**North Liberty Town Council Minutes – October 16, 2023**

The regular meeting of the North Liberty Town Council was held at the North Liberty Community Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Will Groves, Jr. gave the Invocation. President Randy Lemert called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Town Council Members: Randy Lemert, Tom England, Will Groves, Jr., Joe Reed, Jr., Gerry Brown, Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin, Town Marshal Matt Wilber, Utilities Manager Skip Davidson, Deputy Clerk Jackie James, and Clerk-Treasurer Vicki Kitchen, were in attendance. There were two citizens in attendance and multiple contractors in attendance. The sign-in sheet is on file with the minutes.

The consent agenda was presented for approval. Joe Reed made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Town Council Minutes for October 2, 2023, Payroll Docket #20, and the vouchers as presented. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Skip Davidson gave a brief utility update before he had to depart for class. Skip offered his comment on the sanitary sewer extension and backflow prevention. He reported the Town is flushing hydrants. The spray pad is closed for the season. The Town Park still needs to be winterized. A copy of his written report is filed with the minutes.

Ryan Hovin and Elizabeth Hylton introduced themselves and gave a brief background on Fourway Computers and Internet services. Randy Lemert gave them an overview on the broadband in North Liberty.

Nancy Klopfenstein inquired about having electric golf carts on the Town of North Liberty trails. The golf carts are not allowed on the trails. There is also a golf cart ordinance for having golf carts on Town streets.

The 2024 budget and the 2024 Assessed Growth Levy were discussed. Joe Reed made a motion to approve Budget Ordinance #2023-06 and the Levy Grown Appeal for 2024 Budget for the General Fund in the amount of $74,526. Tom England seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Town Marshal Matt Wilber provided The Meadows has a new manager. He has introduced himself to the new manager.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the sludge or trash bids, Tom England made a motion to recommend Borden for the trash bids and biosolid. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. Will Groves had several discussion points. The clerk-treasurer will do an additional spreadsheet comparison. Republic put the sludge on the trash rates. There was discussion regarding transferring from the trash to the wastewater. Vicki Kitchen wants to check with the State Board of Accounts. There was no vote. Tom England rescinded his motion. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. Ordinance #2023-08 was not introduced at this time.

The Town’s water rates were discussed. The Town receives Annual Management Financial Reports from Baker Tilly. The last two years Baker Tilly has recommended rate increases, but the Town has held off as long as they can. Baker Tilly has given a few options for discussion for moving forward with the water rate increase. The oversize of the second water tower, formal pledging CEDIT to reduce the rate impact, ARPA funds, the recommended rate increase or an incremental increase, introducing the rate increase at the October 16th meeting, advertising for the November 6th meeting, for January 1, 2024, effective date, were all discussed. The Town of North Liberty Town Council agreed to oversizing the water tower for growth, to agree using CEDIT, ARPA, and other funds to minimize the rate increase, incremental rate increases on an annual basis for three years. Randy Lemert introduced Water Rate Ordinance # 2023-07 by title.

Tom England and Joe Reed will be meeting regarding Town properties and zoning.

Vicki Kitchen requested approval to have DLZ start working on engineering for a 2024 Community Crossing Application. DLZ already has two blocks that were left off an application due to funding. The blocks included are the 300 block of S. Reed, 300 block of S. Jefferson, Wabash Avenue, and the 100 blocks of E. Rupel and W. Rupel. Joe Reed made the motion to approval DLZ to start the engineering of the 2024 Community Crossing Application. Will Groves seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0. MACOG will be in Town to do the ITAP PASER (road condition inventory) at no charge.

In the town council meeting packet were Stellar Trail workorders 2 – 5 for approval. The work orders were for material quantities, mobilization a second time, and misc. items. Will Groves made a motion to approve workorders 2 – 5. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion carried 5/0.

Randy Lemert gave an update on the Potato Creek Utilities regarding Abonmarche and Indiana Finance Authority.

The Baker Tilly Water and Wastewater Agreements for the Potato Creek Utilities were sent out in the council packet. Joe Reed made a motion to approve. Tom England seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Water Ordinance #2023-09 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND EQUIPPING BY THE TOWN OF NORTH LIBERTY, INDIANA, OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO THE TOWN’S WATERWORKS, THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS THEREOF, THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS, AND THE COLLECTION, SEGREAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES OF SUCH WATERWORKS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS was sent out in the meeting packet. Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin explained the process of introducing and waive multiple readings of the Ordinance. Tom England made a motion to suspend the rules and pass on first reading Ordinance #2023-09. Will Groves seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Sewer Ordinance #2023-10 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND EQUIPPING THE TOWN OF NORTH LIBERTY, INDIANA OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSION TO THE TOWN’S SEWAGE WORKS, THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS THEREOF, THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS, AND THE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES OF SUCH SEWAGE WORKS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS was sent out in the meeting packet. Will Groves made a motion to suspend the rules and pass on first reading Ordinance #2023-10. Joe Reed seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Gerry Brown reported the Tree Board inventory has stopped due to the leaves falling. The northeast quadrant is complete. The Town has a lot of Sugar Maples.

Information items on the agenda were the groundbreaking for the lodge at Potato Creek State Park on October 19 at 2 P.M. and the special meeting for October 30, 2023, to open utility bids for Potato Creek for contracts 2, 3, 5, and 6.

With no further business before the North Liberty Town Council, Tom England made a motion to adjourn at 6:54 P.M. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Signed:

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Attest:

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Vicki L. Kitchen, Clerk-Treasurer

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