

Danville Town Council Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2021

- I. **Call to Order:** Council President Tom Pado called the meeting of the Danville Town Council to order on January 6, 2021 in Danville Town Hall, 49 N. Wayne St., Danville, Indiana.
- II. **Roll Call:** Town Council President Tom Pado acknowledged a quorum of the Council. Tom Pado, Chris Gearld, David Winters, Nancy Leavitt, and Greg VanLaere were all present. Town Manager Mark Morgan was present but Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Percy was absent. Accounts Payable Deputy Courtney Bolton took the roll call on each vote in her absence.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Greg VanLaere motioned to approve the work study minutes from December 28, 2020 and Nancy Leavitt seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Nancy Leavitt motioned to approve the council minutes from the meeting on December 16, 2020 and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Greg VanLaere motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 30, 2020 and Chris Gearld seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- IV. **Public Comment:** Linda Monk of 396 N Indiana St spoke about introducing an ordinance that would mandate residents to remove snow from the sidewalks on their property. She has been before the council before regarding this.
- V. **Public Meeting:**
 - a) **Council Organization**—The council held elections on its leadership. The rules were changed before the opening of the meeting. The council members were instructed to put forward nominations for the different positions and then once all nominations had been made, they would vote upon them one by one. Nancy Leavitt motioned to keep Tom Pado as the Council President and Greg VanLaere nominated Chris Gearld. Nancy Leavitt's motion passed 4-1 with Greg VanLaere voting nay, making Tom Pado the Council President once more. Tom Pado nominated David Winters for Vice President and Chris Gearld nominated Greg VanLaere for the same position. David Winters was elected Vice President by a vote of 3-2, with Greg VanLaere and Chris Gearld voting 'nay'. Department liaisons did not change, with David Winters for the Parks, Chris Gearld for the Fire Department, Nancy Leavitt for the Police Department, Greg VanLaere for Public Works, and Tom Pado for Utilities. Greg VanLaere then motioned to approve a schedule of meetings for the town's various boards for the upcoming year with small amendments and Nancy Leavitt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b) **Board Appointments**—The council then appointed council members to different boards.
 - a. **Plan Commission**—Nancy Leavitt motioned to appoint Greg VanLaere and Chris Gearld to the Plan Commission and David Winters seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b. **BZA**—Council President Tom Pado reappointed Gary Eakin to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - c. **RDC**—There were three positions up for appointment, currently filled by Dave Glover, Gary Eakin, and Jerry Vornholt. Dave Glover and Gary Eakin were interested in continuing while Jerry Vornholt decided not to continue on this board but agreed to stay until a replacement could be found for him. Council President Tom Pado decided to keep Dave Glover and Gary Eakin on the board. Chris Gearld motioned to keep Tom Pado and Ben Comer on the board and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - d. **Park Board**—Tom Pado nominated Bill Sutton to be the Democrat on the Park Board and Jim Percy to be the Republican. Dr. Schaffer of DCSC told Mark that Elizabeth Whitaker would continue on as the school's representative.

- e. **EMS Joint Board**—Nancy Leavitt motioned to keep Chris Gearld and David Winters on the EMS Board and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - f. **Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership**—Chris Gearld motioned to keep Greg VanLaere on this board and David Winters seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - g. **Hendricks County Recycling District**—Nancy Leavitt motioned to keep Chris Gearld as the council representative and David Winters seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - h. **Communications Board**—Chris Gearld motioned to keep Nancy Leavitt on this board and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - i. **Citizens Water Advisory Board**—Greg VanLaere motioned to keep Water Superintendent Matt Ellison on this board and Chris Gearld seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - j. **Tree Advisory Committee**—Nancy Leavitt motioned to keep the three present board members—Denny Jacks, Jeff Martin, and Sarah Wolfe—on the board and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - k. **Chamber of Commerce Rep**—Chris Gearld motioned to keep Town Manager Mark Morgan as the town’s representative to the Chamber and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - l. **Downtown Danville Partnership Rep**—Greg VanLaere motioned to keep Chris Gearld and Assistant Town Manager Will Lacey as the representatives to the DDP and Nancy Leavitt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - m. **Citizens Advisory Board**—Nancy Leavitt motioned to retain Chris Gearld, Beth Cherry, and Jim Phillips on this board and David Winters seconded. Motion passed 5-0. David Winters motioned to appoint Fred Harris to the seat being vacated by Dave Glover and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- c) **Conflict of Interest Forms**—Town Manager Mark Morgan spoke on Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Percy’s behalf, reporting that as far as she was able to discern none of the council members have a conflict of interest in serving as town council members but that she would keep searching to make sure that this was the case.
 - d) **Nepotism Forms**—Town Manager Mark Morgan told the council that Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Percy would be sending these forms to the council members for their signatures.
 - e) **Wrap the Town**—The council gave its consensus to do Wrap the Town again, which would decorate the downtown square and surrounding area.
 - f) **Capital Expenditure Request**—Fire Chief Rob Roberts requested a capital expenditure request to replace and install Opticomms at various intersections throughout town. The amount would be \$56,000 and it would come from the host fund. A few of the council members talked about doing a work study on this expenditure just because of the amount but Nancy Leavitt believed that it was important enough that approval ought to be given. Chris Gearld motioned to approve the expenditure and Nancy Leavitt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - g) **Traffic Study on 200 E**—Town Manager Mark Morgan reported that he has received several complaints about the speed limit change on 200 East. People are complaining about the speed reduction to 30mph and would like it raised to 40mph. Mark would like to do a traffic study for \$1,200 to come out of the general fund professional services. David Winters motioned to approve the funding and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - h) **Ordinance 34-2020**—Town Planner Lesa Ternet came forward to explain a few text amendments that this ordinance would introduce. One that prompted some discussion was the removal of the banner that hangs over US 36. David Winters mentioned that the people he talked to about the

banner liked it and thought it was a nice touch. Town Manager Mark Morgan explained that they would likely revisit the banner but for the time being, in the state that it is in, it is becoming a safety concern. He also explained that because the Plan Commission had voted to approve this ordinance after holding a public hearing it was not necessary, as it ordinarily would be, for the council to suspend the rules to vote on it. David Winters motioned to approve the ordinance and Greg Vanlaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

VI. **Staff Comments**

Will Lacey expressed that he was happy to have Mark back.

Greg VanLaere said that he was grateful to be appointed to all of the boards to which he was assigned. He briefly questioned legal counsel about a change in rules regarding the election of council officers that took place right before the council meeting.

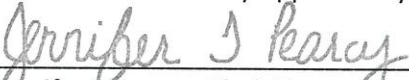
Nancy Leavitt said she would definitely like to revisit the topic of the banner over US 36, though she agreed that it is a safety risk at this time.

Mark Morgan thanked Will and the staff for keeping business in order while he was out sick.

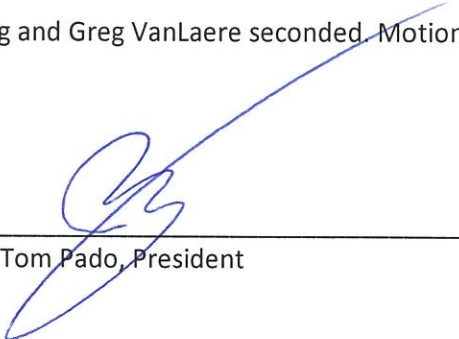
VII. **Claim Docket** – Greg VanLaere motioned to approve the claim docket and Nancy Leavitt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

VIII. **Adjourn** – David Winters made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Greg VanLaere seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting ended at 7:55pm.

Minutes submitted by Approved by:



Jennifer I. Percy, Clerk-Treasurer



Tom Pado, President