

La Rue Village Council Meeting June 5, 2023

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on June 5, 2023 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Howell, and Council Members: David Stallsmith, John Boyd, Lance Roberts, John Howard, and Connie Kendall.

Guests present: Diane Evans & Doug Shawver (BPA representatives), Tom Ford, and Eddie Bible

Opening: Mayor 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 Connie Kendall and a second by John Howard, motion passed.

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

Mayor – X

BPA – Diane Evans updated Council on the lift station project that they ended up buying two new pumps due to the condition of the pumps when they were pulled. New check valves and breather valves will all be replaced. She spoke with Phil Wright about looking into grant funds to complete some work on the outside and School Street station. Within the next couple weeks all the guts of the Market Street pump station will be replaced at approximately \$25,000-\$35,000.

Diane Evans updated council on the water sale status after a meeting was held with Aqua water this morning. Notification was received the last week of May that the PUCO approved the sale. The closing date is scheduled for August 1st. Aqua will not be holding any more public meetings per the PUCO guidelines.

The waste water from the plant dumps into the Village's sewer system so discussion needs to be held how that will be handled with Aqua.

Mayor Ford brought up that Generac is offering a 10-year warranty for the pump station generators at \$1485 per unit. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to pay for the 10yr warranty with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

Maintenance – Tyler Howell reported that he cleaned out all catch basins and curves up town, put rock around the mods that was covered financially by the LCA, mowed the lagoons with a rough cut, removed the backflow from School St, ordered and installed new flags, brush collection, and had a hydraulic leak in the tractor that was repaired in house.

Tyler Howell reported that he needs a minimum of 10 new flag poles and they cost \$35 a piece. Some of the new flags that were ordered are on back order.

Tyler Howell reported that Dirt Dawg came into town and finished up some of the work along Market Street. Mayor Ford is going to follow-up with Craig about the backflow device that they removed and find out when they are going to install the replacement. A couple residents along Market Street (Gary White & Jim and Bev Anderson) are getting water in their basements ever

since the Market Street project. Tyler Howell is going to contact the residents to follow-up on the situation.

Council would like Tyler to start documenting when he cleans catch basins.

Park – Tyler Howell would like to move a bench that's sitting in front of the old grocery store to the park and put a plaque in honor of Kenny Price.

The new park equipment has arrived for the modular building property and needs to be installed by a professional company. Discussion was held if the lions club could install the system.

Sheriff – Mayor Ford reported that he has filed two complaints with the sheriff's office for ATVs.

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – Council discussed planting trees in the tree lawn along Market Street and it was agreed that residents are not permitted to plant in the tree lawn that will tear up the sidewalk.

Budget – X

Street and Alley – X

Fire & Safety – X

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

New Business:

Eddie Bible was present to introduce himself to Council and offer his services as a new Village solicitor. Council discussed the water plant sale with Aqua, annexing of the water plant lot, cleaning up junk on properties, burnt building up town, and sale of the old water plant lot to Greg Fields. Mr. Bibler said he is up to performing all the necessary tasks that need to be done.

Current tasks that Mr. Bibler will be following up with:

- Ordinance for the annexation of the water plant property
- Contact the solicitor for Aqua Water
- Review the Village's weed and junk ordinance and give feedback for enforcement
- Start looking into the burnt building uptown situation

A motion was made by John Howard to hire Eddie Bibler as the Village's solicitor with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Resolution 2023-7 was read to approve an application to Marion County for the CDBG critical infrastructure program with a motion by John Howard to suspend the rules and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to approve the resolution as written with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

John Howard reported on the back-flow preventer located at School & Front Street. The end of the pipe that holds the back-flow device has deteriorated and needs replaced. The cost to replace the pipe is \$8,000 for supplies and labor. When the pipe is replaced then a new back-flow device would need to be purchased at \$11,000. Council would like to use the ARPA money to fund the project so Mr. Bibler will be contacted to make sure all the legislation can be drafted. A motion

was made by Connie Kendall to approve spending \$20,000 on the pipe installation and backflow project with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-2 was read to raise the sewer base to \$27.50 and the usage to \$6.00 for the 2nd reading.

Tom Ford reported that the guard rail is going to be taken down temporarily during a project along the river so River Street will be closed during the project.

A motion was made John Howard to enter executive session @8:53pm with a second by Connie Kendall to discuss personnel matters, motion passed.

A motion was made by John Howard to exit executive session @8:58pm with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed.

A motion to adjourn by Lance Roberts and a second by John Howard motion passed. Next meeting will be July 12, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer