

Town Of DeMotte

112 Carnation Street SE, DeMotte, Indiana 46310

Voice: 219.987.3831 Fax: 219.987.3836

www.townofdemotte.com

Council Members
Jeffrey Cambe
Mark Boer
Alana Bauman
Dale Eenigenburg
Terry Schultz
Clerk Treasurer
Cindy Shepherd
Town Manager
Michael Cain

Minutes of the Meeting of the DeMotte Town Council February 26, 2024

In attendance were Jeff Cambe, Alana Bauman, Terry Schultz, Dale Eenigenburg, Clerk Treasurer Cindy Shepherd, Town Manager Mike Cain, Deputy Clerk Tara Howard, and Attorney Luis Vallejo.

Town Council President Jeff Cambe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Alana Bauman made a motion to approve the January 22, minutes. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

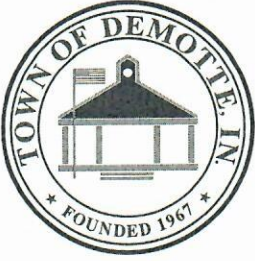
President Jeff Cambe brought to the council's attention that Park Council President and KV Rotary member Peggy Michelin's request to discuss the moving of the windmill project previously discussed in a prior meeting. Peggy addressed the council, representing the KV Rotary, and provided an update on the collaboration between the KV Rotary and Andy Andree from Andree Builders regarding the windmill project. Andy addressed the council and shared that upon assessing the windmill, significant water damage had been identified. As a result, he proposed the idea of constructing a new windmill from scratch. He explained that he had been gathering measurements from the old windmill and was in the process of creating drawings and estimating costs for the project that he will present to the KV Rotary. He emphasized that building a new windmill would ensure its longevity and structural integrity.

Police Chief Tom Jarrette gave the police report. Tom informed the council that the police department has received Military AR Rifles on loan from the government.

Chief Jarrette presented a recommendation for the hiring of the 7th officer. He mentioned that the department received a total of 13 applications for the position and after careful consideration, they narrowed it down to two candidates. After thorough evaluation, they decided to offer the position to Cody Sprayberry. Cody had previously worked at the Jasper County Sheriff's Department. Chief Jarrette also informed the council that he discussed his recommendation with Police Commissioner Mark Boer, who agreed with the decision to hire Cody Sprayberry for the 7th officer position. Dale Eenigenburg made a motion to hire Cody Sprayberry as the 7th officer. Terry Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Yurko gave the public works report. Dave reported that he had a waste pump that went bad. He received a quote for \$1800 to rebuild the pump and a brand new one will be \$2840. Dave informed the council he would like to purchase a new pump. Terry Schultz made a motion to purchase a new waste pump. Dale Eenigenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

Dave addressed the council regarding the upcoming spring conference scheduled for March 12-14. Dave requested permission for himself and Mike Orsburn to attend the conference. The council discussed the importance of professional development for public works staff and the potential benefits of attending the conference. After deliberation, the council approved Dave and Mike Orsburn's request to attend the spring conference.



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Street Department Superintendent Mike Orsburn gave the street report. Mike reported that they have been working on filling in gravel on the road edges. They focused on Orchid St from 15th St to Division. He emphasized that there were significant hazards due to dangerous road edges in this area. Additionally, Mike informed the council that they have been diligently filling potholes throughout the town. Mike reported that he has been collaborating with Town Manager Mike Cain on a project to raise and level sidewalks around town. The aim of this project is to ensure that sidewalks are safe and free from trip hazards by addressing uneven surfaces.

Park Commissioner Alana Bauman gave the Parks report. Alana reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday March 30, 2024, at 10 am in Spencer Park. The easter egg hunt will be for ages 0-10 years of age.

Town Manager Mike Cain gave the town manager report. Mike informed the council that Reece Rowan, a public works employee, has completed one year of employment and has also obtained his water certification. As per the requirements, Reece is now eligible for an increase in pay. Mike recommended moving forward with the increased pay schedule for Reece in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the department. Terry Schultz made a motion to follow the pay schedule for Reece Rowan. Alana Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

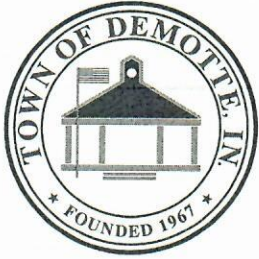
Mike brought to the council's attention that it is time for the annual donation to the Jasper County Economic Organization. He sought the council's input on whether they would like to proceed with the donation this year. The council discussed the importance of supporting the Jasper County Economic Organization and its initiatives for economic development in the county.

Attorney Luis Vallejo read Resolution 02262024-01 regarding amending the short term and long-term disability benefits for employees as outlined in the employee handbook. Dale Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the resolution. Alana Bauman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

Attorney Luis Vallejo also read Ordinance 02262024-01 regarding transient merchants. Upon deliberation, the council decided to table Ordinance 02262024-01 to allow all council members sufficient time to review the ordinance.

Chip Thompson from Abonmarche gave the engineering report. Chip provided an update on their ongoing collaboration with Town Manager Mike Cain regarding the Community Crossings grant for the current year. He informed the council that the grant announcement is anticipated in the coming months. They have been working on a design to have ready for bidding for paving projects this year. Chip reported on their efforts to update streets not included in the state's inventory, ensuring accurate tax revenue collection. He emphasized the importance of these actions in potentially securing additional Community Crossings funding for future infrastructure improvements.

Clerk Treasurer Cindy Shepherd presented the Treasurer's Report to the council. Cindy informed the council that the town is currently working with Baker Tilly to complete the 2023 bank reconciliation. She mentioned that they are making progress and anticipate completing the reconciliation soon.



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Citizens Request:

Nancy Bush, Vice President of the Demotte Historical Society, addressed the council regarding updates on repairs needed for the train depot housing the DeMotte museum.

Town Council President Jeff Cambe responded, stating that he had discussions with Andy Andree from Andree Builders. They conducted an inspection of the train depot property and are currently working on providing a quote for the necessary repairs. Jeff mentioned that they hope to receive the quote soon to develop a plan for addressing the repairs. Nancy requested that the Demotte Historical Society be informed of any upcoming repairs so they can take necessary steps to preserve historical items within the depot. Jeff assured Nancy that Town Manager Mike Cain will be in contact with the Demotte Historical Society regarding the repairs and to coordinate preservation efforts for historical items within the depot.

Dale Eenigenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. and Terry Schultz seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 3-0 vote.



Town Council President



Administrative Assistant