

La Rue Village Council Meeting July 14, 2021

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on July 14, 2021 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, Melissa Shawver, John Howard, David Stallsmith, and John Boyd.

Guests present: Shawn Stephens representing Rumpkee, Michael Swartz, and Doris Stallsmith.

Opening: Mayor Dustin Ford opened the Meeting with a pledge to the American flag.

Minutes: The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved with a motion by John Howard and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

The financial report was presented and a motion was made Connie Kendall to approve the bills with a second by Melissa Shawver motion passed.

Mayor – Letter was read from the Marion Public Library stating they have officially released the property at 86 S High Street. The Village now has all the keys for the property and the utility bill drop box will be moved up to that building where the book drop use to be.

Mayor Ford presented that the Village is going to be eligible to receive money through ARPA program and one item under the program is water infrastructure. The County is additionally getting 6 million dollars and will be dispersing the funds around.

BPA – The Village received grant money to map all the sewer lines and storm drains just like what was received for the water lines.

The water tower did not pass a 3rd party inspection and has several issues that are going to be addressed.

Maintenance – Tyler Howell reported they have been painting the wood on the Village’s building uptown. All the storm drains have been vacuumed with the honey wagon.

Park & Pool – Cleanup at the park has been completed. The pond needs a sign about no swimming installed. Tyler Howell brought up about installing a floating dock on the pond with a cost around \$2,500-\$3,000. The Village tried to get a grant for a dock but no more money is available. A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to purchase the dock with a ladder and a second by John Boyd, motion passed. Tyler Howell projected the cost for maintaining the pond for the remainder of the year including the price of the new dock and associated accessories to be \$4,000

Council all agreed to install the swing set at the park that has been in storage that was purchased with grant money a few years back.

Sheriff – X

Zoning – X

Tree Commission –X

Budget – X

Street and Alley – Pot holes on 95 have been patched. Pot holes in the entrance to the municipal building need to be patched.

Fire & Safety – No report

Buildings & Grounds – Tyler Howell brought up the old library building and that the carpet needs to be pulled up. Council all agreed to have the carpet removed and further discussion needs to be held what the future plans will be with maybe moving up to that building. A new lock has been installed on the access to the drop box area and we will switch over the drop box in August.

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

John Howard reported that Sam's sanitation would not be able to complete a cleanup day with pickup at the residents.

New Business:

Shawn from Rumpkee was present to talk with the board about the recycling bins and the issues with pickup. The board talked about some issues with the bins not being picked up on the weekly normal schedule and a mess with trash and everything being placed outside the bin. The issue seems to be taken care of at this point but it was happening the first part of May.

Michael Swartz was present to talk with the Board about the Village's ordinances an enforcing cleaning up properties. Mr. Swartz asked the Board what the main issues in town where and it was covered with junk vehicles, weeds, tall grass, and junk on properties. The building uptown along with the old lumber mill that are falling down is a much harder issue to address than the other issues like mowing. If the Village goes the route of nuisance property than the Village may end up with the actual property along with the taxes and other financial obligations. The Board reviewed the ordinance for weed removal so Mr. Swartz didn't feel like anything needs to be changed. The Village can send letters to properties and if they are not cleaned up or mowed the Village can complete the work and access it to the taxes. The current vehicle ordinance just covers unlicensed vehicles so Mr. Swartz presented an additional Ordinance that could be passed that would cover junk motor vehicles. The Village can fine people by billing them for mowing and junk removal than it can be put on taxes. Other types of fines would need to be taken care of in court and prosecuted. The Marion County Sheriff should be involved because they can file the fines and it won't cost the Village for his solicitor time. The Village needs to connect directly to the deputy the Village has been assigned and have them work on junk vehicles while they are in the Village patrolling. The Village can just give the deputy a list of properties that need to be addressed with junk vehicles and let them work on the issue. The Board has an ordinance that would cover dangerous buildings and would allow the Village a little leverage. John Boyd brought up that Council should get a quote from someone like Josh Daniels to see what the cost for demolition would be with some of the dangerous buildings. To sum up all the information from Mr. Swartz:

- Mowing, weeds, and junk can be taken care of by the Village after notice has been issued then the cost can be accessed to taxes. Mr. Swartz did warn about what is classified as junk.
- Unlicensed and junk vehicles can be handled by the sheriff's office with the deputy assigned to the Village.
- The dangerous building situation is way more involved and will be a longer process if the Village wants to pursue.

A motion to adjourn by Melissa Shawver with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. Next meeting will be August 9, 2021 at 7:15pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer