**North Liberty Town Council Minutes – September 18, 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., and Gerry Brown, Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin, Town Marshal Matt Wilber, and Clerk-Treasurer Vicki Kitchen were in attendance. Utilities Manager Skip Davidson was not in attendance. Chip Thompson from Abonmarche was in attendance. There were three citizens in attendance. There was no representation from the press.

The consent agenda was presented for approval. Will Groves, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Town Council Minutes for September 5, 2023, Payroll Docket #18, Tree Board Minutes for August 31, 2023, Tree Inventory Seminar on September 9, 2023, and the vouchers as presented. Joe Reed, Jr., seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Gene Knowlton inquired about the status of the sidewalk and the condition of the property at 108 E. Center St. Discussion followed. Will Groves, Jr. stated the Town was not awarded 2023 Community Crossing grant money. Vicki Kitchen stated the Town would apply in 2024.

Greg Wilk reported that his residence is experiencing obnoxious odor, noise, and light issues, in addition to the tire shreds and dust in the air and on the highway. Tom England will check with Liberty Tire and contact Greg Wilk.

Lonnie Jimerson stated he would like to enclose the pavilion at 305 S. State for additional storage for the pizza business he is going to reopen. He is going to employ the three employees that were trained by Momo’s Pizza. The Town informed him he would have to submit a site plan for the 20X30 pavilion that is now a temporary structure.

Vicki Kitchen gave an overview on the 2024 budget preparation. Baker Tilly reviewed the budget to verify the Town would receive its maximum levy. Baker Tilly also is completing an excessive levy appeal of $74,526. Randy Lemert opened the 2024 public hearing for comments, questions, or concerns. There were no comments. Randy Lemert closed the public hearing.

Town Marshal Matt Wilber will email the August report. Town Marshal Wilber updated the town council on the 2023 police training.

Utilities Manager Skip Davidson provided his August written report, prior to the meeting.

Chip Thompson gave an update on Potato Creek State Park Utilities. The pre-bid contractor meeting was well attended, and addendums will be issued tomorrow. Contracts 2, 3, 5, and 6 will need to be opened on October 30th for the closing for Indiana Finance Authority. A special meeting will be scheduled. There is a ninety day hold on the bids so closing can be scheduled for the closing.

Tom England opened for discussion extending south of the Town Center Zoning possibly out to the bowling alley. Discussion followed regarding the different directions for zoning with the lodge coming to Potato Creek State Park. Tom England and Joe Reed are going to meet to discuss and bring items back to the town council.

Town Attorney Marcel Lebbin gave an update on the broadband with St. Joseph County. Brightspeed has sent numerous emails regarding permitting for broadband. 85% of the permits are for pole installation and 15% is underground. A lengthy discussion followed.

Tom England stated the Area Plan Commission was going to have a text amendment to prohibit Smoke Vape Shops in our Town Center public hearing tomorrow. A brief discussion followed.

Gerry Brown gave an update on the tree workshop on September 7, 2023, put on by the DNR.

Trick or Treat times were discussed. Gerry Brown made a motion for Trick or Treat to be on Halloween from 5-7 pm. Joe Reed seconded the motion. All voted to approve. Motion passed 5/0.

Information items on the agenda were the bid opening for trash bids and utility bids for contract 1 and 4 will be Octoer 2, 2023. October 16, 2023, will be the 2024 budget adoption. October 30, 2023, will be the utility bid openings for Potato Creek for contracts 2, 3, 5, and 6. Twelve Improvement Location Permits for new single family homes have been issued so far in 2023.

With no further business before the North Liberty Town Council, Gerry Brown made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 P.M. Tom England 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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