



Town Council of the Town of North Judson
Regular Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024 – 6:30 PM

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street, North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Rowe, Council Vice President Brown, Councilmember Banks and Lewandowski, Town Manager Leszek and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe present as well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the agenda. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on July 15th, 2024. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve those Minutes. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Special Council Meeting on July 31st, 2024. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve those Minutes. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Old Business:

2025 Budget – Form 1 Discussion

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe started out by mentioning that Councilmembers have received the most updated Budget Form 1's, financials, and that he has not added the figures for Council insurance appropriations yet as he was still going over the numbers for projected costs. He was going to discuss the matter with Baker Tilly to work on an accurate projection of the Councils yearly rate, and that he would get a figure for them by the end of the week. Rowe stated that they were on schedule for the first meeting in September to hold their Public Hearing and present the First Reading of the budget resolution; the Council will then carry out the Second Reading & Adoption of the 2025 Budget Resolution at the second meeting in September.

DNR – LWCF Park Improvements Project Update

Town Manager Leszek stated that the majority of the playground equipment had been installed. He mentioned that we are still waiting for the bridge to be put into place because the bridge that was sent (16') was the wrong size; the correct bridge (24') has been ordered. Leszek stated that the contractors were going

to start the Poured-in-Place surfacing project this week, weather permitting, while they wait on the bridge and pavilion to arrive. He also mentioned that the trail excavating was going well and that they were about 40% completed. Leszek stated that they were hoping for completion by the end of September. Council President Rowe asked if the trail was going to be gravel. Leszek explained that the trail will be gravel with an agent that hardens and compacts the surface for the gravel to stay in place. He stated that they're mostly concerned with making sure children stay off the equipment until the park is officially opened, Lewandowski and Chaja have already made Facebook posts asking for citizens to remain off the equipment while the park is still under construction. Council President Rowe inquired why there wasn't a snow fence placed around the project area to which Leszek stated that it was not included in the scope of the project. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe wanted to mention that he was able to get the picnic tables ordered for the pavilion. He stated that he shared the confirmation information with Mark Rippey as well. He explained that it would take about four weeks for the tables to arrive.

New Business

Graham Max – North Judson Little League: Fall Ball

Max stated they had a continuation of their baseball season with a couple teams wanting to use the fields for Fall Ball. One of the teams is a combination of girls from North Judson and Knox since all the other teams were full and the girls still wanted to be involved in the season. He stated that the leagues are based out of Winamac and that all of the games would be played in Winamac's Town Park. Max explained that they will be extending their insurance in order to cover the extra team since not all of the girls were on the original roster. He continued to explain that he had teams from the Knox Co-Ed Softball League reach out to him to see if the North Judson League would be interested in hosting. He explained that these teams have been looking to someplace else to host their games. Max had spoken with their League Board, and they would be discussing the idea during their board meeting the following week. Max wanted to discuss the idea with the Council and the Park Board to see if they would be opposed to the idea. Max explained that their board would like to use the fields all year round with spring, summer and fall leagues. Council President Rowe asked what the benefits would be if they did host everyone. Max explained that it would bring more visitors from outside of Town to not only our parks but our local businesses as well. He also explained that they would host games two nights a week, and they were planning on hosting games on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Council President Rowe also asked which fields they were planning on using. Max answered that they were hoping to be able to use the main field as well as the hidden baseball field. Rowe mentioned that they used to host a men's league at the hidden ball field. Max mentioned that no one has a field large enough to host a men's league and that they wanted to get the hidden ball field up and going in order to begin starting a league.

Rowe wanted to know how the insurance coverage would be secured. Max explained that their insurance is covered over a six-month period and that they would have to pay a certain amount for each team, that it would not be much different than how the insurance covers during their summer league. Max stated that his board members would be willing to take on the leagues, but they did not want to go ahead without discussing the opportunity with the Town/Park Board. Rowe stated that he could see a lot of the positives the leagues could bring but he wanted to know what some of the down sides would be. Max stated that it would be more upkeep on the fields, but it would actually be a positive thing since it would mean the fields would be maintained on a regular basis. Max explained that it is a very good program for the kids to be involved in and he believed that they could take on the challenge to get more kids involved for all age groups.

Recognition of Guest

Donna Henry was present on behalf of the Mint Festival Committee. She stated that the Committee would be having a meeting at 6:30 on August 22nd at the North Judson – Wayne Township Public Library. She explained that it would be a shorter meeting since the Committee was planning to start sending out Certificates of Appreciation to everyone that sponsored the 2024 Mint Festival.

Department /Representative Reports

Clerk-Treasurer - Andrew Rowe

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the following:

P.O. 2627 to Troyer Group for Bidding & Construction Administration, Invoice 58753, in the amount of \$1,015.00.

P.O. 2629 to Kirby Built for ABM 1215-4' Square Surface Mount Table (4) and ABM 1230-4' Square Table ADA Accessible, Shipping Costs, Invoice #SOKSA13634, in the amount of \$8,734.01.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following:

P.O. 2627 to Troyer Group for Bidding & Construction Administration, Invoice 58753, in the amount of \$1,015.00.

P.O. 2629 to Kirby Built for ABM 1215-4' Square Surface Mount Table (4) and ABM 1230-4' Square Table ADA Accessible, Shipping Costs, Invoice #SOKSA13634, in the amount of \$8,734.01.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

School Board – Doug Wilde

Nothing Presented.

Building Inspector– Nick Radtke

Nothing presented.

Code Enforcement – Deputy Derek Russell

Deputy Russell stated that two vehicles without plates have been removed from Third Street and that the owner was working on moving two more this coming weekend. Russell explained that they had a house on Sycamore Street will be removing their pigeons and the coops associated with them and another house on State Street will be working on getting rid of their chickens. He also stated that the house on Keller would be cutting their brushes out of the neighbor's fence. Council President asked if anyone had taken a look at a house on Talmer Avenue that had rubbish in the front of it. Russell stated that he had not seen it, but he would drive by later on in his shift. Council Vice President Brown asked how long owners have to remove vehicles that are not plated. Russell answered that he gives them a week to get the vehicles taken care of. Donna Henry asked what the ordinance required for citizens to put items out to be picked up or whether they can be picked up by the trash company. Rowe stated that it was the resident's responsibility to call Waste Management and schedule a pickup for larger items and if the items do not get picked up then it would fall under the rubbish ordinance. Brown wanted to discuss a home on Garden Street. He believes that whoever was living there has moved out and no one has been taking care of the property. He wanted to make sure that the deputies were aware of the property. Leszek stated that if any of the deputy marshals

were having trouble contacting the owners of the properties then they can contact the Town Hall who could assist in finding contact information.

Unsafe Hearing

Nothing Presented.

BZA/Planning Commission

Nothing Presented.

Redevelopment Commission

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe stated that he would be scheduling a meeting on August 19th with a tentative time of 6 p.m. that evening. He also mentioned that Commissioner Felchuk would be back in person for the meeting.

Park Board – Nick Radtke

Nothing Presented.

Police Department – Deputy Derek Russell

Deputy Derek Russell stated that the Durango would be going into the shop on Wednesday to have someone look at the starting issues the vehicle had been having. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe stated that they also received a recall on the Durango that would also need to be checked out while in the shop. Russell informed the Council that the Tesla would be going to Collison Auto in order to get the windshield repaired. He also stated that the Police Department had been adding some more patrols around the park area to make sure people are not messing with the construction progress. Russell stated that the radar trailer had finally been fixed and would be placed within the following days. He also mentioned that they were currently testing out the bodycams from Axon and that they had no complaints so far.

Town Manager Leszek presented the following:

P.O. 2618 to Ken & Tammy's Collision Auto for repairs on 2022 Durango Deer Collision, Invoice 4060, in the amount of \$7,255.45.

P.O. 2619 to ILEA for Tier 1 Basic Course for B. Menke, Invoice 2024-60, in the amount of \$1,035.00.

P.O. 2628 to Brothers-in-Arms for 5/11 Pants, Duty Ammo, Radio Holster, TLR1 Flashlights, in the amount of \$1,096.73.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following:

P.O. 2618 to Ken & Tammy's Collision Auto for repairs on 2022 Durango Deer Collision, Invoice 4060, in the amount of \$7,255.45.

P.O. 2628 to Brothers-in-Arms for 5-11 Pants (3), Boyes Duty Ammo (20), Radio Holster (1), TLR1 Flashlights (3), Invoice #NJPD, in the amount of \$1,096.73.

Councilmember Lewandowski seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Council President Rowe stated that they did not pay for the course in the past for any officer that the Town sent to the Police Academy and that he was not sure why we had a P.O. to pay for Menke's courses. Town Manager Leszek stated that Fisher was supposed to look into and that he would follow up with her before

they paid for anything. P.O. 2619 to ILEA for Tier 1 Basic Course for B. Menke, Invoice 2024-60, in the amount of \$1,035.00 was not approved by the Council.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Todd Jackson

Fire Chief Jackson stated that the Department had eighteen calls with 4 being car accidents, ten medical assists, one brush fire and one transformer fire. He mentioned that they brought on another member to their department by the name of Kathleen Durkin. She would be starting her classes for Firefighter 1 and 2 the following days. This would be a six-month course held two days a week in Marshall County. He informed everyone that there is now one spot remaining in the department.

Utility Department – Utility Supervisor Kimberly Kapp

Utility Supervisor Kapp stated they also had a new employee start recently; she had been working on training her on their daily tasks. Kapp informed everyone that they had busy picking up brush around Town and getting all of the Town's properties mowed. She stated that they had been behind due to the storms and being short staffed. Kapp stated that she was able to spray mosquitos since the weather conditions were up to protocol. Council President Rowe asked who all was licensed to spray for mosquitos. Kapp explained that she was currently the only one able to spray mosquitos and that Utility Employee Butler needed to pass his state required exams before he would be able to spray.

Kapp presented the following:

P.O. 2620 to Blue River Technologies for Container Bags (10), 55gal Drum Polymer, Delivery Charge, Invoice 100315-670, in the amount \$7,414.00.

P.O. 2621 to Utility Supply Company for 5/8 Radio Read Water Meters (90), 5/8 x 3/4 Radio Read Water Meters (125), Invoice 1489373 & 1489707, in the amount of \$59,125.00.

P.O. 2622 to Living Waters Company for Annual Calibration and Maintenance of Meters, Injectors Feeds, Water, and Wastewater Plant, Invoice 93214, in the amount of \$2,034.60.

P.O. 2623 to Commonwealth Engineers for Water Loss Audit and Level 1 Validation, Invoice 60172, in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following:

P.O. 2620 to Blue River Technologies for Container Bags (10), 55gal Drum Polymer, Delivery Charge, Invoice 100315-670, in the amount \$7,414.00.

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P.O. 2622 to Living Waters Company for Annual Calibration and Maintenance of Meters, Injectors Feeds, Water, and Wastewater Plant, Invoice 93214, in the amount of \$2,034.60.

P.O. 2623 to Commonwealth Engineers for Water Loss Audit and Level 1 Validation, Invoice 60172, in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Council Vice President Brown brought up the idea of hiring out the mowing at Norwayne Field and the Town's Parks for when the Utility Crew is short staffed. Leszek stated that it would have to be a bidding process similar to the mowing of the cemeteries. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe stated that in their Salary Ordinance there is a seasonal employee under the Utility Dept. which is a position that could be utilized in the future. He explained that the person could be hired to assist in maintaining all Town properties, including Parks.

Rowe agreed that there were benefits and drawbacks to both options and that they would have to see what the better option would be financially. Council President also brought of the idea of offering the employees overtime to work eight hours on a Saturday in order to keep the Parks up as well. Kapp stated that she would offer the idea up to the crew to see what their thoughts would be.

Town Manager – Joe Leszek

Town Manager Leszek stated 2024 CCMG project will be starting end of September to Mid-October to get started crack sealing. He was concerned that it would be too late in the season to be starting that project, but he was reassured that they would be able to seal the roads as long as the asphalt was above 25 degrees. Leszek confirmed that all of the paperwork for the 2025 CCMG had been submitted to INDOT and that they were in a holding pattern as they wait to see if they were rewarded the grant. He stated that he had been in touch with sign contractors to try and see how much it would cost to get an LED information sign installed at Norwayne Field. He explained that he was waiting on quotes for a 2'x7'x4' sign and that could be anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Leszek stated that once he received the official quotes, he would bring them before the Council. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe asked if they wanted to include a cobblestone base around the sign to match the rest of the park. Leszek stated that the Town would have to hire their own masonry worker to install the cobblestone around the metal posts. He wanted to mention that he has also been in contact with a company called Vercota to discuss things like new security cameras and auto locks to help increase the security at Town properties. He explained that they would come in and installed all of the cameras around the park and that all of the footage would be cloud based with a 10-year warranty. The cost would be about \$1,000 per camera. He would be looking into other companies as well, but he wanted to give the Council an idea of what kind of prices they would be looking at. Leszek mentioned that White's Fencing would be in Town to work on Highland's eastside fence. Leszek stated that the Utility Crew had been out there the previous week working on removing stumps for the fence to go in. He also wanted to remind everyone that the next Maker's Market would be Friday, August 16th with Movies in the Park to follow shortly after. He confirmed that the movie being presented would be "Little Giants" to celebrate the start of the school's football season.

Leszek presented the following:

P.O. 2624 to Gary & Sons for Mowing of Highland & Pioneer Cemetery, in the amount of \$2,000.00

P.O. 2625 to Fleis & Vanderbrink for Park Sidewalk DES 200 3029, Invoice 70389, in the amount of \$990.00.

P.O. 2626 to White's Fencing for Material for East side of Highland Cemetery Fence, Invoice 240718-1, in the amount of \$6,825.00.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve the following:

P.O. 2624 to Gary & Sons for Mowing of Highland & Pioneer Cemetery, in the amount of \$2,000.00

P.O. 2625 to Fleis & Vanderbrink for Park Sidewalk DES 200 3029, Invoice 70389, in the amount of \$990.00.

P.O. 2626 to White's Fencing for Material for East side of Highland Cemetery Fence, Invoice 240718-1, in the amount of \$6,825.00.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Leszek stated that they had a meeting earlier in the day with James Young and Pastor Dan Speckhard. The pastors are wanting to see if their congregations can get involved and help the Town. The meeting was to help them get an idea of how they could help the Town whether it was monetary donations or in-kind labor.

Leszek stated that though the monetary donations were always appreciated, the in-kind may actually help the most with the projects they've been wanting to do. Young and Speckhard stated that they could mobilize their congregations and have about a hundred people to help paint buildings and other areas the Town would like to have done. Council President stated that they could help with Fall Clean-Up or even start up Fun Day at the Park again. Speckhard informed Leszek that he would like to get the Lutheran Church and School to be more involved with the Fire and Police Department and even help with the Downtown Beautification. Leszek stated that they had a lot of good ideas and that they were excited to be able to help our community.

Legal Updates – Town Attorney Justin Schramm

Nothing Presented.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by the Council:

Councilmember Banks wanted to ask about the Tolson container and what had been decided about it. Council President confirmed that the container was not there anymore. Leszek stated that he had not been in to make any formal requests. Banks mentioned that he had called her house stating that the container had been taken care of; Rowe and Leszek confirmed that they had not heard from him since the last time he was at a Council Meeting.

Payment of Claims:

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to pay Payment of Claims in the amount of \$345,566.79. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

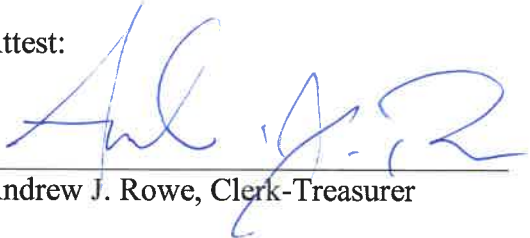
Council Vice President Brown made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Lewandowski seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.



John Rowe, Council President

Attest:



Andrew J. Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, August 19th, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.