

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**



January 2, 2018

**Public Meeting Advertised for 7:00 PM
Conducted at the Cedar Lake Town Hall
Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**

Roll Call:

Present	Robert H. Carnahan Council Member	Ward 1	Present	Greg Parker Council Member	Ward 6
Absent	John Foreman Council Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Sharpe Council Member	Ward 7
Present	Julie Rivera Council Member	Ward 3	Present	Amy J. Gross, IAMC, MMC, CPM Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Ralph Miller Council Member	Ward 4	Present	Jill Murr, CPM, IAMC, MMC Town Administrator	
Present	Randell Niemeyer Council Member	Ward 5	Present	David Austgen Town Attorney	

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 1280 – Animal Control

Council Member Parker read by title only. Council Member Rivera explained this ordinance was in response to citizen concerns with animals being left out in inclement weather. She thanked Mr. Austgen for the detailed ordinance. She asked for one thing to be amended. Under section one, part E, number 2, she would like the temperature to be changed from 20 degrees Fahrenheit to 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Town Attorney Austgen added he was requested to draft a care treatment ordinance related to the concerns indicated. The Town code has a substantial animal control section but it's relatively old and non-specific. That's part of the problem the police had with enforcement related to care and treatment of animals. It is his recommendation that some of those code provisions that are non-specific and unable to be objectively used for enforcement purposes be repealed sometime soon. This ordinance provides that specificity.

A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1280 was made by Ralph Miller with second by Richard Sharpe. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 6 to 0.

A motion to suspend the rules and allow a second reading was made by Richard Sharpe with second by Ralph Miller. Roll call vote: Carnahan – No, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 5 to 1.

Council Member Parker read by title only.

A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1280 was made by Julie Rivera with second by Ralph Miller. Mr. Austgen noted a typo. Section 2, sub A, in the fourth line the word *my* should be *may*. Council Member Carnahan stated he supports the ordinance but would have like to have seen the adoptive reading go on the next agenda. Roll call vote: Carnahan – No, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 5 to 1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointments to Town Council Committees and Boards and Commissions

2018 Town Council Committee Appointments

Town Administrator Murr read the list of names as follows:

Public Works and Safety – Niemeyer, Rivera, Miller
Parks and Recreation Committee – Niemeyer, Rivera, Miller
Redevelopment Committee – Foreman, Niemeyer, Carnahan
Planning Committee (announced at last meeting) – Parker, Foreman, Sharpe
Council Affairs Committee – Niemeyer, Miller, Sharpe
Ecosystem Restoration – Rivera, Carnahan, Foreman
Utility – Miller, Carnahan, Sharpe
Street – Foreman, Parker, Carnahan
Joint Management Oversight Board (JMOB) – Miller, Sharpe
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) – Carnahan
Lake County Solid Waste (LCSW) – Carnahan
South County Community Services – Miller
Lake County Public Safety Communications Commission – Chief Coulson

A motion to approve appointments to Town Council Committees as listed was made by Richard Sharpe with second by Julie Rivera. President Niemeyer added that these committees serve as a way for the Council to meet with various people as they interact

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with different functions in the Town. These committees are able to work on some things and bring recommendations to the Town Council that are prepared and ready for public action. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 6 to 0.

2018 Board and Commission Appointments

Town Administrator Murr read the list of names as follows:

Police Commission – Kevin Toth

Redevelopment Commission – Nathan Vis, Jolie Covaciu, Eric Burnham, Doug Spencer, and Randy Niemeyer.

Storm Water Board – Ryan Lisek and Dan Enright

Board of Zoning Appeals – Jeremy Kuiper

Council Appointment to BZA – Jerry Wilkening

Council Appointment to Unsafe – Greg Parker

President Niemeyer asked for those that are not chosen to serve on a board or commission to please keep their enthusiastic support of this Town going even when they may not agree with everything.

A motion to approve the appointments to Boards and Commissions as listed was made by Julie Rivera with second by Ralph Miller. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 6 to 0.

2. Accumed Billing Service Agreement

Town Administrator Murr explained during budget meetings it was discussed to outsource the EMS billing services. This would be for a percentage of what collections are received for EMS services based upon annual run volume. These services are used by other communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. She recommended they approve the agreement pending final attorney and staff review.

A motion to approve Accumed Billing Service Agreement contingent upon final reviews was made by Richard Sharpe with second by Greg Parker. Council Member Carnahan asked about the firm being located in Michigan. Town Administrator Murr stated they are. Council Member Carnahan stated he will vote no because he would hope there is a company in Indiana that could do this. Roll call vote: Carnahan – No, Rivera – Yes, Miller – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Parker – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes. Vote: 5 to 1. Mr. Austgen added that Mr. Carnahan could check references on the company with AIM if he would like more background.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

- 1. Town Council** – President Niemeyer thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as Council President again. Council Member Miller added that the Cedar Lake Historical Association will be having their winter program at the Lighthouse on January 27th from 2- pm.
- 2. Town Attorney** – Two capital financings were closed last week. One was related to storm bonds and the other to redevelopment bonds. Those will each yield a savings in reduction of debt service costs.
- 3. Clerk-Treasurer** - None
- 4. Town Administrator/Staff** – Town Administrator Murr thanked the utility billing staff for getting the storm water credits entered for the non-residential customers. Mr. Austgen added the Plan Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening to conduct a public hearing on the amendment of the Town's comprehensive plan. This will be to add the Town Center concepts to the comprehensive plan. President Niemeyer discussed the potential developments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Kerr stated she saw the proposed 2018 budget and was shocked at how low EMT/Paramedics are paid. She asked when the Police Department will get a raise. She spoke with an officer who stated he hadn't had a raise in ten years and his health insurance went up. She asked if that was correct. President Niemeyer answered that is incorrect. All but last year raises have been given. A 2% raise is contemplated in this year's budget for everyone. He added the Fire and EMS hourly rates may not be very high but they get paid for a full 24 hour shift whether they are working, sleeping, or eating. He agrees the wages need to be expanded but he thinks they've done a good job with what they have to support employees. He believes Public Safety has received raises six out of the eight years he's been on the Council. Ms. Kerr asked if they received a raise last year. Mr. Niemeyer answered not last year but the year before. She asked about a raise for this year. Mr. Niemeyer stated it's in the budget but it depends on what the state approves. Mr. Parker added that there have been significant investments in equipment, cars, and other items to benefit the officers.

ADJOURNMENT President Niemeyer called the meeting to adjournment at 7:26 PM.

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An Executive Session was advertised and conducted before the meeting, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b). Refer to Memorandum of Meeting for topics discussed and those in attendance

COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

Randell Niemeyer, President, Ward 5

Greg Parker, Vice President, Ward 6

Robert H. Carnahan, Ward 1

John Foreman, Ward 2

Julie Rivera, Ward 3

Ralph Miller, Ward 4

ATTEST:

Richard Sharpe, Ward 7

Amy J. Gross, IAMC, MMC, CPM
Clerk-Treasurer

The Minutes of the Cedar Lake Town Council are transcribed pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-4(b), which states:

- (b) As the meeting progresses, the following *memoranda* shall be kept:
- (1) The date, time and place of the meeting.
 - (2) The members of the governing body recorded as either present or absent.
 - (3) The general substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided.
 - (4) A record of all votes taken, by individual members if there is a roll call.
 - (5) Any additional information required under IC 5-1.5-2-2.5.