

January 18, 2022

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Mrs. Jennifer Heath, Council led council in the pledge of allegiance. Council Member, Kyle Kubik not in attendance.

**Special Guest:** Mathew Drangmeister, LaPorte County Detective and FOP Lodge 54 President in to discuss the councils support on the LIT (Local Income Tax) possible increase to support first responders. He indicated currently LaPorte County current rate is very low in comparison to the rest of the state. If Laporte County were to pass an increase, this would mean it would be 1.45% this could mean an approximate amount of \$91,686.00 to be spent and appropriated by resolution for first responders of the Town of Trail Creek. This could mean, salaries or equipment as well as the contract the town has of \$74,000.00 with Coolspring Fire Department. The purpose for this is to retain first responders. After a lengthy discussion. Council President, Jennifer Heath will write a letter of support and attend the LaPorte County Council Meeting as this will be on the agenda. Marshal Dick indicated he would also attend.

**Minutes** A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the meeting minutes from December 2021 as written, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox. Roll call was done, Jennifer Heath, yes. Sharon Gralik, yes, and then was unanimously carried.

**Approval of Fund Report:** Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave council the Fund Report for December 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the fund report, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik, roll call Jennifer Heath; Scott Silcox, yes and the motion was unanimously carried

**Approval of Claims:** Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave council the accounts payable register for December 2021. A motion was made by to approve the claims by Mr. Silcox, the motion was seconded Mr. Pizarek, roll call; Jennifer Heath; yes, Sharon Gralik; yes, and then unanimously carried.

**Correspondence:** Ms. Denham read aloud correspondence received from Val Kniola at 204 Oriole requesting that her road be fixed this year. Marshal Dick also suggested that the Oriole Trail is bad from there to Meadowlark.

**MS4:** Kate in attendance to report:

- Met with the SWCD and proposed some changes since the retirement of Mr. Rick Brown and his assistant Ariana Woodson. The proposed changes will be sent to Ms. Joshleen Denham for review of the council. One big change would be that we will need to find a code enforcement. Engineer, Tim Haas indicated it would be best for the county to provide a code enforcer for Ms4 concerns from an hourly billing standpoint as it would likely cost the Town less than it would if the Town hired an engineer to provide the code enforcer. More information will be coming.

- Option to run our own MS4? Mrs. Heath and council agree that this would be very costly. Therefore, council agreed that the town would like to still be involved in the county program.

Council President, Jennifer Heath thanked Ms. Doyle for her dedication to the program and the town.

**Attorney:** Attorney Christopher Willoughby in attendance with nothing to report. However, he did thank the council for allowing him to be the attorney for a town that is near and dear to his heart. Appreciates the opportunity.

**Engineer:** Engineer Tim Haas in to report:

- Coordination with Ms. Denham and John Doyle's office on the CCMG (Grant for Streets), indicates it would be best for John Doyle's office to continue for at least the first call on the grant.

**Park:** No Report

**Planning and Zoning:** No Report

**Building Report:** No Report

**Police Department:** Marshal Dick reports:

- LECE: Continuing education will be done again this year at Michigan City Police Department
- Received an email from Captain Andy Hynek with LaPorte County regarding the fantastic work of Deputy Christopher Southwell on an assist call. Marshal Dick read aloud to council an email he received from Captain Hynek thanking the Trail Creek Police Department and Deputy Christopher Southwell.

**Street Department:** Street Commissioner reports:

- After taking the position in January 2022, he has been doing some reorganization of the street building.
- We are down an employee; we are currently looking for a part time employee to fill the spot. Will speak with Ms. Denham on getting an ad out for hire.
- Leaf Machine, fixing the entry shoot and should be back in the next couple of weeks. All but one part (hydraulics for the jack itself) are covered under the warranty.
- Maintenance reports on generator, he will be added to the email from the generator so that he can see when the generator is running.
- Council Member, Scott Silcox thanked the street department for their quick response to the last snow and cleanup of the roads.
- Marshal Dick: Blue Bird in the 200 block should be added to the street improvement list.

**NIRPC:** no report

**Old Business:**

- 1929 E. Coolspring; Ms Denham indicated that the release of judgement has been released after the clean-up. Council Member, Scott Silcox wondered if the town should do a quarterly inspection. Mrs. Heath stated that if need a resident will let us know.

**New Business:**

- Salary Ordinance 1-2021 revision/amendment adjustment for the vacation buyback for both Marshal Dick and Deputy Korepanow. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the revision to the salary ordinance 1-2021, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox a roll call; Jennifer Heath, yes and Sharon Gralik, yes and was unanimously carried.
- Salary Ordinance 1-2022; Council President made mentioned that this ordinance should mirror last years as we were unable to give raises due to budget constraints. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the salary ordinance as written; motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox. Roll call; Jennifer Heath; yes, and Scott Silcox, yes and then was unanimously carried.
- Appointments for the Redevelopment Commission: A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to appoint the town council as the redevelopment commission, motion seconded by Mr. Silcox. Roll call was done. Jennifer Heath, yes and Sharon Gralik; yes, and the ordinance was unanimously carried.
- Appoint council officers for 2022:
  1. Council President: A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to appoint Jennifer Heath as Council President, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox, roll call vote; Sharon Gralik, yes and then was unanimously carried.
  2. Council Vice President: A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to appoint Peter Pizarek as Council Vice President, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik, roll call vote; Jennifer Heath, yes and the motion was unanimously carried.

**Clerks Comment:** Ms. Denham in attendance to report:

- Year end is complete for Refuse Accounts and the year 2021 is closed. Billing for 2022 has been complete and sent out to residents.
- The clerk's office is working with all departments in getting our new phone system set up, this system is through Onsip and is one of the top 10 VOIP systems. This system will allow our residents to experience technology from this decade which includes being able to transfer phone calls to other departments as well as to our inspectors.
- Annual Financial Report is being worked on and should be completed soon.
- W2's: Have been completed and sent out to all employees.
- Centric IT; Has helped with the phone systems as well as moving all of our equipment such as the modem, DVR and wires to the back so that the town hall no longer has any safety hazards of that nature.

**Council Comment:**

- Council President Heath requested a copy of the budgets for 2022. Ms. Denham indicated absolutely but did explain that until the AFR is complete the budgets in Fund will not be uploaded. However, the budgets that were approved by the DLGF and County Council are in Gateway, and she indicated she would be happy to give them a copy of what they approved.

- Council Member Peter Pizarek asked if we could get the zoom meeting to ALCO, Ms. Dneham indicated of course, just need an email address. Mr. Pizarek to provide.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm, motion was seconded by Mr. Pizarek, Roll Call, Jennifer Heath; yes and Sharon Gralik, yes and then it was unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

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Jennifer Heath, Council President

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Peter Pizarek , Council Vice President

*Approved*  
*2.15.22*

ATTEST:   
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer  
February 15, 2022