

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
March 24, 2021**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council members James Leeper, Rick Graverson, and William Daily were present. Also present were Trend Weldy, Director of Operations; Jay Stoneburner, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Alex Mikel, Superintendent of the Water Department; Chief Brad Kile, Police Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Ken Jones, Town Engineer; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

MINUTES: Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Council members agreed to allow several attendees to give their presentations immediately in order to reduce the number of persons present for the entire meeting.

David DominguezMartinez of BakerTilly appeared in person and connected Jeff Rowe to appear electronically. Mr. Rowe reviewed the water and wastewater utility reports with the Council. In regard to the water utility, he explained that the utility had a strong cash position but was currently running an annual shortfall of approximately \$311,000. Mr. Rowe recommended a staggered rate increase with two stages, consisting of one rate increase of \$3.40 to begin July 1, 2021, and a second increase of \$2.64 to begin July 1, 2022. Mr. Rowe noted that the utility rates would still be well below the state average of \$37 dollars per month.

Mr. Rowe then explained that the wastewater utility needed to address a shortfall of approximately \$365,000 per year. He again recommended a staggered rate increase, consisting of one rate increase of \$4.60 to take effect July 1, 2021, and a second increase of \$3.78 to take effect July 1, 2022. Ms. Anglemyer asked about the process to implement the rates according to the proposed schedule, and Mr. Rowe described the process and necessary steps. Mr. Rowe said BakerTilly would have an ordinance at an upcoming meeting and that the process would take approximately sixty days.

Ms. Anglemyer recommended that the Council engage BakerTilly's services to navigate the American Rescue Plan funding. The Council asked Mr. Rowe to have a contract prepared.

Matt VanSoest appeared before the Council to share a design for the Town's property at the Plymouth Street/Bowen Avenue intersection. He explained that the landscaping could be installed and maintained by the Bremen High School agriculture programs, and discussed whether sidewalks and new curbing could be added. Mr. VanSoest informed the Council that Bremen Community Cares would contribute \$10,000 toward the project, and that a member had pledged an additional \$3,000. The Council discussed parking at the site and the access points. Mr. Wagner suggested that use of the space require a lease, and that easements be exchanged with the owners of the property to the west to allow shared entry and parking. Mr. VanSoest estimated the project as designed would cost approximately \$30,000. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the design with the discussed revisions, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mike Reese of the Troyer Group appeared electronically and told the Council that the Town and the Park Department should start planning for the new pool funded by the Stellar Communities grants. He reminded the Council that the Town had a \$500,000 match, with another \$1.5 million dollars in grant funding available. Mr.

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Reese told the Council that the Jackson Street project was already under design and may be ready for construction in spring 2022. Mr. Main described a schedule where the pool could be constructed in 2022 or 2023. Mr. Weldy suggested that the project take place in 2023, in order to space out the costs of the projects better. The Council discussed starting in the fall of 2022 with the project to be completed in 2023.

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. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer presented Ordinance 5-2021, regarding the Cumulative Capital Development Fund rate. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve Ordinance 5-2021 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer submitted a pay order for the Downtown Streetscape project with payments of \$18,504.00 to R. Yoder Construction and \$680.00 to the Troyer Group. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the payments, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Jones and Ms. Anglemyer then presented Change Order #1 for the Alexander Street project in the amount of \$5,610.00. Mr. Jones and Mr. Mikel explained that the additional costs were to stub out the utilities for easier connections in the future. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the change order as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner opened the bids for the 2006 GMC Envoy. The following bids were received:

- Jeff Arndt: \$2,705.00
- Jeff Clark: \$2,101.00
- Tracy Swihart: \$2,501.00
- Tim Kulczar: \$3,100.00
- Monty Dunning: \$2,700.00
- Chloe Hundt: \$3,500.00

Mr. Daily made a motion to accept the bid from Ms. Hundt, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner then presented Ordinance 2021-7 regarding tax abatement for the 1155 N. Center Street property. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wagner then discussed the process for annexing the IMPA solar park with the Council, and the Council directed him to schedule the initial meetings in April. Mr. Wagner asked the Council if they would wait to take action on Resolution 2021-5, honoring Kelsey Lawmaster; Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-5, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Weldy submitted his report and informed the Council that the former Bi-County building had been demolished. He also told them that Digger Specialties had acquired the former Brown property and would be looking to be annexed in the near future.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Stoneburner submitted his report and told the Council that he was considering expanding the department's territory to match the new annexations. He also presented quotes for the 331 storage building. The Council discussed the quotes and Mr. Daily made a motion to award the project to Arnold Lumber and Delinger Concrete as quoted, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Mikel that the Department would be examining the water and sewer lines on Jackson street soon. He also told the Council that the water filter that failed could be

repaired at an estimated cost of approximately \$125,000 and hopefully remain in service for another fifteen years.

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

Chief Neher had no new information to report on behalf of the Fire Department.

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

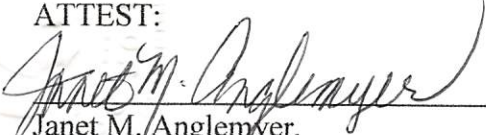
Mr. Cunningham had no new information to report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.


Mr. Main told the Council that the Park Board had decided to remove the old Shadyside Park restrooms, but that the other park restrooms would be opening that week. He also informed the Council that the quotes for painting pickleball lines on the tennis courts came back at \$15,000, much higher than expected. Mr. Main described a recent meeting for the Yellow River kayak project, noting that construction would begin in the summer but that a number of trees would be removed. Mr. Weldy reminded the Council that the Town had committed to hauling dirt for the project as part of a local match.

Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Daily made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:


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


James Leeper, President

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
1101 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
U.S.A.
TEL: 773-936-5000
FAX: 773-936-5001
WWW.CHICAGO.EDU

