

TOWN OF SILVER LAKE
PUBLIC/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
SILVER LAKE TOWN HALL
7:00PM

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hugh Murfin, Nichole Taylor, Gloria (Jean) Weller, Tonya Conley

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal, John Conley

TOWN ATTORNEY

C. Austin Rovenstine

GUEST: Vanessa Yentes spoke to the council about selling the town property on Shutt Avenue versus using it for boater parking. She felt that since there was a gravel lot for parking a second one was not needed and said the town would not have to pay the property taxes. Tonya told her that the gravel parking is not a town lot, and the town does not pay property taxes. The town does pay a ditch assessment. Nichole told her the parking she is speaking of is Bowman's Landing and it is a \$5.00 fee to park there. Vanessa was also concerned that the rocks would be thrown by children in that area, she said that children have done that before and have broken windows that were newly replaced at another property. **Melissa Castor** agreed with the rock throwing comment and said it has happened. Vanessa informed the council that she has had a survey done and would send the town information when paperwork is received. The survey stakes show they own more property than she realized. Tonya asked the council what they would like to do, and she let them know that money hasn't been spent on anything, so the town isn't out money to date. Jean said that she wants the boat parking and doesn't want to sell the property, Nichole agreed with Jean. Vanessa said she thought that would be the answer. Joey told Vanessa that he and Tonya had spoke about putting up fencing if the council didn't want to sell. Vanessa said that she and her husband spoke about putting up a fence, and she knows there is probably rules to that. Tonya told her that the only thing the town requires is the "good side" faces the neighbor. Tonya said that she understands Vanessa's concerns and the town could install the fencing but there is a lot that needs to be done before the property would be completed for the boater parking, so it isn't going to be throwing gravel down and it is done.

Fred Shepherd changed the subject and became heated when he spoke about the criminal activity at the lake. He made mention of drug use, illegal burning, and other unseemly activities. John Conley, Silver Lake Fire Chief said that when there is an

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illegal burn, 911 must be called to dispatch the fire department. He also said if they go down on more than one occasion the department involves IDEM and then they will have to deal with more than mad neighbors. Nichole agreed with John and said that when something happens it needs to be reported. After much exchange among the citizen present Hugh stated that the council will investigate the matter and do what can be done to take care of the issues.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Nichole made first motion to accept the meeting minutes as written, Jean seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Advanced Demolition Services invoice \$39,908.30 and Priority Project Resources invoice \$22,000.00** were approved with Nichole making first motion, Jean seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion passed. This will be the second draw from the OCRA grant for Advanced and the town will pay for the grant writing services for PPR.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Roosevelt St. Tree Removal Request-** Jerry Wagner had spoken with Tonya and asked if the town would remove the rest of the tree that broke during a storm in 2018. Tonya said she meant to put it on last months agenda but forgot. She told the council that she had spoken with the attorneys, and they said that it wouldn't make a difference in the case if it was removed. Joey showed the council photos of where the tree is standing and told them it was not a town tree. He said that Jerry should get a survey of his property done and then come back to the town after that.
- b) **Ordinance 09-01-22 ARPA Use Plan Amendment** was approved with Jean making the first motion, Nichole seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion passed. The amendment added an inversion valve at the water plant to the plan. Joey explained what the inversion valve is for and how it will be replaced.
- c) **Porch replacement at 405 N Jefferson St.-** Alvin and Connie Cook petitioned the council for a letter giving their opinion in favor of the porch replacement. The Cooks are petitioning the Area Plan Commission for a

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variance to allow them to replace the porch even though it doesn't meet the set back requirements. The council reviewed the documents submitted and after discussion agreed that the replacement would be an added benefit to the property. Tonya will write a letter for them to give to the commission.

- d) Park restrooms-** Tonya stated that she has spoken with Joey about keeping the park restrooms unlocked unless another incident occurs. Discussion took place regarding what happened and why it is important for people to not abuse the privilege of having it, keeping them clean and not doing damage to where the town is forced to lock them.
- e) 2023 Raises** was tabled until another meeting.
- f) Landscaping quote** from **Schue's Landscaping Inc.** totaling **\$25,300.00** was submitted for council approval. Jean asked if more quotes were going to be received and Joey explained that he had reached out to two other businesses but neither turned in a quote. Schue's quote is for improvements at the town hall, \$15,300.00. This will include sidewalk upgrades, sidewalk removal, town sign improvements, topsoil and seeding. The second part of the quote is for improvements at Memory Park for \$10,000.00 and includes sidewalks, pond repair, sign repair and removal of bushes and plants. Nichole made first motion to accept the quote, Jean seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

- a) Tori Fehr** spoke to the council about writing a letter about availability of utilities to her property. She also asked if a portion of the letter could include the town annexing her property. Tonya told her that she would need to petition the council for annexation so she would not put anything in the letter regarding annexation. Tori asked if it could be stated that the town would accept the annexation if petitioned. Austin Rovenstine, Town Attorney told her no, due to the process of annexation and the council could not state how they would vote prior to going through the steps of annexation. The council didn't have an issue with Tonya writing a letter for the water/sewer utility availability. Tonya told Tori should have the letter written either Thursday or Friday for her to pick up.
- b) Chris Prater** called Tonya earlier in the day asking that a letter be written for the rezoning of 108 E. Sycamore St. Tonya explained that the Praters are asking the BZA to rezone the property from public use to residential. The original plan

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was to open the church for services but due to parking limitations it was denied. The Praters were asking the council for a letter of support for the rezoning. All council unanimously agreed that they didn't have concerns or issues with the rezoning. Tonya will write a letter stating the council's opinion for them to take to the BZA.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

a) Jason McGlennen, Marshal Dept.:

- Gave the Council the departments call history since last meeting

b) Joey McNeal, Town/Utilities Dept.:

- Speed signs will be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- Toolcat needs repair, and it was towed to Bobcat of Warsaw. The injector pump has a hole in it and the repair will be costly. They may need to rent equipment if anything arises while the toolcat is being repaired. The toolcat will be out of service for 3 to 4 weeks.
- Joey would like to take vacation time from October 10th-15th. Tonya told the council anything over a three-day vacation requires council approval. All council members approved.

c) John Conley, Fire Dept.:

- 13 runs since last meeting
- County Council generously paid for the departments radios but after the package was signed for it was noticed that 10 chargers, 1 microphone and 2 batteries were missing. When the company where the radios were purchased from was called, they informed John that he signed for the package and there was nothing they could do. He did notify the county council about the issue.
- Lindsey Brouyette spoke about a fundraiser on Saturday, September 24th from 3:30pm to 7:00pm. The fundraiser includes a tenderloin dinner and cruise-in. She said to bring older or newer trucks, cars, or motorcycles to the fundraiser.

VIII. CLAIM DOCKET/PAYROLL DOCKETS:

\$261428.10 in claims is to be paid. Tonya explained that the OCRA grant proceeds were deposited into the sewer bank account and she had to write a check to transfer

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it to the corporate bank account. Jean made first motion to accept the docket, Nichole seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

\$12087.99 payroll docket for 8/17/22 and **\$15737.83 payroll docket for 9/1/22** were approved with Nichole making first motion, Jean seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried. Tonya explained that the payroll dockets are included in the claim docket, but SBOA wanted them approved at the meetings as well.

IX. LETTERS:

Leak letters were received from two town residents. The adjustments were explained and the amount they qualify for are as follows:

Huffman- water adjustment **\$357.65** and sewer adjustment **\$0.00**

Ferverda-water adjustment **\$0.00** and sewer adjustment **\$53.25**

Nichole gave first motion to adjust all accounts as calculated, Jean seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

X. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a) **2023 Budget Public Hearing** is scheduled for October 12, 2022, at the Town Hall beginning at 7:00pm.
- b) **Next regular meeting** is scheduled for October 12, 2022, immediately following the Budget Public Hearing at the Silver Lake Town Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting ended at 8:00pm with Nichole making first motion to adjourn, Jean seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

MEDARD MURFIN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

TONYA CONLEY, CLERK-TREASURER