



MINUTES

Town of New Palestine

Town Council

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
7:00 PM - Town Hall

The Town Council of the Town of New Palestine was called to order on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Secretary Angela Fahrnow, Council President Bill Niemier, Council Member Brandee Bastin, and Town Council Vice President Clint Bledsoe

Town Manager James Robinson, Police Chief Robert Ehle, Street Commissioner Stephen Pool, and Clerk-Treasurer Yvonne Jonas

ABSENT: Council Member Chris Lytle

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. MINUTES

2.1. Approval of March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Angela Fahrnow moved, seconded by Brandee Bastin, Motion carried.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Angela Fahrnow
SECONDER:	Brandee Bastin
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

3. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

3.1. 2nd reading of Ordinance 030222 Approves Application #2-17-22-1 and 2-17-22-2 (2 petitions filed by TKC Properties - 1st petition requesting replat of Lot 5 in the NP Comm Center and 2nd petition to request addition of Phase 2 to the plat to add lots 8 & 9.) Motion carried with 3 ayes and 1 abstain (Bill Niemier).

Clint Bledsoe moved, seconded by Brandee Bastin, Motion carried.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Clint Bledsoe
SECONDER:	Brandee Bastin
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSTAINED:	Bill Niemier
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

4. OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1. Recommendation from the Plan Commission of Rezoning of Willow Ridge subdivision as an R2 zoning classification. (An Ordinance Changing and Extending the Corporate Boundaries of the Town of New Palestine, Indiana.) This ordinance is considered an annexation and rezone. Attorney Kowalski informed the Council of the process, that the ordinance would need to be read, introduced, and a public hearing would have to be held, and then the consideration would be at the next meeting. Clint Bledsoe stated that there were multiple mistakes in the annexation fiscal plan, and it cannot be used for anything. Attorney Kowalski stated that the fiscal plan was drafted by Krohn and Associates, and the issue will be addressed, then reviewed after being updated.

Clint Bledsoe moved, seconded by Angela Fahrnow, Motion is that the annexation fiscal plan be revised and filed within 14 days of today's date, (4-06-22) and the matter be tabled until May 4.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Clint Bledsoe
SECONDER:	Angela Fahrnow
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

- 4.2. Amending Ordinance #040622 an Ordinance amending Ordinance #010519 Permit Fee Schedule

Clint Bledsoe moved, seconded by Angela Fahrnow, Motion carried on first reading - introduction to increase the improvement location permit fee for single-family, two-family, and multi-family to a cost of \$750, and the technical review committee filing fee will be increased to \$1,000.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Clint Bledsoe
SECONDER:	Angela Fahrnow
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

- 4.3. First Reading of Ordinance #040622B increasing sewer connection fee from \$2,750 to \$3,750

Angela Fahrnow moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, Motion to approve on 1st reading carried with 4 ayes.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Angela Fahrnow
SECONDER:	Clint Bledsoe
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Rick Anderson of Veregy - information regarding solar energy

He spoke about doing guaranteed energy savings projects and spoke of the impact they can have with their solar programs. He provided the council with information on efficiency and upgrades. He said this can also be used as an economic development tool. He feels it will definitely be a positive impact on the Town. They will get utility information from the Town Manager or Clerk-Treasurer, and there is a release form that must be signed. They will do a site survey at no cost.

Angela Fahrnow moved, seconded by Brandee Bastin, Motion to approve the site survey.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Angela Fahrnow
SECONDER:	Brandee Bastin
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Bob Ehle - The police department was awarded a grant for the Bodycam Assistance Program. Officer Whitaker was assigned to that program and we have accepted it. We just need to pay the bill, and we will receive the \$2,800 from the grant.

James Robinson - Denise Ehle, Thomas Smith, Kyle Conner, and Jim Robinson attended continuing education for the WW plant, covering the lab, and we are up to date. A group of volunteers picked up trash and filled a truckload. On April 16 the Town will have an Easter egg hunt and has received donations from Needler's (plastic eggs). We may have some candy donated as well.

He stated that we are meeting with Commonwealth Engineers this Friday at 9:00 a.m. to cover the preliminary engineering report.

Steve Pool - Roundabout is working and the contract is up on May 24. He spoke with the consultant and said he would like to see more numbers. Bill Niemier asked about the boards on the bridge, and Steve told him it was a county bridge, and the responsibility for repairs falls on them. Gary Pool (County Hwy department) has agreed to pay \$15,600 for all materials, and Steve said all we have to pay for is labor to have the boards taken up, disposed of, and new ones put down.

Yvonne Jonas - Update on IRS - Jenny Greiner, the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, spoke about employees who had Covid in the last quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. We used the FFCRA act to pay them. We are eligible per our payroll company, but IRS says we are not. She has spent at least 16 hours on the phone, much of the time on hold. The IRS has been contacted numerous times and every representative says it is not in their scope of work. Jenny and Yvonne have both spent hours upon hours trying to get an IRS representative to provide some type of assistance. Jenny went downtown to the IRS department and got nowhere with this situation. She has a spreadsheet documenting all the time that she has spent on this issue. The IRS is currently saying we owe over \$4,000. Mike Braun and Mike Pence will be contacted. The SBOA gave

us contact information for someone who has never called back or emailed in response. Yvonne said we did exactly what we were supposed to do. Brandee Bastin stated that she used to work for the State Department of Revenue, and sometimes there are direct numbers that can be contacted for assistance. Yvonne also told the council that the annual contract for Keystone software needs to be signed. It's \$6,238.00 for the year.

6.1. Wastewater - Key-Billing Module Auto-Pay

Nyla Staples explained this module to the council, which would allow the wastewater department to access customers' bank accounts (via an ACH pull) which would then send the amount for the monthly sewer fee from their account. Each customer would have to opt into it. Clint Bledsoe questioned the liability that the town would have. There was a discussion about security/hacking. Attorney Kowalski stated that if there were a data breach, the Town would have to notify everyone involved, and may have to provide credit checks services for a certain amount of time. Clint had questions about potential bounces. Nyla said currently and for the past several years, the bank has not charged a fee to the Town for overdrafts. Yvonne stated that they would ask more questions, and this would be a one-time charge (not monthly) to the wastewater department of \$2,000 for the program. This will be addressed again at the next meeting.

6.2. Storm Water Update

Collection event for MS4 at old Covance building in Greenfield on April 30 from 9 - 12. Also on May 7, there will be electronics recycling (minimal fee) and free shredding at Town Hall.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dale Wagner - Wanted to thank Angie Fahrnow for the new website and said it is a great improvement. He spoke about the bike path, and whether that program is being implemented in the new neighborhoods. He suggested it is something to consider.

Laurie Kaiser - Moved from Noblesville and is concerned about the Town having plenty of greenspaces for the mental health of our children. She wants more information as far as future plans for the Town.

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clint Bledsoe stated that the new subdivision has to come in under R2. R1 has a 50-foot setback. The lots would have to be 14,000 square feet, and there wouldn't be as many homes. He pointed out a couple of things on the website that needs to be corrected, and those will be addressed.

Brandee Bastin - Acknowledged the New Palestine High School marching band for qualifying to represent us at Disney World.

9. CLAIMS

9.1. APVs #23719 -23824

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, Angela Fahrnow questioned the Action Collision repair invoice, and Yvonne informed her it was damage from a pipe breaking loose and damaging the truck in 2021. It was finally repaired. Motion to approve.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Bill Niemier
SECONDER:	Clint Bledsoe
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

10. ADJOURN

Angela Fahrnow moved, seconded by Bill Niemier, Motion to adjourn.

RESULT:	Carried
MOVER:	Angela Fahrnow
SECONDER:	Bill Niemier
AYES:	Angela Fahrnow, Bill Niemier, Brandee Bastin, and Clint Bledsoe
ABSENT:	Chris Lytle

Brandee Bastin

Bill Niemier

Angie Fahrnow

Clint Bledsoe

Chris Lytle

Yvonne Jonas, Clerk-Treasurer