



MINUTES

Town of New Palestine
Town Council
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
7:00 PM - Town Hall

The Town Council of the Town of New Palestine was called to order on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council President Bill Niemier, Council Member Brandee Bastin, Council Member Chris Lytle, 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 Secretary Angela Fahrnow

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2. Roll Call
- 1.3. AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

2. MINUTES

- 2.1. Approval of December 7, 2022 Town Council meeting minutes

Clint Bledsoe moved, seconded by Chris Lytle, Motion to Approve 12-07-22 Meeting Minutes

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

3. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

4. OLD BUSINESS

- 4.1. Discussion - Wastewater Treatment Plant - Commonwealth
Al Stong - Spoke about the State Revolving Loan Fund. The preliminary engineering report was accepted, and the targeted closing is March 2024. He met with our Town Manager and would like to start the design in January of 2023, complete the design, bid the project, and meet the closing date in March of 2024. The preliminary design has a budget of \$950,223.

Brandee Bastin moved, seconded by Bill Niemier, Motion carried 4 - 0.

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

4.2. Ordinance 100522D Second Reading

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Chris Lytle, Motion did not carry. Brandee Bastin explained that her employer owns over 5 acres of the 31 acres allocated, plus there is a buyback provision in the contract if this does not work out, so she still has a conflict of interest.

RESULT:	Did Not Carry
MOVER:	Bill Niemier
SECONDER:	Chris Lytle
AYES:	Bill Niemier and Chris Lytle
NAYS:	Clint Bledsoe
ABSTAINED:	Brandee Bastin
ABSENT:	Angela Fahrnow

4.3. Rick Anderson - Veregy

He provided paperwork to the Council along with information regarding the town's utilities. He discussed the increase in Duke's rates (20%), as well as the inflation reduction act, and a rebate check which would be at least 30% or close to \$200,000 that the Town would qualify for, if the contract is approved. The solar panels have a warranty of 25 years. Attorney Kowalski stated that the Indiana Bond Bank can be used in conjunction with the guaranteed savings contract. Council will obtain more information on this and discuss it in the future.

4.4. Discussion - Food Truck Ordinance

Clint Bledsoe discussed putting a timeline in the ordinance. There was a discussion about taking care of the permanent vendors as well. Attorney Kowalski will research with a couple of town council members and address it again at a future town council meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5.1. Presentation - Jody Petro, Barrel Racing Barristas**
She was not present at this meeting.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- 6.1. Police Chief Robert Ehle** - He requested people to be careful the next couple of days due to inclement weather coming in.
- 6.2. Town Manager James Robinson** - He is working on creating a Town Center, and is interested in property just west of the New Palestine Vet's office (36 acres). He's had meetings with consultants, MPO, town managers,

commercial developers, and builders. He spoke of a lake and trails, and a possible amphitheater. He requested permission to get a professional rendering of a town center project. This would allow him to discuss the plans and perhaps get some partnerships.

He also discussed the IT contract with Scott Wells, the Town's IT consultant.

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, Motion to obtain a professional rendering carried with 4 ayes.

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

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, Motion to retain the IT contract with Scott Wells as presented, with a minimal increase.

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

- 6.3. Street Commissioner Stephen Pool - Discussed adoption of 2 resolutions, one adopting an ADA transition plan, and the second resolution adopting a policy regarding Title VI of the 1964 civil rights act, which needs to be posted at Town Hall and on the Town website in order to receive any federal financial aid in the future.

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, Motion carried 4 - 0 to approve Resolution 122122A (ADA Transition Plan), and Resolution 122122 (Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.)

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

- 6.4. Clerk-Treasurer Yvonne Jonas
Update on BAN - May still be able to pay off BAN before the end of the year, but there isn't quite enough in that fund, and we may need to use money from another fund. Town Manager Jim Robinson stated that Steve Reilly has acreage fees coming in for us as well. Yvonne stated that if we don't pay it off in December, it can be paid off in January.

Bill Niemier moved, seconded by Brandee Bastin, Motion carried to pay off the BAN before the end of the year.

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

ABSENT: Angela Fahrnow

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Wernimont - Spoke about Chief Ehle's empathy. He then discussed an article in the Daily Reporter, and suggested that what happened at the meeting tonight, not be put in the paper.

Dale Wagner - Spoke about a text message that occurred during one of the meetings.

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Chris Lytle apologized for being unable to attend in person.

Brandee Bastin spoke about the current environment at Town Hall and hopes everyone will work for the betterment of our community.

- 8.1. Bill Niemer expressed concerns in regard to council member Angela Fahrnow's continued absence. He motioned to censure her, and requested she submit her resignation. Chris Lytle seconded for discussion purposes. Clint Bledsoe stated that she should be present so she can address this situation, and Brandee Bastin felt the same .

Bill Niemer moved, seconded by Chris Lytle (for discussion purposes only - and then changed his vote to Nay.)

RESULT:	DEFEATED.
MOVER:	Bill Niemer
SECONDER:	Chris Lytle
AYES:	Bill Niemer
NAYS:	Brandee Bastin, Clint Bledsoe, Chris Lytle
ABSENT:	Angela Fahrnow

9. CLAIMS

- 9.1. APVs #24657 - 24689

Bill Niemer moved, seconded by Clint Bledsoe, APVs #24657 - 24689 were approved with 4 ayes.

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

10. ADJOURN

Clint Bledsoe moved, seconded by Bill Niemer, Motion to adjourn carried with 4 ayes.

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

Brandee Bastin

Bill Niemier

Angie Fahrnow

Clint Bledsoe

Chris Lytle

Yvonne Jonas, Clerk-Treasurer