

Minutes of the Wingate Town Council Meeting

October 15, 2024

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.

The Town Attorney, Stu Weliever, Town Marshal Jared Kirby, Shyanne Busse with Busse Excavating, Coal Creek Twp Fire Chief Darren Forman, and Janet Alexander of Local Government Services were also present.

Suzy Bass of Local Government Services, Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse of Busse Excavating, and Troy Elless of UMAC were absent.

Town Attorney Stu Weliever introduced himself and answered questions regarding the park's annexation, the town's options concerning the old bank, and addressing nuisance properties.

A wide-ranging discussion was held. Regarding the park annexation, Stu stated that he would prepare an ordinance to complete the annexation process. Andrew asked how we can clean up nuisance properties, including 105 N Mclure Street, 100 N. Mclure Street, and 107 E. High

They also discussed abandoned vehicles, securing the bank building, and taking the property owners to court regarding the current owner of the old bank. The attorney recommended that the Town attempt to locate him and notify him about the condition of the building.

After the discussion, Kyle Campbell made a motion authorizing Stu Weliever to initiate litigation against the owners of the following properties: 105 N Mclure Street, 100 N owners. Mclure Street and 107 E. High St. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

Stu Weliever introduced Karla Rice and stated that he had been asked to prepare a resolution donating the Spartan Inn to the Town. Ms. Rice, speaking on behalf of Phil Bane and Jeff Bane, read a letter to the Board outlining the group's desire to donate the former "Spartan Inn" building to the Town to serve as the Town Hall and a community center. Janet provided copies of the proposed resolution titled Resolution No. 2024-10-15 Resolution Accepting a Donation of Land. A discussion was held. Andrew Lorenz moved to table the discussion on the proposed donation. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to the vote, and it carried.

Kyle asked Stu Weliever how the town could appoint an unpaid Reserve Deputy. Stu explained that the town could adopt an ordinance to create this position.

They also discussed the ongoing issue of speeding on side streets. Before he left, he recommended that the Town post caution signage on the old bank building.

Stu Weliever left the meeting at 6:56 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from August 27, 2024, and September 10, 2024, were presented for approval. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Park Improvement Committee

Mark Fruits provided specifications for the proposed pavilion. A discussion was held. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve the specifications as provided. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and was carried. Janet was directed to coordinate advertising the specifications.

Town Maintenance

Shyanne Busse stated that they were starting the process of winterizing around town.

Town Marshal

Jared Kirby reported that he responded to forty-five (45) calls in September and shared the July speed trailer report. A discussion was held regarding the plan to purchase two pole-mounted radar speed signage. Kyle Campbell made a motion to approve the purchase, and Curt Hadley seconded it. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

Coal Creek Fire & Rescue

The Fire Chief did not provide a report as he was called out.

Clerk-Treasurer - Financial Reports

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

Janet Alexander presented the Accounts Payable Docket for \$45,170.51, dated October 15, 2024. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Town Budget Adoption

The 2025 Town Budget was presented for adoption. Curt Hadley made a motion to approve the budget ordinance. Andrew Lorenz seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

ASTRA Insurance Renewal

The Astra—NFP General Liability Application and Cyber Security Insurance policy is ready. The submission deadline is October 22. This is the annual renewal. The premium is \$14,899.00, which is due this week. Janet explained that Suzy Bass would pay the fee online to avoid issues with a mailed payment failing to be delivered on time.

Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the renewal and to allow Kyle Campbell to sign all the necessary paperwork. Curt Hadley seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

Water & Sewer Rate Studies

Janet Alexander stated that the London Witte Group had begun reviewing the water and sewer financials. She expects a report at the next meeting.

American Legal Codification—Legal Review.

A discussion was held. In general, the Board members do not want the Town Code to include State of Indiana traffic codes. They are also interested in increasing penalties and fines. Janet will reach out to American Legal to discuss these preferences.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF THE CDBG AGREEMENT

Janet Alexander provided the board with copies of the contract between the Town and the State of Indiana, titled State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Stated Community Development Block Grant Program Planning Grant Number # A192-23-PL-23-102 Contract #87863. Andrew Lorenz made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Curt Hadley seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried. Kyle Campbell will sign the hard copy and an electronic copy and submit the contract to OCRA.

Janet reminded the Board that the Planning Grant also requires a \$10,000 match provided by the Town. She suggested that the matching funds be paid for out of the ARP Fund. Andrew Lorenz motioned to approve paying the CDBG match out of the American Rescue Plan Fund. Kyle Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Janet Alexander updated the Board on the status of the Town website and the licensing with in.gov. Janet said that the townofwingate.in.gov has been registered and submitted to Google. She will collaborate with each member to establish email addresses using the in.gov email addressing system. She will also update the website address to the new domain with Municipal Impact.

Hydrant Flushing Troy Elless has notified the Town that UMAC intends to flush hydrants next Wednesday, October 23, 2024. The community will be informed via flyers and on Facebook.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Curt Hadley suggested that the Town pay for a radio advertisement on WCDQ 106.3 Dave Peach's radio program to Fund Raise for the Park. This topic will be on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. was offered. The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 12th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Campbell
Council President
Acting Clerk-Treasurer