

Town of Silver Lake
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Silver Lake Town Hall
July 10, 2024
7:00pm

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL: All present

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hugh Murfin, Nichole Taylor, Jean Weller, Tonya Conley

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal, John Conley

TOWN ATTORNEY

C. Austin Rovenstine

III. Special Guest: Kristen Rude-KABS

KABS is a county wide bus transportation system that provides transport for citizens to any location in the county. The main office is located in Warsaw with hours M-F 8am-5pm to schedule an appointment. KABS can be used for medical appointments, grocery shopping, work and meeting with a friend. They ask that you call ahead and plan your rides. The cost is \$1-\$3 depending on the milage, if prescheduling is not done in advance an additional \$5 fee is charged for same day rides. If a rider has Medicaid, it is accepted and processed through Verida for transportation charges. Jean asked for phone number to schedule the rides. Kristin gave (574)867-4990 to reach the scheduling department (dispatch).

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- **June 12, 2024, Utility Rates Hearing**
- **June 12, 2024, Regular Meeting**

Nichole made the first motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Jean made the second motion. Hugh all in favor, meeting minutes for June 12, 2024 were approved.

V. Old Business

- ***1008 N Roosevelt St – Order to Demolish***

Austin gave a recap as to the demolition order that was previously given to the owner/s of 1008 N Roosevelt and the 30 days given to have it demolished has passed. Austin asked Jason if the property had been demolished and Jason responded that the property has not been demolished. Austin said that based on the interaction or lack thereof, they will not demolish it on their own. He advised the council they had a few options to move forward, get a court order to demolish, give them more time, or make the decision to bid out and the town demolishes the dilapidated structure and lien the property. Joanne Streeter asked if grants were available to help demolish it. Tonya said no, it is a residential property and the town doesn't own the property. Hugh said to put it out for bids. Jean made the first motion; Nichole seconded it and Hugh all in favor. Austin will will prepare notices for bids.

- ***Property Acquisition- Appraisals***

The town is seeking to purchase property by Rambler Park to build a community center. Two appraisals were conducted on the property and the reports have come in. Appraisal #1 was for \$102,000.00, and appraisal #2 was for \$125,000.00. The average and max the town would be allowed to pay is \$113,500.00. Tonya explained that the old school property wasn't a large enough area to build and the town doesn't have enough room there for the county parking requirements. Jean made the first motion to negotiate cost but not exceed the max, Nichole seconded it, and Hugh all in favor. Motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. Peerless Midwest Quote- Well #2 Cleaning

Joey said the last time Well #2 was deep cleaned was 2007. The screen is plugged, making the water flow below capacity and breaking suction, that is what is causing the air bubbles in the water. When Well #1 was cleaned in 2014 it cost around \$10,000.00 but prices have raised since then. The quote from Peerless came in at \$17,260.00. It will be a weeklong process. Nichole made the first motion to accept the quote and move forward with the well cleaning, and Jean made the second motion, Hugh all in favor. Motion carried.

B. 2025 Raises

Tonya is preparing the 2025 budget and asked the council to decide on raises. Jean mentioned that freezing raises this year would be a good idea due to the increase in utility rates that were done. She also stated it would not look good with adopting the capital plan and raising rates so high. She did say a couple of people do deserve raises. Hugh said he would like to give the guys a nice raise, but can't afford much but maybe \$.50. Hugh said Matt deserves a raise and Jean said Tonya needs a raise she only received \$1.25 last time when everyone else was raised \$2.00 or more last year. Tonya said whatever you choose it will not come from the utilities. She explained the fund percentages that everyone receives their pay from and that she would take whatever the raises are from General and MVH and not utilities. She stated the utilities cannot take more coming out and even with increasing rates money has to built up in those funds. Jean said to give \$1.50 for Matt, and Tonya \$2.00, Tonya said no she would not take \$2, it is too much right now. They agreed to \$1.00 for Tonya and she said she would take that. Tonya also told the council that Chris is still owed \$1.00 when he passes his test for the water license, so what they give him will also be included in the fund for raises. Jean asked Chris if he took his test. Chris said no they were told to wait because IDEM was redoing the test. Jean said you need to get that taken, it should have been done a year ago. Chris and Joey stated he didn't even finish until this passed January. Hugh asked \$.50 across the board? Nichole asked if they had to decide tonight? Tonya responded yes, she needs to finish her spreadsheets and start completing the forms on the DLGF website. Nichole said she wasn't sure and said it was not fair for a couple to get it and not the others, after much thought, she agreed for Matt to be raised \$1.50, Tonya raised \$1, and everyone else raised \$.50. Nichole made the first motion, Jean stood with her response as stated before, Hugh broke the tie, siding with Nichole. Hugh made all in favor call, Hugh and Nichole said aye and Jean voted Nay. Motion was passed.

C. October '24 Meeting Date Change

The meeting will change for October due to Tonya having obligations and will not be present for the meeting. She stated they can have the regular meeting as scheduled or change to October 16th. She also stated that either way the Budget Hearing would take place prior to the

opening of the regular meeting. Council agreed to change the meeting to October 16th.

VII. Citizens Comments/Concerns:

- Joanne Streeter who lives on Roosevelt St. is concerned about people speeding and wrong way drivers down her street. She requested the town to put one-way and wrong way signs in and add speed bumps. Joey, doesn't want speed bumps put in but he would go down and look at the signage but he thinks there are some there already. He said he would take care of that if needed. Joanne stated that she had told Town Marshal, Jason McGlennen, about the issue several times and it is still occurring. She also asked about noise ordinance. She said there are motorcycles revving up and bumping music from 10pm-4am. Hugh told her no noise ordinance. Tonya asked if they wanted to revisit the noise ordinance and decibel meters. Hugh said they'd look into the noise ordinance and decibel meters again and revisit it.
- Barb Hudson said she was at a meeting in May 2020 complaining about the hardware property and nothing has been done. She complained about tall grass and weeds, piping and poles on the ground, equipment and vehicles not moving or operational and still setting on the property. Barb showed pictures of the property from previous up to now to the council and gave a copy of the meeting minutes from 2020 to Hugh where he stated he would talk to them and take care of it. Hugh asked Jason if he would like to go with him to speak with Mr. Hoffman again and Jason stated he would. Barb said that she is tired of having to look at it and nothing being done about it and it has gone on far too long.

VIII. Report of Department Heads:

a.) Jason McGlennen, Marshal Dept.:

- Call History
- 2020 charger needs repaired and will be going in to the Dodge dealer.

b.) Joey McNeal, Water Dept.:

- Water leak repair on Elm completed
- Dept. is having sewer issues because of rain

c.) John Conley, Fire Dept.:

- 7 runs
- OSHA standards are changing for volunteer and paid departments. John stated that is going to cost a lot of money to comply, he encouraged the council members and others to go online to the website and comment about the changes. He said that if it passed through and mandated most volunteer departments will cease to exist because of the cost involved and townships and towns cannot afford to pay for a full time department.

IX. Claim Docket: \$138389.94

Jean made the first motion and Nichole seconded it, Hugh all in favor, Claim Docket approved.

X. Leak Letters:

None

XI. Miscellaneous:

Next Regular Meeting August 14, 2024 @ Town Hall, 7:00pm

XII. Adjournment:

Adjournment came at 7:48 pm with Nichole making the first motion, Jean seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

HUGH MURFIN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

TONYA CONLEY, CLERK-TREASURER