**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 7, 2021**

**TOWN COUNCIL**: Greg Welch President

Edward (Skip) Welch Vice President

Pamela Davis Councilman

James Sample Councilman

John Wright Secretary/Treasurer

**TOWN EMPLOYEES:** Cheryl Lynch Town Clerk

Larry Corrigan Chief of Police

**OTHERS:** Bonnie Elliott Tony Morgan

Ronald Hall Kerin Magill

Michelle Valentine Priscilla Schoolfield

Frank Porcelli Heather Bernat

Duane Beck Kyle Quillen

Kevin Hudson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Greg Called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:**

Greg noted would be adding to the agenda a correspondence under new business

John made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition and was seconded

by Skip

Motion was unanimous

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

May 3, 2021- Monthly Council Minutes

Skip made the motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Jimmy

Motion was Unanimous

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

John read the bank balances as of May 31, 2021

General fund: $100,000.00

ICS Sweep Account: $3,546,508.35

Transfer Tax Account: $140,168.35

Municipal Street Aid: $6,821.23

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John noted still working on the budget and need to make some changes.

John noted on the budget the income would be $403,500.00 and the expenses

would be $468,558.02 leaving a deficit of $65,058.04.

John explained the categories that had a change in the budget either had an increase

or a decrease.

John noted the town they would be earning two percent on the interest earned but

to find out only earning one percent which changed the interest earned

John noted the effect taxes

1976 tax assessment

$120,000.00 tax revenue

Change tax rate would 3.85% new tax rate

Tony Morgan noted he owns eight properties in town limits. Tony noted the town said

They can only up the tax rate a little at a time.

Tony noted he would be willing to pay one hundred dollars per rental unit to go towards

funding the police department.

Tony noted the town needs to keep the police department.

Tony noted could the town setup a police fund separate from the general fund.

Tony noted the town has 273 homes in town and adding one hundred per household

would fund the police department twenty-seven thousand three hundred dollars.

Tony noted on the annual property tax invoice could the town add a line item for the

Police department.

Tony noted he would like his tenants to feel safe in town.

Frank Porcelli noted the towns people should be deciding along with the council on how

to spend the funds from the sale of the water plant.

Greg noted the towns people want the council to spend the funds for the police department.

Pam noted the towns people should have a say on how the town spends the funds from

the sale of the water plant.

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Michelle noted when the town was selling the water plant Cheryl sent out a letter for

the residence to attend the meeting.

Michelle noted need to send a letter to the residence stating the town is considering raising the property taxes.

Bonnie noted if a letter is sent out needs to be in English and Spanish.

John Wright noted in years past during the budget workshops we only have about

six or seven people show to these meetings.

John noted up until the May 27, 2021, Budget meeting we were close to budget and then on

May 27, 2021, we had a substantial change on the direction the town had planned.

John noted Larry at the May 27, 2021, had a lot of concern, and need extra part time

Police officers.

John noted will not be changing the tax rate the next fiscal year.

John noted the next Trash/Recycle bill goes out by July 1, 2021.

Frank Porcelli noted had the police department submitted his request for the police department.

Greg noted the police department requested two more part time officers for sixteen hours each per week, but the department needs another full -time officer along with a part time officer.

John noted the town would be receiving funding from the American Rescue Plan, but we are waiting

on how we can spend those funds.

Frank Porcelli noted need to look for better rates on the funds from the sale of the water plant

and should talk to a financial advisor to get a better rate on those funds.

Greg noted when Floyd Toomey came up with a plan to join police departments, in order to

give twenty- four hour coverage the cost would be one hundred twenty thousand dollars per

year. At that time, the people of the town did not want to join departments.

John noted when the town had contracted with Delaware State Police we only got twelve hours per week and received a fifteen thousand dollar grant to help with payroll. When we hired a full time

officer the grant would be thirty thousand dollars and we would go from twelve hours weekly coverage to forty hours weekly coverage plus their administrative time.

Frank Porcelli could the Council contact other municipalities how they invest their funds.

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John noted the next budget workshop meeting June 17, 2021 at 7:00pm.

**TOWN DEPARTMENTS:**

TOWN CLERK: Cheryl noted bills, prepare minutes and I want to make an amendment

To the Employee Handbook to change payroll period from Thursday through Wednesday to

Monday through Sunday.

Skip made the motion to change the payroll period in the Employee Handbook from

Thursday through Wednesday to Monday through Sunday and was seconded by

John

Motion was unanimous

**MAINTENANCE:**

Jimmy noted the town has a new maintenance employee Stuart Townsend.

Skip noted if you see water in the roadway contact the town hall and we can

contact Artesian because that water leak could cost the resident extra money.

Greg noted he hooked up the water fountain at the park.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Larry noted the town had a homicide in town the State Police are handling the case.

Larry noted had some robberies in town and two child abuse cases with arrests.

Larry noted have assisted other agencies on a search warrant south of town retrieving

drugs, cash, and firearm along with arrests.

Larry noted Anthony Valenti the part time officer received the Valor Award.

Larry noted had assisted with the COVID vaccination sites in town.

The River Church will hold a prayer walk on Honolulu Rd and ice cream social in the park.

Larry noted he did a Public Service Announcement which was on the Library’s facebook, and social media also was assisted by a bi-lingual person from the library to advise residence to keep their

vehicles locked and remove valuables.

Larry noted some Hispanics have been solicitated from people stating they are police officers

And requested they send money. One Hispanic family sent $4,000.00 and the police were

Able to trace the funds from Selbyville and then the funds were forwarded to the Dominican

Republic and the police were unable to retrieve the funds.

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Larry noted he and Ray from the Library will do another Public Service Announcement

geared toward the Hispanic community to let them know of this scam.

Ron Hall noted he lives on the road where the Homicide took place and are good

people that live on Kauffman Lane and he commends Chief Corrigan for his work

he does for the town.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discuss Real Estate contract for the Warehouse:

John noted the purchaser is working on the financing of the property.

Duane Beck noted when is the town going to move the fence in the back of the warehouse?

Duane Beck noted the fence was to be moved ten feet from the back of the building.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Planning and Zoning Meeting May 11, 2021:

John noted the meeting was to discuss the conditional use of the Steve Benton property.

The Benton’s would be using the property for a Bed and Breakfast and Wedding Venue.

the Committee made the recommendation to approve the Conditional Use.

The next Planning and Zoning meeting will be on June 15, 2021 to rezone a parcel

Mountaire purchased from the Dukes Family.

Amend Employee Handbook Payment of Wages:

See notes under Town Clerk

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND REPORTS:**

Charter and Ordinance Committee:

Greg noted the committee met on May 15, 2021 and discussed the noise ordinance.

Greg noted sent the ordinance for review to the Town Attorney and he revised the ordinance.

**FIRE HAZZARD COMMITTEE:**

Greg noted he took pictures of a dilapidated home on 79 Clayton Avenue. The Committee

has thirty days to file a report. The Town has an ordinance for dilapidated. The Town

would have a public hearing and the owner would attend the hearing to discuss how the

owner would remedy the issue.

Greg noted would take each dilapidated home one at a time.

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Greg noted would send a letter to the owner and see if the owner will handle

the dilapidated home before holding a public hearing.

**MAINTENANCE BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

Greg noted need to build a maintenance building because Arteisian will be tearing down

The old water plant where we currently house our grass cutting equipment.

Greg noted first decided to build behind town hall then changed our minds to build in the back

of the parks parking lot so we could build for the future.

Greg noted Council did vote at a previous meeting to build the building at the park.

Greg noted the committee met and Ed Ferencie drew up the plans for the building.

Greg noted the last meeting discussion was brought up to build behind town hall

instead of the park.

Greg noted the sale of the warehouse will go towards the new maintenance building.

Tony Morgan noted he just built a pole building and asked council and the committee

to stop by and look at the building and how he utilized the space with a loft.

Greg noted if built at town hall would not need water or sewer in the building.

Pam noted if built behind town hall the police department can park their vehicles in the building.

Skip noted could build a 40 X 40 at the park and a build a maintenance behind Town Hall.

Greg noted don’t need both buildings at once.

Skip noted do a package deal from the contractor to build one building know and the other

building later.

Greg noted Artesian is going to tear down the old

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Skip made a motion to build the maintenance building behind Town Hall and seconded by

Jimmy.

Greg – Yes

Skip- Yes

Jimmy- Yes

Pam – Yes

John – No

Motion was four to one

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE:**

No Report

Cheryl noted to Council Jean Holloway who rents the old town hall that before you walk into the bathroom there is a wide soft spot.

**ENVISION OF FRANKFORD:**

Movies in the park starting June 18, 2021, Scooby Doo and the Pirates

Skip noted would like to make a motion for the town to get lights from Iron Source

for movies in the park.

John noted Iron Source donates the lights to the fire department for movies in the park.

**CITIZENS PRIVILEGE:**

Bonnie from the Library will be having their Summer Reading Kickoff at the park on June 18, 2021, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm with movie following.

Bonnie noted will be doing yoga at the park on Wednesday and summer reading on Thursday’s.

Greg noted read the letter from Jerry Smith to the Council concerning grass and trash on Reed Street.

Skip noted need to call the owner on Reed Street to get them to

**ADJOURN:**

John made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm and was seconded by Skip

Motion was unanimous

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**RESPECTFULLY**

**Cheryl Lynch**

**Town Clerk**