

La Rue Village Council Meeting February 7, 2022

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on February 7, 2022 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, David Stallsmith, Melissa Shawver, Lance Roberts, and John Boyd.

Guests present: Mary Snyder and Deputy Barron & Captain Zempter from the Sheriff's Department.

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 David Stallsmith and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

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

Mayor –

Mayor Dustin Ford reported that he has received the final plans for the St Rt 95-project but he has not received confirmation on the bidding status. He is going to contact Craig at Access Engineering to get an update on the project.

Mayor Ford reported that the railroad has offered \$50,000 for the closing of Front Street railroad crossing. Council was concerned that the RR could end up just coming in and claiming eminent domain and take the property to close the crossing. The railroad bridge is going to be replaced so the crossing road area will have to be raised. Council would like to get more information on why the railroad wants to close Front Street crossing so Mayor Ford is going to try and arrange a meeting. Tyler Howell reported he spoke with Brad Irons and he said the Village has his full support if we don't want to close the crossing and state representatives can get involved if it is needed. Council's biggest concern is the fire department being so close to the crossing.

BPA – Tyler Howell reported there were 3 water line breaks in January. 148 Chestnut Street had a leak on their property before the meter that filled up a cellar area.

Tyler Howell reported the new membranes will arrive tomorrow and will be installed very soon so that should temporarily help the iron issues in town. Furthermore, he reported he will need some help installing the membranes so he may need to bring someone on as spot labor to assist him.

Tyler Howell reported an outside firm came to inspect the plant and confirmed that a filtering system is missing at the plant that should have been installed originally. The BPA is still moving forward with the project of retrofitting the plant to better filter the plant with the high iron levels.

Maintenance – The new municipal building uptown has been completely painted, ceiling tiles all replaced, and flooring installed. Tyler Howell reported he was not satisfied with the installation of the flooring so he contacted the owner and they will be coming back out on Friday (2/11) to fix the issues. The only thing left would be some sort of signage labeling the building. Tyler Howell is going to research some sign options and the cost. Council also discussed if a security system should be purchased with cameras and nothing was decided at this point.

Dustin Ford suggested to Council that they offer the lodge if they want to stay for maybe two more months and then they need to take over the modular building. Further discussion that if anyone takes over the building they will be responsible for maintenance and all upkeep of the building. Mayor Ford stated that once we move up town no utilities will be paid on the modulars and it will be torn down unless someone wants to take over the space.

Park & Pool – Tyler Howell reported he spoke with Mr. Doss about the door replacement on the concession stand at the park and the quoted price included everything including the cost of the door and installation. The doors have been ordered and when they come in the Village will need to pick them up.

Sheriff –

Updates from the sheriff's department on problem properties:

- The Redd property would need to have the health department file a court order to remove the residents since the property is condemned. The tenants reported to the sheriff's deputy they are working on fixing the house up and getting the sewer & water reinstated. The sheriff will be issuing a 10-day notice for the junk vehicles once time allows. If the property is in the control of the health department / State then the sheriff may be able to go the route of criminal trespassing to get the tenants removed. The sheriff reported the next step they will be taking is determining ownership of the property to figure out what route can be taken.
- Swain Avenue property is now in compliance with cleaning up junk vehicles & a junk boat.
- The Cody Lowe property had another sheriff visit the property but no update was available.
- The sheriff will be looking into the property on the corner of Market & Front Street that is parking vehicles & a boat on the tree lawn.

Hyper Reach is a new alert system that has been rolled out by the sheriff's department.

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – X

Budget – X

Street and Alley – Tyler Howell reported the salt spreader worked great. The down fall Tyler reported he found of the plowing with the tractor is the ability to push the snow a certain direction with a flat blade and just taking longer to move snow. Mr. Howell reported to remove snow quicker the snow blade needs wings installed on the sides. A motion was made Melissa Shawver to purchase snow plow wings on the blade with a budget of \$800 and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. The snow can no longer be pushed onto the new dollar store lot since it's no longer owned by us so now the Village will be putting snow on Vine Street between Coonies and the bank.

Fire & Safety – X

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

Mayor Dustin reported that the Landbank is working on obtaining the old hardware building uptown so it can be torn down with minimal cost to the Village.

New Business:

None

A motion was made by Connie Kendall to enter executive at 8:45pm to discuss personnel matters with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

A motion was made by Connie Kendall to leave executive session at 9:00pm with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

A motion was made Melissa Shawver to raise Tyler Howell's pay 3% with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. Tyler Howell was brought in and presented that he had a satisfactory review and will be receiving a 3% raise. Tyler then stated the cost of living federal rate was 5.9%. The previous wording in the meeting minutes was that he would receive the federal cost of living so the 3% is not in line with the previous meeting minutes from March 2021. Council all agreed the pay increase would have to be tabled at this point until the board of public affairs can discuss the pay increase and agree on an amount. So, the original motion and second to increase the pay 3% has been removed and nothing was decided at this point.

A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to waive Mark Poling's rent at Shear Skill for March and April with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. Mark Poling worked several hours uptown during the snow storm to help clear the snow downtown.

A motion to adjourn by Connie Kendall with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Next meeting will be March 7, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer