

## **Minutes of the Wingate Town Council Meeting December 10, 2024**

### **ROLL CALL**

The Wingate Town Council Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Council Members Kyle Campbell and Andrew Lorenz responded to a roll call. Curt Hadley was absent.

Town Marshal Jared Kirby, Jay Busse with Busse Excavating, Coal Creek Twp Fire Chief Darren Forman, Troy Elless of UMAC, Phil Bane on behalf of the Park Improvement Committee, and Janet Alexander of Local Government Services were also present. Suzy Bass of Local Government Services was absent.

Janet Alexander stated that the agenda has changed since the draft was emailed to the Council Members. The new agenda includes a transfer resolution between Public Safety LIT Fund categories. The Board agreed to accept the amended agenda and proceed with the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Janet asked if anyone from the public had anything they wanted to discuss that was not listed on the posted agenda.

Rod Hill (Rural Community Assistance Program) introduced himself and offered RCAP assistance to the town. Rod Hill from RCAP offers free services, including rate analysis, water loss studies, and grant assistance. He notes Wingate's wastewater facility issues. He also stated that they were qualified to review engineering plans and offered to review the water, sewer and stormwater plan provided by HWC. The Board agreed to discuss his offer in January and reach out if needed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from November 12, 2024, were presented for approval. Andrew Lorenz motioned to approve the minutes, and Kyle Campbell seconded it. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **Park Improvement Committee**

Phil Bane stated that the architectural firm is finalizing a park pavilion design. He expects to receive their design by the end of this week. Once approved, it will be given to DES Engineering to prepare the advertisement for bids.

Phil also reported on a potential land donation (1-3 acres) west of the park for drainage. Someone in Germany owns the property. He will update the Board once he learns more.

### **Town Maintenance Supervisor**

Jay Busse reported that he received an email from INDOT officials about upcoming work on State Highway 25. The planned work includes repaving the highway, upgrading sidewalks to meet ADA standards, and improving the intersection where N. State Road 55 and N. State Road 25 intersect at Vine Street. Jay explained that this project, which is slated for 2026, will require local coordination on utility placements (e.g., removing meters).

### **Town Marshal**

Jared Kirby provided his monthly report for November. Last month, he responded to thirty-one (31) calls for service and three (3) ordinance violations issued to the following addresses: 206 E Wabash, 101 Walnut, and 115 S Bank Cross.

### **UMAC – Water & Sewer Facilities Management**

Troy Elles reported that the wastewater treatment plant is getting ammonia violations due to the cold weather; however, he thinks that ammonia violations from IDEM may help our case for funding with OCRA or SRF once the water, stormwater, and wastewater report is completed. A meeting with HWC's Eric Smith is planned for December 20 to discuss options, including voluntary enforcement, to boost funding opportunities. The required lead and copper letters were sent to specific Town residents. The letter created public confusion due to its alarming language. Another letter must be sent out next October.

### **Coal Creek Fire & Rescue**

Fire Chief Darren Foreman of Coal Creek Fire and Rescue reported that in November, the department responded to six calls, four in Wingate and two in New Richmond. Year-to-date calls total 123. The Chief also announced a Pancake Breakfast and breakfast with Santa, which will be held next Sunday, December 15th, from 11 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The Chief asked if the Town wanted to purchase any additional Christmas lights. After a discussion, Kyle Campbell made a motion to allocate \$1,000 for Christmas lighting. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion which carried.

### **Clerk-Treasurer - Financial Reports**

Janet Alexander presented the town's financial reports. The reconciled financial reports for November 2024, including the Fund Report, Appropriation Report, Bank Statement, and Bank Reconciliation, were presented. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Janet Alexander presented the Accounts Payable Docket for \$45,125.49, dated December 10, 2024. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

She also presented a Utility Adjustment for \$197.36 due to a utility customer's overpayment. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the adjustment as presented. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Ordinance No. 2024 – 12-10-24 An Additional Appropriation Ordinance

A notice concerning the proposed additional appropriation to increase the sanitation fund's appropriation by \$2500 was advertised. A public hearing was held. The Council asked if anyone from the public had any questions or comments concerning the proposed additional appropriation. No one asked to speak. The public hearing was closed. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote, and the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution No. 2024-12-10 Transfer of Funds – LIT Public Safety.

A transfer resolution was presented, moving \$1000 from the 300 Other Services & Charges category to the 200 Operating Supplies category. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve, which Andrew Lorenz seconded. The motion passed.

### Agreed Order of Abatement between the Town of Wingate and Ronald Gard

Town Attorney Stu Weliever drafted an Agreed Order of Abatement with former resident Ronald Gard. This document was discussed. The Order requires Mr. Gard to clean up his property at 100 North McClure Street by May 15, 2025. If he does not, the Town will begin assessing fines. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve. Kyle Campbell seconded his motion. The motion carried. Janet Alexander will contact Stu tomorrow to confirm the Council's actions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Janet Alexander stated that the Spartan Inn property transfer is done. She reported that the Attorney, Stu Weliever, had recorded the deed. Phil Bane reminded the Council that the utilities should be transferred into the Town's name. She also stated that HWC is organizing a master planning grant meeting to get started on the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Study. This organizational meeting is set for December 20 with Troy, Jay and Eric Smith, the lead engineer performing the study.

American Legal Codification – Legal Review the Town's Response – Janet said she is working with a paralegal at American Legal to complete this project.

Janet also reported that the domain and the website have been joined. The next step is to add private emails for each board member. The town's website (townofwingate.in.gov) is live.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Alexander asked if anyone present had any questions or comments they wanted to share.

Darren Forman commented on a resident burning yard waste near a fire hydrant. Andrew will ask Curt Hadley to touch base with the resident.

The Council discussed keeping the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month in 2025.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to conduct, Andrew Lorenz motioned to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Kyle Campbell seconded. The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held at 6:00 p.m. January 14, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Campbell  
Council President & Acting Clerk-Treasurer