

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
January 23, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 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 9, 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. Leeper made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then presented Resolution 2023-1, authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to reinvest funds held in local banks. Ms. Anglemyer explained that this was primarily the CDs held by the Town at 1st Source Bank, First Federal Savings Bank, and Lake City Bank. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-1, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner had no new information to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ed Rodriguez of La Voz Unida and a number of supporters appeared to ask the Council to pass a resolution in support of legislation pending before the Indiana State legislature to allow the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to issue driver's permit cards that would allow undocumented residents to legally operate motor vehicles within the State boundaries. Mr. Rodriguez summarized materials that were presented to the Council Members. Mr. Wagner asked if they had obtained the support of employers, and Mr. Rodriguez stated they had consulted larger employers outside of Marshall County, such as Tyson's in Logansport. Mr. Leman asked how the applicants would pay their taxes, Mr. Rodriguez was unable to explain the process. Mr. Graverson asked whether the applicants would be required to have insurance, but also why their undocumented status should be overlooked. Pastor Lindsey Hudkins appeared before the Council and explained that her church had developed strong relationships with the undocumented community in Bremen. She did point out that the process to obtain a Federal Tax Identification Number would require the use of a passport from the person's home country, which was a more secure form of identification than Social Security numbers. Mr. Aguayo was also able to offer some insight based on his experience as a tax preparer. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Rodriguez when the Council would need to approve a resolution, and Mr. Rodriguez explained that the Bill was estimated to be taken up in March. Eric Hudson appeared before the Council and asked the Council to get the opinion from law enforcement. Chief Kile stated that he had some concerns about the Bill, but thought that overall it would be positive if it increased safety. Norma Rodriguez appeared before the Council, and explained that all the people present were Bremen residents in support of the legislation. At the end of the discussion, the Council decided to table the matter for the February 13, 2023 meeting. Mr. Weldy told the Council that he would survey local businesses for their input prior to that meeting.

Linda Yoder, Scott Graybill and Bill Davis appeared before the Council on behalf of the Blue Zones project. They presented materials regarding state health statistics and the nature of the Blue Zones program. Ms. Yoder explained that the project team had spent three years researching the program, and that the team had applied for, but did not receive a READI grant. She also explained that if the Marshall County program would be successful, future funding from subsequent READI grants would be possible. Mr. Graybill explained how the Blue Zone entity was owned and listed local sponsors of the project. He also shared results from Ft. Worth, Texas and Albert Lea, Minnesota. He explained that the program would be all voluntary, on a three-year contract that could be extended or stopped. Mr. Davis described his time representing Bremen on the Marshall County Economic Development Commission, and explained that he had observed an increased focus on improving quality of life in the county to attract and retain employers. He also told the Council that the MCEDC was undergoing a study regarding quality of life issues in the county already. Andrew Wolf appeared before the Council and asked whether the money contributed to the Blue Zones projects could be used for something else. Mr. Weldy and Mr. Wagner confirmed that it could. Mr. Wolf also asked for the Council's objective in participating in the project, and Ms. Yoder explained the Blue Zones objectives to improve community health and added that the community of Albert Lea, Minnesota, which was similar in size to Bremen, understood that improving the health of its residents was something the community could not do on its own.

Eric Hudson appeared before the Council again and expressed concern about the removal of personal choices. Mr. Graybill told the Council that participating in the program would help move Marshall County to the front of the line for other programs funding. Mr. Wagner asked if Marshall County could utilize existing resources to achieve the same effects, and Ms. Yoder explained that the program's data gathering and processing would be difficult to replicate with County resources. Sarah Brady appeared before the Council and expressed her concern regarding residents' personal choices in support of making use of existing park assets. Mr. Leman expressed concern regarding wasteful spending by the Federal Government. Ms. Yoder pointed out that Plymouth had asked for more time to see private contributors to the project; Mr. Wagner asked how long the Council had to make a decision, and Ms. Yoder estimated that the decision would need to be made by June. The Council tabled the matter for further discussion.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Weldy informed the Council of his most recent contact with the Troyer Group and Shannon McLeod. Mr. Weldy also submitted his report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright submitted the year-end report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Mr. Aguayo had no new information to report on behalf of the Water Department.

Chief Kile had no new information to report on behalf of the Police Department.

Chief Neher submitted his monthly report as well as his year-end report and presented Eric Thornton regarding a special matter for the Department. Mr. Thornton explained that the Department would like to have a beer garden with live entertainment on Friday night during the Fireman's Festival. The Council discussed the request. Mr. Daily asked whether the event would be permitted and insured, and Mr. Thornton confirmed that the Department had already looked into it. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Langdon had no new information to report on behalf of the Street Department.

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

Mr. Main had no new information to report on behalf of the Park Department.

Mr. Fraine submitted his report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

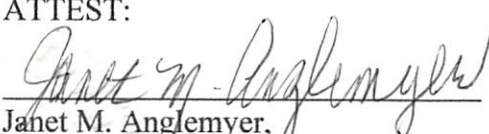
Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

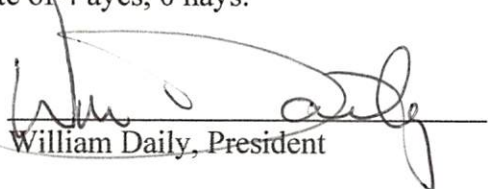
TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Jones gave the Council an update regarding the wastewater treatment plant equipment pre-selection process and asked the Council to approve the JPR contract for 2023. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the contract as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

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. Anglemeyer,
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen


William Daily, President

