



Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2024

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Lary & Alice Randolph, Avery Ferguson, Matt King, Vernon Miller, Ray Rodriguez, Dana Rutter, Melissa Beechy, Rita Van Voorst, Steve Boussom, Cindi Haijcek, Cynthia Chadwell, Larry Moore, and Ryan LeCount.

Larry Randolph called the meeting to order. Larry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2024. Dana Rutter seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Council President Dean Smith was absent, due to illness but listened and spoke during the meeting via cell phone speaker.

New Business: Cynthia Chacwell was in attendance. She started by introducing herself and stated she is running for the Elkhart County Treasurer position. Cynthia told the audience she currently works as an auditor for Elkhart County, and she's gotten to know MacKenzie from sending her tax distributions. Cynthia said, she is a Fairfield graduate and received a Bachelor's Degree from IUSB in Business Administration. Cynthia told everyone she's been a public servant for a number of years. She has worked as a director of a halfway house, completed supervision of incarcerated women entering back into the work force, wrote and applied for grants, worked for Kosciusko County. Through my years of experience, I would bring a lot of qualities to the Treasurer's Office. There are some things that I would like to see changed and happen. I want to see people and families stay in their homes. A home is where you create memories with your family and children, we have payment plans for everything else, why not for their homes? She also stated she would like to see more of their funds being invested, right now money is just being sat on. I am a firm believer in customer service, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and I would be sure to do that. I am asking for your vote and support in the May 7th Primary's. Thank you for your time.

Steve Boussom approached the front and began to introduce himself. Steve is running for the Elkhart County Commissioner. Steve stated he's been a member of this County for 58 years. Steve said he graduated from Elkhart Memorial, and he received his degree from IUSB. He's been a CPA for 30 years. Steve said, he wants to bring his skills to the commissioner's office, it's his chance to offer his experience to elected and appointed officials of his department. Steve said he's helped with business strategies and accounting. He stands for individual freedom and his opponent has been anti-freedom. When we had to live under federal government

regulations and we experienced harsh lock downs from the pandemic, our human rights were lost. As a commissioner I stand for a constitution that we live under. I am asking for your vote on May 7th. For any other information or insight, you'd like to know about me, you can find me on Google, it'll discuss my business career and what I stand for as a commissioner.

Cindi Haijcek introduced herself. I am running for State Representative District 49. This cuts right through Millersburg on CR 42. I am a conservative option for the primary. Cindi encouraged everyone to check out voting records and she'll be around to discuss further if anyone is interested. She stated she is a conservative and can conserve. With that, Cindi will defend our liberty. Liberties should not be suspended during a constitutional crisis. I worked defending my people during covid. There are no rights to shut down private businesses. The current legislator is taking away your voting rights to worship, pray, gather, visit with people in hospitals/nursing homes. Cindi said she did lose loved ones during covid and I'm sure everyone did here too. Cindi is a proponent of fostering property. Cindi has met hundreds of people, and they are consistently informing her that taxes are eating them up. It's really harming people and we don't need that. There is waste in our government and ample room to cut back. Cindi believes we are worthy of equal protection. She also believes in honoring life. She stated she would be sworn to uphold the constitution by oath. She asked kindly to go out and vote in the May 7th primary.

Ryan LeCount came and introduced himself as the new football league youth commissioner. Ryan said, he wanted to come out and get an idea of what we're expecting from one another. He said, he is aware the field is on Town property. Ryan also wants to make sure the line communications are open and vice versa. Right now, we don't have a head football coach, Matthew Thacker was picked by Wawasee. We have established a new board to work with for the youth league. The previous commissioner did some great things and really helped get this club up and going but we are looking for more transparency coming forward. Kyle Park is on the board, and he oversees maintenance and facilities. He's in charge of making sure the fields get painted, we have a treasurer, and some liaisons. The youth league is composed of different age groups, and we always have a flag football league. We'll have some home games and then we do travel as well. A schedule will be coordinated when the entire park is reserved, we won't have enough parking to host any football games. Ryan assured us he'll work with that. Ryan mentioned he's a teacher at Fairfield High School and having kids participate in different leagues, extra circulars is beneficial to the students, they really excel in school. Through the discussion Ryan asked what our previous agreement was with the league. MacKenzie found it via e-mail and read it aloud. MacKenzie said, it's rather vague. It would be beneficial for the both of us to write up a new agreement and have new board members sign it. As far as the equipment that is near the field all of it will remain the same and there are no new construction projects planned for this year. Ryan said, Kenny told him that Vernon who works for the Town was doing the mowing? Vernon nodded and said he was doing that. Lee Gardener does all of the fertilizing and turf management. Practices are typically on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. We have a field manager that will either be me or someone else if I'm not there. They make

sure the trash is all cleaned up and we put the trash in the big dumpster. Ryan asked Vernon if that was okay to do? Vernon said yes. It was asked about water. They have access to water for the children to fill up their water bottles. Avery said he'd look into it and possibly see if it needs to get metered. Avery also mentioned to not park on the well field, stay on the gravel/limestone area. Ryan said thank you for your time and he's really eager to growing this program.

Avery said he hasn't been able to talk to the gentleman that works at the tombstone memorial business in Goshen.

Water: Avery provided the council with a quote for the iron filtration system. He said it should be tested every 5 or 6 years and I need to have it tested. The filtration system needs to be cleaned at some point so it runs more effectively. The total price is \$6500. Larry and Dana agreed and said it needs to be done. Dean said he'd sign the form when he's in next.

Wastewater: We got the clarifier work complete. It took them a couple of trips. There will be a reduction on the bill because they didn't have to pump down as far as they thought. So, it should be about \$2,000 less than what it was quoted for.

Avery said he'll get in touch with Dean Rink because it's about time for a land application.

Avery wants to get with Tina to have an SOP written up.

Community Development: MacKenzie asked all of the council and town employees to meet on March 7th or 8th to go over the Action Agenda and see what we can prioritize together.

Maintenance: Matt said he took the plows off of the trucks. Matt said he's been busy patching holes. They've almost gone through another trailer full. Larry said, I got a compliment about your department, they said they were impressed by the clean up on Washington Street.

Rita Van Voorst told Matt there's a large pothole near her residence. Matt said he'll take a look it.

Marshal: Ray informed the council the Durango is in that was approved by the previous council in 2023. Robert's been in touch with Copsgear to get equipment out of the Taurus and put it in the Durango. The money for the trade in of the Taurus will go towards furnishing the Durango.

Bontrager Security is still working on the camera installation. Ray said he will be getting a quote from New Paris Telephone about the cameras running off their services.

Park: Vernon said nothing really is going on right now.

I attended a meeting yesterday with Friends of the Park. They asked MacKenzie to put the Farmer's Day Dates on the utility bills.

Another thing Friends of the Park are trying to sort out is where to hold the water ball tournament for the fire departments. Cripe Street blocked the way too much traffic trying to enter and exit the park. It was suggested to have it back near Battery Tech and the Fire

Department. Unfortunately, that was not a good location to hold it. Melissa said, they plan on inviting Moe to the next meeting and discussing this with him. Next meeting will be on March 19 at the Pizza Depot. Matt informed the council and Friends of the Park Austin won't be in town during Farmer's Day. Matt said he may not be there either, but he will make sure barricades are set out and they will just need to be moved into place.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie said she has a quote for two new computers. It'll be roughly \$3,000. This includes the two computers and installation for both. MacKenzie told the council, Techknowledge advised us computers should be replaced every 5 years, and it's been 5 years for my computer and Ray's computer. I'd like to have these changed out as soon as possible so we don't lose any of our software that we need to do our job. Dean asked about the software MacKenzie uses for fund, payroll, and utilities. MacKenzie told him Techknowledge would transfer it all over and our license is good for a full year. Larry made a motion to approve the purchase of two computers and installation by Techknowledge. Dana Rutter seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase two new computers and installation set up.

MacKenzie told the council she is attending the ILMCT conference March 17-21. The conference is held in Plainsfield this year. MacKenzie said she did apply for a scholarship to pay for the training, that cost was \$450.00. She'll find out March 6 whether or not she received the scholarship for the education courses. The room was expensive, for four nights it was 686.00. MacKenzie said she got the last room available at the conference. She'll cancel it if she needs to. The council was okay with her keeping the room booked.

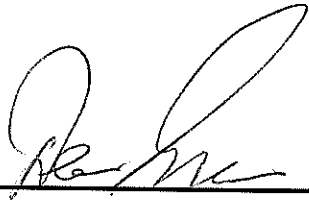
MacKenzie gave the council members amended ordinance 2005-05 for the travel policies. MacKenzie asked to increase the per-diem from \$25.00 to \$35.00. MacKenzie said this policy hasn't been touched on since 2005. Most trainings do include breakfast and lunch, maybe one night out of the week it'll include a dinner too. If the training courses don't include any of the meals or only 2 out of the 3 that's all we must work with. Dean replied, you can barely get a meal from McDonalds for \$35.00. MacKenzie laughed and said, have you been talking to Avery? Larry agreed, he said he doesn't think that's enough either. Larry suggested making it \$40.00. MacKenzie said she'll rewrite this, and we can approve it at the next meeting.

MacKenzie informed the council that the Annual Financial Report was submitted yesterday after Suzy Bass looked over it again. MacKenzie gave all the members the ARF Report.

Larry made a motion to pay bills. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to pay bills.

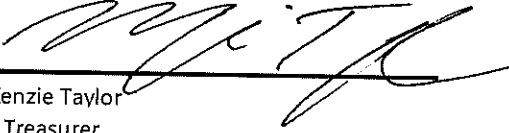
Larry made a motion to adjourn. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

X



Dean Smith
Council President

X



MacKenzie Taylor
Clerk Treasurer