

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2023

APPROVED DECEMBER 12, , 2023

The Worthington Town Council met for the monthly meeting on 11/14/2023 at Town Hall at 6:13 PM. Members in attendance were Gerren Cullison, Brian Stoner, Tom Franklin, and Barry Hoover and Kim Archer.

Meeting was called to order by Gerren Cullison. Kim Archer offered a prayer.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting was made by Tom Franklin. Kim Archer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to approve and pay claims was made by Kim Archer and seconded by Barry Hoover. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Mindy Hoover explained that she did not know we were supposed to approve a payroll docket each month. The Payroll Docket for October was presented and a motion to approve was made by Tom Franklin. Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

- Some appropriations are in the negative. We can even them out before we close out the year.
- The investment report shows we gained \$3,036.26. Total since joining Trust Indiana is \$18,319.00.
- Mindy explained the need for a hearing to appropriate the remaining ARPA funds to pay for the pipe replacement project out at the plant. She will advertise to have that hearing in December.

Sewer Rate Increase

Bob Reynolds from LWG Accounting Firm explained that wastewater rates must be increased to discontinue the practice of running in deficit each year. With the upcoming IDEM mandated project, we will be raising rates 3 in phases. Starting January 1 rates will increase by 70% to \$68.25. Of that increase, 28% of that is just to keep the operating fund going, and 42% will fund the project. Phase 2 and 3 will occur as the project progresses. These are worst case scenario numbers without receiving any grants. If we are awarded the OCRA grant, these numbers will decrease.

Marilyn Hartman created an Ordinance to be ready to approve rates after the public hearing on November 28, 2023 at the December meeting.

She also presented Resolution 2023-10 designating Gerren to sign granting INDOT a temporary easement to make sidewalk improvements next year. The town will receive a payment of \$1000 for this easement. Resolution 2023-11 amends which amends our contract and authorizes \$100,000 payment to BFU to complete the pipe replacement project at the plant. Tom Franklin made a motion to approve resolution 2023-10. Barry seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Kim Archer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11. Barry Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Marilyn will be retiring at the end of 2023. She made suggestions on her replacement. Gerren will set up interviews with prospective attorneys.

Street Department Department

- Tim Edelman reported on leaf pick up.

- Gerren asked about the progress on replacement pumps for the lift station. 2 have already been purchased and installed. After the first of the year, the remaining replacement pumps and back up pumps will be purchased.
- Tim is concerned about Citizen's Energy dumping concrete in our Yard Waste Facility. Barry will attempt to contact Citizen's and get it stopped.
- Jeff Farmer from BFU explained how and why the effluent pipe at the plant needs to be replaced. When originally installed, it was run uphill and has several angles in it making it impossible to hand the new output after the improvement project is complete. He and his crew will dig up and replace 1900 feet of pipe and manholes to fix the problem.

Utility Clerk Report

- According to Marilyn, all vacant land and uninhabitable properties should be paying a stormwater fee. All commercial buildings and inhabitable properties should be paying a Sewer fee even if unoccupied. Renie Powell called the county and got a vacant land list for the town. We will find all the lots to see if there are any structures on the property.
- We currently have \$18,953 in outstanding WW bills and \$2,773 from SW. We will be sending them to TRECS.

Police Department:

- The police department had 173 incidents last month. 96 were traffic stops with 17 citations and 81 warnings. There has been an uptick in domestic calls. They had 9 welfare checks.
- The white car's tail light was replaced. The reason for the delay was the cost of replacement. Jacob was able to find a cheaper replacement but we had to wait for it to be delivered.
- The PD was awarded a Smithville grant in the amount of \$12,639 to purchase speed signs. He was also awarded a \$2000 grant from The Local Coordinating Council of Greene County to upgrade the evidence room.

Old Business:

- The Duke Energy LED street light replacement has begun.
- The town was awarded a Community Crossings grant in the amount of \$452,933.04. Almost every town will be paved next summer.
- Fire Department internet was fixed.
- The tree ordinance needs to be enforced.

Tom Franklin made a motion to adjourn. Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.



Gerren Cullison, President



Melinda L. Hoover, Clerk-Treasurer