

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

**September 28, 2021**

**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	Colleen Schieben Council Member	Ward 6
Absent	John Foreman Council Member	Ward 2	Present	Richard Sharpe Council Member	Ward 7
Absent	Julie Rivera Council Member	Ward 3	Present	Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC Clerk-Treasurer	
Present	Ralph Miller Council Member	Ward 4	Present	Rick Eberly Town Manager	
Present	Randell Niemeyer Council Member	Ward 5	Absent	David Austgen Town Attorney	

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Joan Dickson, 8711 W. 132<sup>nd</sup> Place, stated she knows this is a public hearing on the budget but when she called earlier, she couldn't get a copy of it to review beforehand. She asked how the procedure would work this evening. Mr. Niemeyer stated there is a Public Comment section during the public hearing. Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg stated the Notice to Taxpayers was duly noticed and is online at in.gov. The public hearing wouldn't be able to occur without that notice being submitted. A brief discussion continued.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance No. 1399 – Y2022 Budget – First Reading**

- a. Gateway Notice - Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg stated the Form 3 - Notice to Taxpayers was submitted on September 17<sup>th</sup> on the budget notices as prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.
- b. Introduction - Ms. Sandberg stated it was another year with great conversation on the plans for the future budget. Council Affairs met multiple times to discuss plans as well as meetings with Department Heads to discuss budget needs. Financial Consultant Corby Thompson has worked with them. His work has been helpful and he is with them this evening to present the 2022 budget.
- c. Presentation - Mr. Thompson went through a PowerPoint presentation and discussed some of the key changes and major updates to the budget for 2022. When talking revenues and changes to the budget for 2022, it is in comparison to the 2021 budget. Certain circumstances do look at the sustainability plan that was previously put together. *A copy of the presentation can be found online at [www.cedarlakein.org](http://www.cedarlakein.org).*
- d. Reading of Ordinance No. 1399 - Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg read Ordinance No. 1399 by title only to open the public hearing.
- e. Public Comment - Mary Joan Dickson asked what does a new fireman or policeman cost. Chief Fisher estimated \$100,000 for a new police officer and Chief Wilkening estimated \$85,000 for a new fireman.
- f. Town Council Discussion - Mr. Carnahan voiced concerns with not getting the budget paperwork before the public hearing. He stated he would have liked to have time to review what is in the proposed budget. Mr. Thompson stated they had discussed whether to do an introduction before the public hearing at it was decided to go ahead with the public hearing. They will make sure to have it to him prior in the future. Mr. Niemeyer concurred with Mr. Carnahan. He stated it is helpful also to have it posted on the website. Transparency is key. Mr. Thompson stated in the future when they submit the Form 3, they can publish the Form 1's alongside. That way whoever wants to can see what the appropriation budgets are. Mr. Niemeyer stated if this passes on first reading, he would like to see all of the information made available on the website. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Niemeyer discussed the cost of doing business increasing. He wants to talk with the Town consultants and see what their increases may look like. Mr. Thompson stated they did put increases within the professional line items. Mr. Niemeyer stated the process and working with Krohn has been a good relationship. It is a good fit for the Town of Cedar Lake. Everyone here has a better understanding of how everything works. He's excited about the progress they are making. A brief discussion continued.
- g. Town Council Decision  
A motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 1399 was made by Richard Sharpe with second by Ralph Miller. Roll call vote: Carnahan – No, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes Vote: 4 - 1. Clerk-Treasurer

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Sandberg stated the adoption would take place on October 19, 2021. Mr. Niemeyer asked to make sure they posted before the adoption meeting what they just approved upon first reading. Ms. Sandberg stated she would work with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Wroe to make it happen. A brief discussion continued.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Resolution No. 1290 - Excess Levy Appeal Petition**

Clerk-Treasurer Sandberg read Resolution No. 1290 by title only. Mr. Thompson explained the Town qualifies for a three-year excess levy growth appeal. This means they have exceeded the state average growth by more than two percent. Whatever the total three-year average growth is over the automatic of 4.3% this year, they will get that in additional levy. The excess levy petition is in an amount of \$71,181. Certain information must be provided in the petition including an explanation of why the Town needs the additional money. Specifically, for increased public safety needs. A brief discussion continued.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1290 was made by Ralph Miller with second by Colleen Schieben. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes Vote: 5 - 0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Summer Winds Commercial – Variance of Use for Outdoor Dining to Allow 4 tables with 4 seats at 4 Different Restaurants in Summer Winds Commercial Development**  
*(This received a favorable recommendation at the September 15, 2021 Plan Commission Meeting.)*

Mr. Eberly stated a correction is to be made, this occurred at the September 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. Mrs. Murr provided a copy of the zoning certification to the Council. She stated a favorable recommendation was certified at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to the Town Council. This is to allow outdoor dining with alcohol. Four tables with four seats each at the four different restaurants. Bollards are to be installed according to Town standards. The original PUD hadn't discussed outdoor dining. With COVID-19, everyone is moving to more outdoor dining. Mr. Carnahan stated this is something that should be allowed in Cedar Lake. Mr. Niemeyer stated the bollards are very important with this occurring in a parking lot. He agreed with Mr. Carnahan's views. Mr. Eberly stated the bollards have already been installed.

A motion to approve the favorable recommendation with the findings of fact was made by Robert Carnahan with second by Colleen Schieben. Roll call vote: Carnahan – Yes, Miller – Yes, Schieben – Yes, Sharpe – Yes, Niemeyer – Yes Vote: 5 - 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Joan Dickson asked who serves on the Council Affairs Committee. Mr. Niemeyer stated the committee is made up of himself, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Sharpe.

Mr. Carnahan asked Mr. Lambert about the new restaurant at Summer Winds Plaza. Mr. Lambert stated a new Mexican restaurant called the Dilla would be opening soon. The goal is by Halloween.

**ADJOURNMENT** President Niemeyer called the meeting to adjournment at approximately 8:00 PM.

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

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Randell Niemeyer, President, Ward 5

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Richard Sharpe, Vice President, Ward 7

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Robert H. Carnahan, Ward 1

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John Foreman, Ward 2

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Julie Rivera, Ward 3

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Ralph Miller, Ward 4

ATTEST:

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Colleen Schieben, Ward 6

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Jennifer N. Sandberg, IAMC  
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.