

**Town of Georgetown  
Regular Meeting  
March 28, 2023  
6:30 P.M.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Council members present: Chris Loop, Ben Stocksdale, Gary Smith, and Brandon Hopf. Also attending: Kristi Fox, Julia Keibler, Haley James, and Chief Travis Speece.

Members not present: Billy Haller and Bob Woosley.

**Approval of Minutes**

Gary Smith made a motion to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023. Seconded by Brandon Hopf and approved 4-0.

**New Business**

**Scott Hadler from Baker Tilly- Rate Study**

The town has used Baker Tilly for previous rate studies related to sewer and water. We are using them to determine our sanitation/trash costs. The Town has not raised rates since 2007. Scott Hadler has prepared a basic but brief report that covers day-to-day expenses and the contract with Sweetland. They are suggesting a \$7.00 increase. The current rate is \$15.00 and they are suggesting a new rate increase to \$22.00 with a \$1.00 increase yearly to help with inflation.

Chris Loop asked if there is an opportunity to raise rates for commercial/duplexes/triplexes to help offset the rate for residential. Scott Hadler will check into this. The Town has the option to opt out of the phases and can choose which phase to go with. The Town does not have to increase the fee \$1.00 every year since we are locked in with Sweetland for five years but the Town can choose to modify it later on if need be. Chris Loop would like to see if there are any options to help not raise the residential rate as much as commercial rates.

**Clerk Treasurers Report**

**Verizon Fiber Optic Permit**

Verizon Fiber Optic has requested information concerning a permit for installation on Baylor Wissman Road. Bob Woosley suggested following Floyd County's protocol when it comes to

permitting. As of right now, we have not been able to find any kind of ordinance or resolution that covers this kind of permit. We have looked at Floyd County's Utility Agreement and think it is the best option for us. Chris Loop's main concern is if they are doing a road cut, they are responsible for fixing it or to give us the funds to fix it to satisfaction. The Floyd County Utility agreement does cover that issue. The area they are discussing is small and might not affect us at all. Chris Loop suggests tabling this item until April's meeting to allow Kristi Fox to research and look into this matter.

Julia Keibler received an email from the DLGF informing us someone has overpaid their property taxes. The county had to send us that money and Julia Keibler will have to set up its own special fund to move that money to since we are not technically supposed to receive it until next year. The DLGF will follow up next year on this. It is for \$309.00. We do not have to submit any kind of ordinance since it is mandated by the DLGF. This fund is called a "Levy Fund".

Gary Smith made a motion to allow Chris Loop to sign the recognition letter to Harrison County for the Interlocal Agreement outside of the meeting. Seconded by Ben Stocksdales and approved 4-0.

### **Chief Travis Speece**

The two new computers were approved at the January meeting are updated and running.

We are still waiting on all of the emergency equipment and console to be delivered for the new police car. It will go to Sellersburg when everything comes in to finish the upfitting. The decals on the new police vehicle have been installed.

Everything has been done for the new employee hiring process except for two home interviews. Those will be done tomorrow. After that will be board interviews, which should be set up for next week. There are four applicants.

Jeremy Boehnlein is a Town resident and a concerned parent about school safety and security. He works for Louisville Metro Police and is on the SWAT team. He is asking the Town Council if there is anything we can do as a Town to help put an officer in the Georgetown Elementary during school hours. Chris Loop is in favor of adding an officer for security but explains we will have to have the School Board and administration approval first. Chris Loop worries parents will express concern about why one school has an officer and other schools do not and if funding is available for this.

If the School Board is in favor and wants to work out a percentage of pay, the Town Council is more than willing to cooperate. The Georgetown Police are regularly at the school but Travis Speece agrees they can step up their patrol and presence. Travis Speece does not think it is logical to have an officer sitting in the office all day every day waiting for an event instead of being out in the community patrolling. It is not fair to the rest of the community.

Travis Speece will immediately begin increasing the patrol and presence at the school to help on the Town's behalf. Brandon Hopf suggests looking into the SAFER grant to help with funding if this is approved by the school board. The SAFER grant provides 3 years of salaries for free.

### **Public Works**

Nothing to report.

### **Town Attorney**

#### **Eminent Domain- 9150 State Road 64**

Kristi Fox reached out to a firm that specializes in special appraisals and reporting for historic structures. We received a quote for \$3500.00 to complete an appraisal and report on 9150 State Road 64. We can begin the process of negotiating with the current owners and if we do not make progress, we can move forward with the eminent domain process.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve getting an appraisal and report on this structure for \$3500.00 and for this to be paid out of the Gaming Fund. Seconded by Ben Stocksdales and approved 4-0.

John Beams has asked if the lease for the old fire house could be changed to show the Town will keep mowing the grass. Chris Loop agrees we will continue to mow the grass.

### **Plan Commission**

There is a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023 for a rezoning application for 1610 Canal Lane.

### **Town Engineer**

Nothing to report. Bob Woosley was not in attendance.

### **Redevelopment Commission**

Nothing to report.

### **Agenda Items**

### **JUMA**



Kristi Fox has reviewed and approves this agreement. This agreement basically explains that we agree to maintain our portion and if the sidewalks need repaired and we do not repair them within the time they give us, they can technically remove it.

Ben Stocksdale made a motion to approve the Joint Use Maintenance Agreement. Seconded by Brandon Hopf and approved 4-0.

### **Interlocal Agreement regarding Riverboat Revenue**

This is our annual agreement with Harrison County where they continue to send us a generous share of gaming revenue.

Gary Smith made a motion to approve signing the Interlocal Agreement regarding Riverboat Revenue. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

### **Approval of Replacing the Gate Valve from Dave O'Mara**

We received three quotes for this project. Dave O'Mara was the lowest price. There were three quotes for this.

Brandon Hopf made a motion to approve Dave O'Mara to replace the gate valve at the WWTP for \$6684.92 and to be paid from the Waste Water Improvement Fund. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

### **Pay Order #3 from Dirt Works**

This is for the lift station improvement near the Edwardsville United Methodist Church.

Ben Stocksdale made a motion to approve pay application #3 from Dirt Works for \$117,602.10. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

### **Connie Baugh- Redevelopment Commission**

Brandon Hopf made a motion to approve Connie Baugh to sit as the non-voting member on the Redevelopment Commission. Seconded by Ben Stocksdale and approved 4-0.

### **Portfolio Update from the Rising Interest Rate Environment**

Ben Stocksdale reported on the rising rates. He worked with Jim Godsey at German American concerning our investments. Jim Godsey was asked to evaluate our current cash and yield positions. When interest rates rise it is good for savers and you usually get good rates. When you hold a CD or bonds, the price of those bonds or CD's can fall. When looking at account statements, if account balances go down, it is not a concern for the Town. We are holding all of our CD's and bonds to maturity we receive the full amount and all interest due.

The current yield on our portfolio is 4.09%. This includes our existing CD's and money market account, which is earning 4.72%. We have some CD's coming due at 5% in the next 3 months. It gives us roughly \$200,000.00 per year in interest for that portfolio.

If we take some money out (\$300,000.00) to pay for large projects about \$9,000.00 a year in interest will be sacrificed.

Overall, the portfolio looks good and some of our funds are sitting in cash. At 5% it is hard to argue with that. The money market fund is through Goldman Saks and is backed by U.S. Treasuries are secure. It is 73% cash itself and the other remaining portion is all U.S. Treasury Bills and Obligations.

Overall, the value looks down because interest rates rose so fast. When things come due the account value will look good.

CD's right now would be very short term and to leave the account in cash would be the recommendation.

#### **Jared Housier- Catalpa Ridge**

Jared Housier owns land in the Catalpa Ridge subdivision. At the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Council meeting, the Council approved the abandonment of right of way to the roadway that was initially slated to be part of the land he purchased. Jared Housier was informed by his previous attorney that if the roadway was ever abandoned, it would go back to the developer.

Jared Housier is confused with the process of this and what his next step needs to be. Kristi Fox explained there is a survey that shows when you vacate, it will go back to the developer and not back to the property owners. This is a revisionary clause in the plat. Kristi Fox recommends Jared Housier's attorney get in contact with the developer before we take this action so he can get his quick claimed deed from him. Otherwise, that property will go back to the developer once we file the ordinance. Kristi Fox would like an email from Mr. Kraft stating he is not representing Jared Housier any longer.

Chris Loop made a motion to allow Julia Keibler to give Jared Housier a copy of the survey on that strip of property in Catalpa Ridge. Seconded by Brandon Hopf and approved 4-0.

#### **Kim Melton- Globe Life Insurance**

Kim Melton presented a brochure on life insurance for our employees. We currently have life insurance that is very similar to this company. If any of our employees have an interest in this program, they should reach out to Julia Keibler to schedule a meeting with Kim Melton. She will come in and go over coverage and costs.

**Claims Docket**

Gary Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

**Miscellaneous Business**

The Town Council will be conducting five interviews for the Town Manager position. It is not open to the public.

**Public Comments of Any Concerns**

Kim Courtney asked if there are currently any ideas as to what will be done to 9150 State Road 64. Chris Loop would like to get Indiana Landmarks involved to put an RFP to restore it.

Kim Courtney asks what the next step will be for Baker Tilly's proposed new rates. Chris Loop explained we will wait for Scott Halder's answers to our questions and then we will have to hold a public hearing.


**Adjournment**

Gary Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

**Minutes approved by:**



Christopher Loop, President



Ben Stocksdales, Vice President

Billy Haller



Brandon Hopf



Gary Smith

**Attest:**



Julia Keibler, Clerk Treasurer