

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
February 13, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council members Mike Leman, William Daily, Rick Graverson and James Leeper were present. Also present were Trend Weldy, Director of Operations; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Chief Brad Kile, Police Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Keith Fraine, Cemetery Sexton; Ken Jones, Town Engineer; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

MINUTES: Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer also presented the allowance docket for the Council Members to sign. Ms. Anglemyer then presented a statement of outstanding checks to be written off for Council approval. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the statement and write off the checks as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then presented a statement of utility accounts to be written off, spanning from 2019 through the first half of 2022. She noted that the amounts seemed higher due to the time span of the accounts, but noted that the average loss per year was historically lower. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the statement of utility write-offs as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then presented the annual engagement letter from Baker Tilly for the water and sewer utility reports. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the engagement letter, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer also presented another Baker Tilly agreement regarding the Town's asset management report. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the agreement with Baker Tilly for those services, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer and Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 1-2023, regarding certain changes to the Town electric code as proposed by Sawvel. Mr. Wagner explained that the Council could approve the Ordinance on first reading and that it would be published for a second reading at the first meeting in March. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve Ordinance 1-2023 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner gave the Council an update on the transaction with the Meyer property and explained some more details about the changes to the electric code in Ordinance 1-2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Daily recognized Ed Rodriguez and asked him to keep his group's presentation to 15 minutes. Mr. Rodriguez introduced himself again to the Council and told them that he would be speaking along with Felipe Merino and Jim Morris. Mr. Merino gave several examples of former clients who struggled in the Federal immigration system and explained how the law permitting driving privileges would have helped them. Mr. Leman interjected, explaining that he had hired Mr. Merino, who had not been able to help a former employee because of the employee's status. Mr. Leman asked Mr. Merino who the Bill would actually help, and expressed

concern that the Bill was flawed as to narrow. Mr. Leman also asked how many of those present had an ITIN number and a number of those present raised their hands. Mr. Merino answered Mr. Leman by explaining how he had worked with Senator Doriot regarding edits to the Bill and that more edits would be coming. Mr. Rodriguez added that his group was hosting seminars on the legislation that made the conditions of the program clear to potential participants. Mr. Graverson asked whether a person could work with ITIN number, and Mr. Merino and Mr. Rodriguez attempted to explain the Federal working requirements.

Mr. Morris addressed the Council and asked them to support the Bill on behalf of the neighbors in the community who would benefit from the Bill. Mr. Daily asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to the legislation, but no one came forward. Mr. Graverson expressed concern about fostering a lack of respect for the rule of law. Jill Bird appeared before the Council and explained that she was an immigrant as a child and that the citizenship process was quite difficult. Several audience members explained to the Council that they used to be permitted to have driver's licenses until the Federal Government imposed ID restrictions for travel. Delia Gadziola also appeared before the Council and explained how the Bill would affect and improve the lives of young people in Marshall County, including her students. Mr. Merino summarized the presentation and asked the Council to approve a resolution expressing their support for the legislation.

Joe Blakley appeared before the Council and expressed his opinion that driving was a privilege, rather than a right. Mr. Leman asked Mr. Wagner how to proceed. Mr. Wagner explained that he simply needed direction from the Council as to whether to prepare a resolution. Mr. Daily asked the Council Members to make a motion in support of a resolution to support the legislature. Ms. Anglemeyer noted that the resolution would be 2023-03. Mr. Leman made a motion to proceed with a resolution in support of the legislation, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. The Council recessed briefly to allow the large crowd to exit the chambers. Mr. Daily called the meeting back to order at 5:43 p.m.

Mr. Daily asked for any other public comment. Joe Blakley appeared again and told the Council that the Blue Zones program was a waste of money; County Councilmember Will Patterson appeared and told the Council that the County Council had rescinded its commitment to the program.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Daily asked Mr. Wagner to circulate a draft of changes to the Golf Cart Ordinance for review.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright asked the Council to promote Brody Beasley to lineman 3rd Class at a new rate of pay of \$26.35 as of February 13, 2023. Mr. Wright explained that Mr. Beasley had six months in the department and had done well. Mr. Graverson made a motion to promote Mr. Beasley to lineman 3rd Class as of February 13, 2023, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wright then requested approval to replace the current town car with a 2020 Ford Explorer at a cost of \$26,608.00 with trade-in of the existing vehicle. He pointed out that the vehicle purchase had been budgeted. Mr. Daily asked why he had selected an SUV as opposed to a car, and Mr. Wright explained that the Town Departments had found they needed more space for luggage when attending seminars. Chief Kile noted that the Police Department had taken to renting larger vehicles for their training events. The Council approved the purchase. Mr. Wright also submitted his report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Mr. Aguayo submitted his report on behalf of the Water Department.

Chief Kile asked the Council to declare the 2011 Ford Expedition surplus property. He described some of the issues with the vehicle, and told the Council that the replacement

vehicle would arrive in approximately one month. He also asked for permission to sell abandoned bicycles in a surplus sale as well.

Mr. Cunningham submitted his report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

Mr. Langdon submitted his report on behalf of the Street Department.

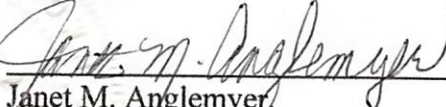
Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

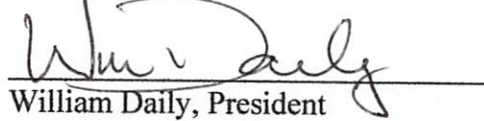
TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Jones left his report for the Council but had to leave the meeting early after the lengthy public comment discussion.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No Council comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Leeper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:


Janet M. Anglemyer,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen


William Daily, President

