

Minutes of the Wingate Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

ROLL CALL

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

Town Marshal Jared Kirby, Town Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse with Busse Excavating, Coal Creek Twp Fire Chief Darren Forman, Troy Elless of UMAC, Suzy Bass, and Janet Alexander of Local Government Services were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet asked if anyone from the public had anything they wanted to discuss that was not listed on the posted agenda. She stated that each speaker would be allowed to speak for three (3) minutes.

A resident, who identified herself as Kim, asked who she could speak with about her water bill. Janet directed her to talk to Suzy Bass.

Another resident, Glen Lawson, raised concerns about speeders exceeding the 30-mph limit near his home. Marshal Jared Kirby agreed to increase patrols and place a speed trailer near Lawson's property. The Town Council discussed installing permanent speed signs, which were approved last fall, with the exact placement to be determined.

Wes Knoll inquired about the Town's plans for cleaning up the rubble piles from the demolition of Cording Hall. Janet stated that all questions regarding Cording Hall must be directed to the town attorney, as Mr. Knoll's attorney had indicated that they may take legal action against the Town—no further discussion allowed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes from December 10, 2024, December 29, 2024 (special meeting), January 21, 2025, and February 11, 2025, were presented for approval. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve all the meeting minutes as presented. Andrew Lorenz seconded his motion. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

Janet publicly thanked Shyanne Busse for filling in for her during her absence in January and February.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Park Advisory Committee: No representative was present at this time, and no report was given.

Town Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse inquired about the details of the park pavilion project. Janet stated that a pre-bid meeting will be held March 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.; Curt Hadley and Jay Busse confirmed that they both planned to attend.

Jay reported that a meter pit at the gas station had been crushed during tank installation work. The Council Members agreed to bill Harry (the owner of the gas station. Kyle Campbell made a motion to issue a bill for the repair of the meter pit, seconded by Andrew Lorenz. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

Jay updated the Council about a leak discovered three weeks ago at Cording Hall. An excavator working on the site is responsible for this leak. The leak came to Jay's attention after a resident noticed water running in an alley nearby. Since then, Jay has disconnected the water lines. The amount of water lost has yet to be determined. He stated that he would work with Troy Ellis to calculate the loss before the next meeting.

Jay requested permission to purchase a tri-axle load of stone, estimated at \$500, for alley repairs. Janet stated that the necessary funds for these supplies are included in the budget of the LRS fund.

Mark Fruits arrived after the meeting began and inquired about where contractors could get the Pavilion Project bid packets. Janet explained that the request for bids was advertised last Friday and that the Town Council will receive closed bids at its meeting on April 8, 2025. She stated that bid packets would be available at the DES Engineering offices in Crawfordsville.

Marshal Jared Kirby reported thirty-four (34) calls for service in February, primarily related to traffic. The Marshal addressed a garbage pile located at 2060 Wabash. The property owner, Harry, promised to clean up once the weather improved. Jared will monitor progress to avoid legal costs. The Marshal confirmed that the County Sheriff will place the speed trailer on Glen Lawson's property.

Troy Ellis of UMAC reported that HWC Engineers conducted a drawdown test on both lift stations last week. This was done as part of the study they are conducting. He also stated that he has obtained a quote of \$500 to perform the annual PFAS tests. The PFAS testing is to comply with recent EPA & IDEM requirements. Troy also commented on the lagoon bobbles. Several bobbles are not functioning and are lying on their side. Troy will reach out

to Covalen to discuss the cost of repairs. Lastly, Troy reported a recent transformer fuse blowout that tripped a pump. He stated that Jay Busse assisted with a quick fix.

Fire Chief Darren Foreman of the Coal Creek Fire Department reported that the department responded to twelve runs in February, consisting of one fire and eleven medical calls. Since January 1, they have received a total of thirty-three (33) calls.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer - Financial Reports

Janet Alexander presented the town's financial reports. The reconciled financial reports for February 2025, including the Fund Report, Appropriation Report, Bank Statement, and Bank Reconciliation, were presented and reviewed. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

Janet Alexander presented the Accounts Payable Docket for \$25,181.59, dated March 11, 2025. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried. There was no utility adjustments presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Pavilion Project: Janet Alexander reported that the state permit was previously approved and that bid specifications from DES Engineering were published in the Journal Review last Friday. She reminded the Council that the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., with the bid opening set for April 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. during the regular Town Council meeting. Jay Busse added that he consulted the County Building Inspector, who confirmed that the existing pavilion can remain in place until the project is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

HWC - Water, Wastewater, & Stormwater Master Planning Grant Study Update: Janet shared a copy of a survey prepared by HWC to be mailed to residents. This survey was initially due on February 15, 2025, and will now be sent with a cover letter and an enclosed stamped envelope extending the deadline to April 15, 2025. Janet shared a draft introductory letter with the Council Members. This letter will be mailed out before the end of the month.

Water and Sewer Rate Increase - London Witte Group (LGW) Rate Study: Janet Alexander presented an outline of the proposed water and wastewater rates suggested by the LGW accountants. She pointed out that the reason the Town needs to consider rate increases is

that the Town's water fund balance as of February 28th was \$5,600. She explained that the last rate increase occurred in December 2017. The reason the town needs to increase rates is to prevent the water fund from going into the negative. The proposal from LWG suggested a minimum water bill increase of \$3.32 (water) + \$3.99 (sewer) ≈, totaling approximately \$7.31 per month for a base of 2,000 gallons per month.

The Council discussed the adoption timeline, beginning with a public hearing at their April meeting, followed by potential ordinance adoption in May. The new rates would take effect on May 16 for June usage, reflected in the July utility bills.

Resident Dave Dixon expressed concerns about the current 2-inch meter rate, proposing that the Town adopt a higher rate to better recover the costs of water delivery. He pointed out that farmers from neighboring counties are traveling to Wingate to fill their tanks at the Co-op, drawn by water rates lower than those at other Co-op locations. In response, the Council directed Janet to gather water rate information from nearby communities, such as Kingman, for comparison.

The proposed new rates will be advertised for a public hearing on April 8, 2025.

Well - Water Works Property Status: Council Member Curt Hadley contacted the law firm handling Andrew McCorkle's estate regarding a potential lease issue. He proposed that the town fund a land survey. A discussion was held. Janet suggested that the former Clerk Treasurer, Deb Switzer, may recall a 99-year lease renewal that took place between 2000 and 2010. Janet was asked to investigate further.

Website Updates: Janet proposed transferring the Wingate Town website duties to Shyanne, who has agreed to train with Municipal Impact. A discussion was held, and the Council approved the suggestion. Janet will coordinate with Municipal Impact and with Shyanne.

Internet Upgrade for Streaming: Curt Hadley stated that the current internet speeds at Town Hall are insufficient for streaming, which will be required by July 1, 2025. A discussion was held. Curt will investigate other options for the Town.

Tax-Exempt Status of the Spartan Inn – New Town Hall Building: Janet will file the required forms to ensure that the new building is tax-exempt. There is a question about whether the town will be responsible for the 2024 property taxes on the building for the year 2025.

Executive Session: The Council requested that Janet coordinate with Stu Weliever to advertise and hold an executive session to discuss pending or threatened litigation related to Cording Hall and the McCorkle property.

Spring Cleanup Day: The Council discussed and agreed to schedule a Town clean-up day, June 7, 2025, which is the 1st Saturday. They would like to provide dumpsters to collect heavy trash, tires, and electronics. They will require proof of residency.

Remote Meeting Attendance: Andrew Lorenz stated that the Town might want to consider an ordinance or resolution allowing Council Members to participate in town meetings remotely. Janet agreed to research this request.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Darren Foreman reported that numerous cats are living in a garage across from the fire station, posing a health risk. The Marshal stated that the property owner signed an agreement that gives him until May 1st to clean up that property.

No one else asked to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Campbell, Town Council President &
Acting Clerk Treasurer

KC/jpa