

Dillsboro Town Council

August 26, 2024

The regular meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was opened by President, Doug Baker, with the pledge to the flag on August 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Council present: Doug Baker, Becky Fryman, Tim Benning, Charlie Caldwell and Jerri Jackson.
Attorney present: John Watson.

Council Member (CM) Benning made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 12, 2024. CM Caldwell seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer – Rita Stevens

- A sewer adjustment request of \$24.86 for Jennifer Rutherford at 12564 Lenover Street was presented due to an outdoor faucet accidentally being left on. CM Fryman motioned to approve the adjustment, seconded by CM Jackson. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Council received the July financial statements.
- 2025 Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for September 9. CM Jackson asked how council can pass the budget when the General fund budget estimate is \$393,900. Discussion ensued about the General Fund budget estimate of \$393,900 versus the Maximum Estimated Funds of \$278,973. Town Manager (TM) Derek Walker clarified that the council can legally pass the budget as drafted due to additional savings in the General Fund, that the \$280,000 is not the only revenue that our general fund generates noting that this is the revenue from property taxes, and that the state did increase growth quotient on property taxes to 4%. CM Baker suggested that the budget should not exceed \$350,000, to which TM Walker responded, referencing the 2023 Revenue Report, that the funder generated \$351,000 and anticipated it to be around \$355,000. The council agreed to set the budget at \$355,000.

EMS – Andrea Shuter, Aurora EMS

- A resolution was discussed to better track EMS runs for Dillsboro, as the county no longer separates them by area. Dillsboro had 25 runs in July, with a year-to-date total of 227. Last year's total was approximately 490 runs.
- The Dillsboro Fire Department is acting as first responders, which is beneficial given their quicker response times compared to EMS.

CM Baker stated the council appreciates what Aurora EMS is doing for the town. And keeping track of the runs will help us fight for the town's EMS. Shuter stated Aurora is a 24/7 service and provided an overview of Aurora EMS's finances, stating that despite receiving county funds and income from runs, they are over \$400,000 in expenses. Recent fundraisers and memorial donations have provided some relief allowing full-time employees to receive insurance this year

Fire Department – Jason Sullivan

- A summary of 19 incidents for July was provided to the council.
- The annual Hog Roast is scheduled for September 29 at 11:00 a.m., with a gun raffle drawing to take place at the event.
- The Fire Department signed a contract with the County Commissioners to serve as first responders.
- A study presented at the last commissioners' meeting still requires further work.

Police – Josh Cady

- Cady and Officer Alex Sears participated in active shooter training with the Aurora Police Department. Sears is also receiving training at the Sheriff's Department for standard field sobriety testing, which will reduce the need to rely on other officers for DUI certifications.
- Cady praised Officer Sears for his excellent performance and thorough reports.
- Cady will be attending a four-day training next month.

Utility Superintendent – Matt Bauer

- The baseball side of the park is being cleaned up, addressing drainage issues affecting the playground.
- Eric Graver has 4 bags of slugs completed at the waste water treatment plant.
- Two new meter sets were installed on Spangler Road and Highridge Road, with water and sewer tap-in fees of \$1,300 and \$1,650, respectively.
- Flags will be displayed for Labor Day weekend, with a final display for Veteran's Day.
- Bauer reported that Eastern Heights Utility in Bloomfield, Indiana, is interested in purchasing the town's unused CE antenna. The council approved the sale for \$1,500-\$1,900, with flexibility on the final price. CM Benning motioned to approve, seconded by CM Fryman. All in favor. Motion carried.
- This month's meter reading was scheduled for Tuesday and Shut-off's were today.

CM Baker noted that he was asked about US 50 and US 262 and that INDOT or someone sprayed the right of way, and that this area needs to get cleaned up. Bauer stated he will get ahold of INDOT.

CM Baker also stated someone contacted him about the fence at the park needs to be cleaned and requested that something be sprayed on it to clean it. Bauer will check into this.

Beautification – Charlie Caldwell

- CM Caldwell reported that Drake has contacted him about the need for sand between the bricks at Heritage Pointe. A quote will be obtained.
- Efforts are underway to recruit new volunteers for watering tasks.

Park – TM Derek Walker

- DNR Water has been in conversation about our recent grant application for the stage and we have been exchanging information.

- The Park Board voted to submit a grant application this year for the Dearborn County Community Foundation Grant to construct concrete sidewalks by the baseball restrooms.

Main Street – Kami Hamilton

- Main Street made a profit of \$104.00 from their booth at the Summer Concert.
- Surveys were distributed during the summer concert, with 8-10 completed forms returned.
- Heritage Days is scheduled for September 21st, featuring free raffle baskets.

Attorney – John Watson

- TM Walker is preparing for an enforcement action, with some ordinances needing standardization.
- The Burn Ordinance is nearly ready, pending some adjustments.

Old Business – TM Derek Walker

- Stellar Pathways. A workshop in Dillsboro had good attendance. The survey deadline is August 31st, and residents are encouraged to participate. Also was reported that Greendale and Bright workshops had some good attendance. Stellar workshops are scheduled with state agencies for August 29-30.
CM Baker stated the survey deadline is August 31st. Everybody needs to fill it out. Share it on social media. TM Walker stated the last count Mike Perleberg had been 400 and that he was hoping for 500 survey responses.
- Burn Ordinance. After discussions with Fire Chief Sullivan and additional input from IDEM, the ordinance is under final review. Attorney Watson will address the legal aspects, including fines, before it is finalized. TM Walker reviewed the ordinance with council. Recommends waiting on this ordinance until Attorney Watson can address the courts and fines. Attorney Watson stated by ordinance and statute that CT Stevens is the town's violations clerk. Because of her duty of being clerk-treasurer she is to receive fines. She will receive any fines under \$250. A person will have to pay a fine and sign a waiver.
TM Walker asked for any concerns. CM Baker noted concerns about the start time on a fire pit. Chris Robers was concerned about a big brush pile he had that would need to be burned. Robers was advised to contact the fire department regarding this. And if need approval from council to contact the council. The ordinance should be ready next month.
- Right-Of-Way Ordinance. Nothing new.
- Façade Improvement Matching Grant (FIMG). The grant is ready to advertise, pending the appointment of a review committee member from Main Street. CM Benning motioned to approve the grant, seconded by CM Jackson. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Main Street Sewer Issue. The sanitary main was cleaned out and camera, confirming that a storm drain is connected to the private sewer lateral. This appears to be the property owners' issue, and they will need to have their section inspected to determine the condition of the lateral and come up with a solution. M. Bauer spoke with the property owner and discussed possible solutions.

New Business

- Serenity Pines Public Infrastructure. Phase 1 (Lots 1-7) of Serenity Pines has received initial approval. However, the sanitary sewer system was not built according to the approved improvement plan, and easements for the storm system were not properly recorded. TM Walker will work with Mr. Robers to ensure compliance with IDEM permits and updated plans before the town can formally accept the infrastructure. The council all agrees the proper steps need to be taken to get approved. TM Walker will work with Mr. Robers regarding this. The town ordinances require changes to the improvement plan to be approved, which didn't happen. After an amended plan has been submitted, the town can approve the provisions, however this step was missed. Attorney Watson stated there was an improvement plan and what was built is not on the plan. An easement will need to be granted and an IDEM permit approved, and the engineer stamps it.

CM Baker asked about the Grace Quinlain/Katie Robinson signs. TM Walker is finalizing color details before ordering the signs.

CM Baker also stated that a neighbor wants to put a deck on the back of his house and wants to know the process? TM Walker stated that a permit is required and that he will assist with the permitting process.

CM Baker stated he was contacted by someone wanting to have an inflatable water slide at one of the parks. Concerned about the liability. TM Walker stated he can talk to the Park Board regarding this and the liability. They would have to sign a hold harmless agreement.

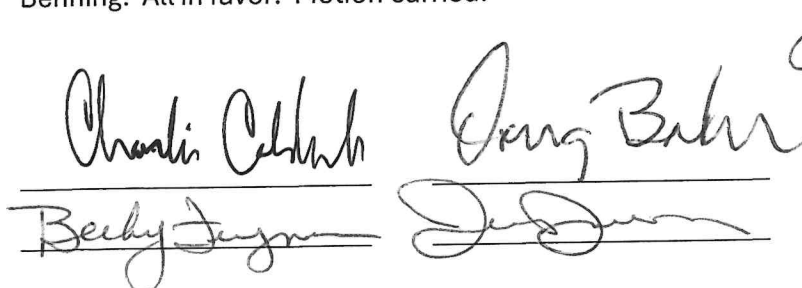
CM Baker stated if at a concert, what about a water slide there. Attorney Watson stated that would be a liability issue and would need a hold harmless agreement. TM Walker recommends having the Civic Club organize it and have the kids get bracelets and collect waivers for anyone using the water slide.


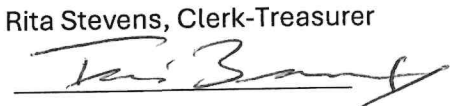
Police Chief Cady requested council approval to install "No Parking" signs at the gravel lot on Western Row near the Utility Building. Council approved the request.

TM Walker stated he will be on vacation some this week.

Andrea Shuter, Aurora EMS, did state if the town has any events where there needs to be a EMS unit on site, please let her know. Aurora EMS was here during the Dillsboro Homecoming.

Being no further business. CM Jackson made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Seconded by CM Benning. All in favor. Motion carried.


Charlie Colburn
Beeky Jackson
Doug Baker
Ted Durn


Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer

Teri Baum