council will be checking with the town attorney to see what they can come up with.
- Lori asked Jeff to see if there is room for diagonal parking at the library.
- A resident currently has a 1 inch line and has been charged for a 5/8 inch line in the past. The only way to put in a 5/8 meter in is by purchasing hardware that reduces the line from 1 inch to 5/8s. The town will install an adapter.
- A representative from Fountainvue had asked about using the fire hydrants again. It was discussed that they can, but they will have to maintain them and the hydrants are the owner's responsibility. Anything that goes through the water meter will be billed to Fountainvue.

A resident came before the council to get reimbursed for a tampering fee. John explained that the tampering charge was not dismissed because the owner was proven

not guilty. It was dismissed because the fees were paid. The town will not be reimbursing the tampering fee.

Alex Downard and Melissa Ford presented the council with an opportunity for the Park Board to work with the Community Foundation of Wabash County to create a non-permanent fund. This allows donors to make contributions to the LaFontaine park. The benefits that come with the non-permanent fund is that CFWC helps promote the project, it is in their newsletter, on the website, etc. Because the Park Project is a Stellar Project, the town will have to pledge a certain dollar amount and the Stellar DNR Grant will match dollar for dollar. Donors can donate and the Community Foundation will handle all the administration. Melissa explained how setting up the non-permanent fund works. We would create a fund; it helps donors have a charitable tax donation.

- We would name the account. The purpose would be to fund the Park. In the agreement there is a spot for a request for distributions. The Town Council will need to decide who can request money from the fund. Community Foundation usually pays the vendor directly. Community Foundation helps promote the project. They put the project in their newsletter, facebook, website and they help create QR codes that direct people to the Park Project. It will include park renderings, information about the Park Project, etc.
- There is a fee of 2% per gift. It is a onetime fee at the time of the donation. It covers administrative costs. Wabash Community Foundation also sends out the tax donation letters.
- Pam asked about the type of reports that Wabash Community Foundation provides. None of the money will be put into the Town funds. Alex explained that to satisfy the match requirement the DNR is going to say at the time of the application, what is your proof that you have your match in hand, the town would be able to show the fund statement and the town park fund. The town would hold the contract with vendors but the 2 people chosen would initial the invoice to allow the Wabash Community Foundation to make the payment. We send the invoice and Wabash Community Foundation cuts the check. The town will have a portal to look at the account at any time. This is the only way to allow for credit card donations and online.
- Alex will be emailing everything to Jordan for him to look over and the town council will vote on it at the special budget meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and then the CFWC will take it to their board for approval on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Maria asked for permission to close roads on August 9<sup>th</sup> for the block party from 3pm-9pm. John motioned to approve the road closure, Lori seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve. Tom Simpson also asked for a road closure for the October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween party 5:00pm to 9:00pm at the fire barn. John motioned to approve the road closure, Lori seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve. Lori made a motion to close Main St from

Kendall to the alley on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm to 8:00pm for an event at the library.  
John seconded, the vote was 3-0 to approve.

A resident asked Jeff to look at some pot holes on Rennaker and an area on East Kendall St. Jeff said he would do that.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracie Hensley