

**TOWN OF
DAYTON, INDIANA**

SPECIAL MEETING

SETTLED 1827

INCORPORATED 1970

**Minutes of
August 31, 2022**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.
Audio of this meeting can be found at dayton.in.gov

TOWN COUNCIL:

Jen Manago, Town Board President
Stan Kyger, Town Board Vice President
Ron Koehler, Utility President
Carla Snodgrass, Utility Vice President
Marc Buhrmester, Council Member

CLERK-TREASURER:

Board President Jen Manago called the meeting to order. In attendance were Council Members Carla Snodgrass, Marc Buhrmester, and Ron Koehler. Stan Kyger was absent. Also present were Attorney Alicia Albertson, Town Manager Mark Harlow and Marshal Taylor.

Ordinances

Wards – Alicia explained that all council members can be at-large. Discussion on wards followed. Jen believes that a town of 1600 people doesn't need wards. Carla thinks we need wards. Ron read some meeting minutes from 2014 that described the arguments against wards by the council members at the time. Ron said most residents don't know what ward they're in or who is the council member from that ward. He thinks the top 5 people should win. Jen stated that council members don't just represent their part of town. She described how confused people were when voting at the last election. She had researched other small towns and nearly all were totally at-large. Marc expressed concern that too much power could be concentrated in one area. He thinks the town could run without wards.

Cindy Marsh 749 Shady Lane. She has spoken to at least three different councils on this issue, and never had a strong opinion about it. Someone recently asked her why the council has to dictate that they vote for someone based on where they live, why couldn't they make that decision themselves? If they think it's important to have people from all around town, they can choose their candidates to vote for that way. But that's their choice. She thinks we should just let the people vote.

Jen said she feels strongly that we need to abolish the wards. Ron and Marc agreed.

Meeting Dates – the ordinance now says we meet the first Monday of the month when we actually meet on the second Monday. Jen said that next year Alicia won't be available on Mondays so we need to choose another day. The council decided on the third Tuesday of the month for 2023 monthly meetings.

Meeting Notice – the ordinance currently requires 72 hours notice and will be changed to match the Indiana Open Door Law requirement of 48 hours.

2023 Budget

Fire contract will increase from \$20,500 to \$29,070. They talked to Pam Crum and they have increased costs and our contract hasn't had an increase in a long time. She also mentioned Stoops and Baker Farms as factors in the increase.

Jen asked to increase Community Enrichment to \$10,000 so money is available for community-building events. She thinks a sense of community and pride is important, along with the roads and streets. We don't have to spend it all and it won't increase the budget.

Utility Accounts

An error was made in the setup for commercial accounts when the new meters were installed a few years ago. Due to the misplacement of a decimal point commercial accounts were undercharged. Ron checked with Todd Caldwell at SBOA about if we are required to charge the accounts on which the error was made. The council does not want to make the accounts pay since it was the mistake of a former clerk and nothing the customer did. Todd Caldwell said we don't have to but we need to vote on it and put it in the minutes.

Jen made a motion that we NOT back-charge the commercial accounts for the error made by the previous clerk. Carla seconded. Roll call vote. Marc - yes, Ron - yes, Carla – yes, Jen – yes.

Brick for front walk

The council agreed to get prices on doing the front of town hall walk with the brick used in downtown Lafayette.

Street lights

The council looked at different street light options for the land east of town hall. They discussed having matching brackets mounted on the Dayton Road side of the building. They will get prices for lights and installation.

The walk and lighting would be paid from the ARPA funds.

Pumpkin Patch

The council decided on September 24th between 2 and 6 for Dayton people to come get a pumpkin. They will accept free will donations for flags and banners. They will look for a pumpkin treat of some sort, and maybe apple cider. BF&S are donating \$250 towards that day for a bounce house. The liability of a bounce house was discussed.

Council Comment

Jen read a letter she received from the county and has been turned over to Alicia concerning the house at 304 Dayton Road that the building commissioner claims to wash his hands of it. There is another unsafe structure in town that she didn't get a letter on for some reason. The council speculated as to why that would be.....

Cindy Marsh remembered the endless complaints about the “boat house” and how it took years for the county to get the guy to do something.

Jen Manago adjourned the meeting.

Attest:

Jen Manago, Council President

Minutes prepared by Jen Manago