

Lynn Town Council

October 2, 2024

Minutes

Arthur called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

The pledge to the flag and Lord's pray followed.

Next on the agenda was the Public Hearing for Sewage rates presented by Steve Brock. He stated that the rates were prepared in July for utilities. They need to be looked at periodically. The town has a budget every year, but the utilities only get looked at when rate studies are done. The last one was 2016 for the utilities budget. IC 36 states expenses and cost are fair and reasonable. The fund is for maintenance, repair, and debts. His current suggestion was to raise the rate 36%. He said he was here to answer questions. There was a public notice, and it had its first reading in August. Rob said when Steve was here previously, he explained the rate increase. Steve said in 2023 lost \$50k in spending more than brought in. Inflation was the main cause of this. The 2022 year we lost \$3k. Mark Moody how much of the rate can we cut. Steve went through the process of figuring out where the rates needed to be. He stated the rate increase would break even and a little extra for longevity until the next study. Steve said this was on a 3-year plan that way he doesn't have to do a study every year. He said costs are looked at every month by the board and the superintendent to determine if costs can be cut. Right now, there is nowhere to cut. Mark asked how many people don't pay their bills. Steve said when bills aren't paid that the town files liens on the property that get paid at tax time. He stated the town does a good job of collecting. Mark stated we keep doing these studies and raising rates and some need help. Steve said there are ways to cut costs personally. Arthur said we don't want to see the increase, but we need it. Robert asked about private companies buying utilities. Steve said that private companies would love to buy our utilities, but it ends up costing the consumers more in the end. Steve said it looks good on paper but not in reality. He stated it was not a good option for the town and once it is sold it can't be bought back.

Robert Made the Motion to close the public hearing. Barbara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan read ordinance 2024-3.

Robert made a motion to adopt ordinance 2024-3 as amended. Barbara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Robert made the motion to suspend the rules and read ordinance 2024-3 by title only for the second reading. Barbara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Robert made the motion to adopt ordinance 2024-3 as amended. Barabara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Brabara made the motion to accept the September 4, 2024, meetings as presented. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Arthur called for council information. There was none

Arthur called for attorney information. Suzan said Brad is working on a folder of ordinances for Union City court for next months meeting. Suzan stated she has reached out to Paige Sansone and they would be willing to come and discuss fire territory without cost. Jonathan stated that Shannon Retter would like to wait until after the first of the year to revisit this. Suzan stated if that was the case this would not be able to happen until 2026 as March is the cut off.

Suzan then stated she had the ordinance and the permit for the Bees. There is a statute stating we can't prohibit bees so this ordinance would be an appealing ordinance 2006-1. With the permit the Marshal would visit the property to make sure they meet all guidelines.

Barabra made the motion to adopt ordinance 2024-4. Robert Second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan read ordinance 2024-4.

Robert made the motion to suspend the rules and read ordinance 2024-4 by title only for the second reading. Barabra second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan read ordinance 2024-4 by title only

Barbara made the motion to adopt ordinance 2024-4. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Robert made the motion to suspend the rules and read ordinance 2024-4 by title only. Barabara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan read ordinance 2024-4 by title only.

They decided to table the chicken ordinance until next month.

Arthur called for the clerks' information.

Michael stated we will have a special meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm and hopefully do claims as well. Michael stated we had a crash in our system, and it limited what we were able to do. We are supposed to have it back up on Friday and will hopefully have claims at the next meeting. Michael stated that Halloween October 26<sup>th</sup>. Michael stated the tower foundation has been poured and they plan on starting around Halloween and being done with in a month for the construction party. They are guessing it will be in the spring before it is painted. Michael stated that we were alerted that the website and the online pay has fallen into a new category, and it will now be free. Michael stated we are having an audit. The board should have received an email and need to complete it as soon as possible. The audit has brought a couple of things to our attention, and we would like Suzan to look at a new ordinance for capital assets. Right now, it is anything over \$1,000, other towns are at \$5,000 and we would like to raise ours. Michael also stated he would like Suzan to look into an ordinance where rate studies are done every 3 years. So, we don't run into a huge jump in rates like we are going through now.

Arthur called for employee information. Brad stated the two radar signs have been installed. One on W Church and one on S Main St. There was a lot of red tape that had to be gone through for the one on Main St. and they will be here within the next 7 days for inspection.

Brad stated the alleys have been paved and the claim has been given to the clerk's office. They did a really good job and will probably be used more in the future.

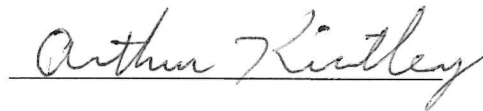
Brad then stated that the Court date for Mark Marquis has been set for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Arthur called for old business. There was none

Arthur called for new business. There was none.

Arthur called for citizens' comments. There was none.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Second the meeting. The motion was carried all in favor.



Arthur Kirtley, President



Barbara Johnson, Council Member



Robert Hutchins, Council Member



Michael L Straley III, Clerk Treasurer