**North Liberty Town Council Minutes – January 8, 2024**

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. Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin 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 four citizens in attendance. Chip Thompson from Abonmarche, was in attendance. The sign-in sheet is on file with the minutes.

Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin asked for nominations for 2024 officers of the North Liberty Town Council. Gerry Brown made a motion to keep it the same as last year. Joe Reed seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin asked about Town Council Assignments. There was a brief discussion regarding changing the Police Liaison to Joe Reed and adding Gerry Brown to the Solid Waste Board of Directors. Joe Reed made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-01 for the 2024 Town Council Assignments. Gerry Brown seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin turned the meeting over to Town Council President Randy Lemert.

The consent agenda was presented for approval. Joe Reed made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Town Council Minutes for December 4, 2023, and December 27, 2023, Fund Transfer Resolution #2023-20 Permanent Fund Transfer from 2202 LRS and 2201/2203 MVH to Community Crossing out of the 2023 budget, Fund Transfer Resolution #2023-21, and the vouchers as presented. Tom England seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Josh Montemayor, owner of the Wabash Tavern wants to reopen the bar. The zoning has changed from a Legal Non-Conforming use back to Residential. He stated he had been open in February 2023 as a restaurant. Marcel Lebbin advised him to check with St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission on a variance or rezoning. He asked a few questions and Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin told him he could not offer him legal advice. Josh Montemayor is going to work directly with Tom England.

Sara Williams was in attendance on behalf of the North Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tom McCormick spoke to the North Liberty Town Council regarding his filing for St. Joseph County Commissioner District 3.

Town Marshal Matt Wilber distributed his December Police Report.

Utilities Manager Skip Davidson report will be distributed at the second meeting in January after outside lab results are received.

The Conflict-of-Interest forms were distributed to the town council for their review.

Vicki Kitchen and Joe Reed had discussed prior to the town council meeting about increasing Shirley Stoneburner’s wages from $10 an hour to $12 for cleaning the North Liberty Community Building. She is reliable, does a great job, and had to clean up some disgusting messes after rentals. A brief discussion followed. Gerry Brown made a motion to increase Shirley Stoneburner’s hourly rate to $12 per hour for cleaning of the North Liberty Community Building. Joe Reed seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Chip Thompson and Randy Lemert updated everyone on the progress of the Potato Creek State Park Utilities. The Town closed on funding on December 29, 2023. The contractors were all notified. The contracts and documentation are being worked on. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled with the contractors. The Town and Baker Tilly have been working on a formal utility rates agreement with the DNR.

The encumbrances from the 2023 budget into the 2024 were sent out in the town council packet. Will Groves, Jr. made a motion to approve the 2023 encumbrances. Joe Reed seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

The Town has received complaints about vehicles parking and blocking alleys in Town. The parking and blocking of alleys will be included in the February 2024 Newsletter in the utility bills.

Jerry Hardman’s building at 108 W. Harrison was discussed. He can’t make the repairs. The roof has fallen in since the last meeting. The Town will do a title search on the property and try to get a demolition quote to determine if the demolition project will require bids or quotes.

404 E Rupel was briefly discussed.

Tom England and Joe Reed will have an update on Town Center Zoning for the next meeting. They will be meeting with the North Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce.

Will Groves brought up lights on the trails. The Park Board is looking at a grant with NIPSCO this spring.

With no further business before the North Liberty Town Council, Tom England made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 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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