

**Topeka Town Council**  
**124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana**  
**General Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2020 at 4:00pm**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Ron Troyer called the meeting to order with Council Member Eash, Council Member Folk, Council Member Lambright, Council Member Geigley and Clerk-Treasurer Naomi Miller present.

Also, in attendance was Stewart Bender, Bill Eberhard, Stan Strater, Cyndi Sadewasser, Drew Nordman, Hannah Mishler, Brandon Franklin, Jeremy VanErman with Commonwealth Engineers, Russel Yoder, Kristi Byler, Octavia Yoder with LaGrange County Community Foundation and Jason Boggs.

Council Member Folk moved to accept the minutes from February 10, 2020 General Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Geigley and passed unanimously.

Octavia Yoder from the LaGrange County Community Foundation shared with the council an Executive Summary of the Envision of LaGrange County to create a Comprehensive Plan. The Foundation is asking for a letter from the Topeka Town Council supporting their creation of a Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Folk made a motion to send the letter, Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Council Member Folk moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Geigley and passed unanimously.

The TIF CD totaling \$1,064,238.17 has matured on February 20<sup>th</sup>. To reinvest the money into another CD the rate from Horizon Bank is 1.73, Farmers State Bank is at 1.55 and Interra Credit Union is at 1.73. Currently the CD is being held at Interra Credit Union. Council Member Geigley made a motion to recommend to the RDC a reinvestment of funds, leaving it at Interra for the 1.73%. Council Member Lambright seconded the recommendation and it carried unanimously.

Resolution 2020-1, A Resolution articulating the "sense of the Town Council" regarding its opposition to House Bill 1165, which will prohibit currently lawful practices of municipal utilities from requiring either landlords to co-sign for tenants or for requiring landlords to sign instead of tenants. Council Member Folk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-1. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A wastewater credit totaling \$25.32 is requested for 414 N. Main St. due to a water leak that did not go through the wastewater system according to Water Superintendent Sheline. Council Member Geigley made a motion to issue the credit to the resident with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Council Member Lambright. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Miller let the council know she will be at Clerk-Treasurer school at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

An Internal Control manual was previously emailed to the council for review. An Oversight Committee is recommended to meet during the year to review the internal controls for the town. Committee should consist of the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Manager and one Council Member. Council Member Folk made a motion to accept the internal controls manual as a work in progress for the Oversight Committee, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member Lambright recommended Council Member Geigley to the Oversight Committee. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Town Manager/Fire Chief**

Topeka Auction submitted a site plan asking for a recommendation from the town to the County. Council Member Folk made a motion to issue a positive recommendation, Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There is an Alliance Conference in French Lick, Indiana, Manager Bender and Wastewater Superintendent McDonald are requesting to attend for the 2-day event. The cost for the conference is \$150 each and a room is \$127/night. Council Member Eash made a motion for them to attend this conference. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A quote from Sandhill and JB Water & Sampling was shared with the council to provide a daily visit Monday - Friday to maintain the Water Plant and submit the monthly reports to IDEM until a Water Superintendent is hired. Sandhill quoted at \$975/month and JB Water & Sampling quoted at \$2000 a month. Council Member Folk made a motion at the Town Manager discretion if a Water Superintendent is not hired, to proceed with Sandhill. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



The Water Test Pilot Program has 2 quotes to consider, WesTech and Tonka Water. The pilot unit is available for a two-week pilot study for a fee of \$24,500 from WesTech. Tonka Water offered the same service at a quote of \$24,700. Manager Bender recommends WesTech. Council Member Eash made a motion to accept the quotes and proceed with the test pilot program with WesTech. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

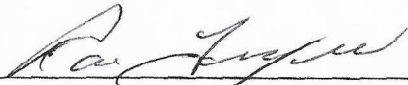
The January Activity and Financial Reports were emailed to the council.

**Town Marshal**


The January Activity Report was emailed to the council. Marshal Strater has started the interviewing process and will give a hiring recommendation at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

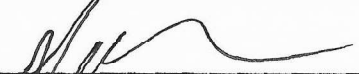
**Next Meeting**

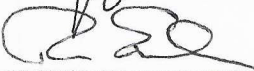
The next Town Council meeting will be held at Topeka Town Hall on March 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. There being no other business to be brought before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.


  
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Council Member Ron Troyer, President

  
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Council Member Ray Folk, Vice President

  
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Council Member Adam Lambright

  
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Council Member Justin Geigley

  
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Council Member Ron Eash

ATTEST   
On Behalf of the Clerk-Treasurer Office  
Cynthia Sadewasser, Deputy Clerk