

## **La Rue Village Council Meeting August 7, 2023**

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on August 7, 2023 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Howell, and Council Members: David Stallsmith, John Howard, Lance Roberts, John Boyd, and Connie Kendall.

**Guests present:** Eddie Bible, Mary Snyder, David & Kim Trihaft, Andrew Trihaft, Tom Ford, Richard Holcomb, Diane Evans (BPA representative).

**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 John Howard and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

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

**Mayor** –

Mayor Ford presented that Dirt Dawg has to wait to submit the final bill for the St Rt 95 Project until the generators are completely installed at the pump stations. Council is still waiting for Columbia Gas to get everything set up for the new generators.

Mayor Ford brought up a concern with the concert that was held over on River Street. He reported the event to the sheriff's department but they did not do anything. The resident on River Street holds this event/concert every year and it runs until around 1:00am on the morning.

**BPA** – The water plant sale did go through and money was transferred on July 31st. The OWDA loans have all been paid and the OPWC loan can be paid in November.

Diane Evans presented that Marion County Engineers should be here the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August to complete the work inside the pump station along Market Street.

**Maintenance** – Tyler Howell reported that all the main catch basins have been vacuumed out, working on straightening up street signs, the stop sign on Swain was moved per Councils request. Catch basin near 520 High Street needs to be jetted because it's not flowing properly.

Tyler Howell reported there was vandalism at 350 High Street property with the lock knocked off the garage building door. Tyler and Bob were able to get the lock replaced.

**Park** – Connie Kendall reported that the Lion's Club is working on assembling the playground equipment for the LCA and needs to be completed by the end of August.

**Sheriff** – X

**Zoning** – X

**Tree Commission** – A tree that was in the tree lawn was trimmed near 149 High St with the cost of \$650.

**Budget** – X

**Street and Alley** – David Trihaft asked if the line could be repainted at the stop light along Market Street so trucks could make the turn easier.

The state will repair the road along North St Rt 37 if the Village will purchase the materials. Council all approved the purchasing of materials.

**Fire & Safety** – X  
**Buildings & Grounds** – X  
**Regional Planning** – X

**Old Business:**

Kim Trihaft was present to represent Andrew Trihaft regarding the vacant lot that is beside a property he just purchased at 9362 North Street. A letter was given to council outlining that Andrew Trihaft has no plans to build anything on the lots. Council would like \$2,000 for the two lots. Andrew Trihaft was approached by Tyler Howell regarding the purchase of the lots and he has never been approached by any Council members. Council discussed possible options to make sure the lot with the water way is protected. Council brought up that the lots could be leased for \$1 during the duration of the ownership and Andrew Trihaft would be required to mow and maintain the lots. Andrew Trihaft agreed to lease the lots for the duration of his ownership of the property.

Richard Holcomb wanted an update on the backflow device. John Howard stated that it is in production and he will contact the company tomorrow to get an eta.

Tyler Howell that he contacted the Land Bank about the hardware property tear down and the they are having issues with getting bids because they aren't sure how its connected to Coonie's property.

John Howard brought up the situation with JC's pizza building so Council could discuss the matter with Eddie Bibler. Mr. Bibler stated that the Village does have an Ordinance to address dangerous building but does not require the Village to do anything. The concerns would be the cost to tear down the property and the liability the Village would carry if something would happen to JC's property during the demolition. Mr. Bibler advised Council that the Judy Cobb should hire a private lawyer that specializes in these matters and she could file a nuisance claim. Mayor Ford stated that he has spoken with Regional Planning and Land Bank could take on the project but there is no timeframe.

John Howard is going to invite Rex Aranyosi from AES to discuss the Village's electric rates.

**New Business:**

Tom Ford presented that a project along the river will be completed near River Street and the project will be advertised for bids in September and costing approximately \$200,000. The road will be lost if this project is not completed.

A motion to adjourn by John Howard and a second by Connie Kendall motion passed. Next meeting will be September 14, 2023 at 7:00pm.

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Mayor

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Fiscal Officer