

# Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

SETTLED 1822

INCORPORATED 1973

## Minutes of April 16th 2024

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript.

### **TOWN COUNCIL**

Cecil Poag, Council President  
Ray Engler, Council Member  
Eric J. Gries, Council Member  
Crystal Kahre, Council Member

### **CLERK-TREASURER**

Mallory Lowe  
P.O. Box 20  
Darmstadt, In 47618

Cecil Poag called the town meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Mallory Lowe, council members Ray Engler, Eric Gries, Crystal Kahre and attorney Josh Claybourn.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Gries to accept the minutes from last month's Town Council meeting, Special Public Meeting and Fire Territory Public joint meeting. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Gries to accept last month's financial report. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

Engler made a motion, seconded by Gries to accept the accounts payable claims. Motion passed 4-0 voice vote.

### **CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mallory Lowe stated American Publishing continues to work on our town ordinances and resolutions for updating and codification. They stated it would take about 6 months to complete.

Lowe stated the final public joint fire territory meeting was completed on Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at German Twp Fire department, votes were taken and public notice was properly followed. Town Council voted and signed the agreement along with Scott Township and Armstrong Township to allow German Township to join our Fire Territory. On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm the Town Council completed a Special Public meeting to brainstorm and discuss town ideas, no votes were taken, public notice was properly followed. On Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> we planned to attend a seminar in Haubstadt hosted by Trust Indiana to learn about investments for municipalities but that was the morning that the tornado winds hit Darmstadt, damaging several homes and properties including the clerks and councils, so the seminar was missed. Lowe stated that all the Darmstadt officials attended the AIM Roundtable seminar on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> in Poseyville along with many other area towns and agencies.

Lowe advised there is an AIM Budget electronic workshop Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Lowe stated that the Indiana 2024 'Municipal Elected Official Handbooks' have arrived and Lowe passed them out to the council members. Lowe advised that last weekend was our Annual Clean Up day and there was a good turnout of town residents. Lowe stated they hauled all the trash to the dump, unloaded it from the trailer and ended up with 940lbs of trash this year removed from our town roads.

### **Fire Dept Report**

Crystal Kahre read aloud the fire report submitted by Brandon Zimmer via email who was unable to attend: Zimmer wrote that March was a slow month for the Town. There were 4 runs in Darmstadt, 2 runs were medical, one community paramedic visit, and one run to a business that had electrical issues. Average response time was 2 min 31 seconds.

### **Sheriff Report**

Sheriff Noah Robinson stated there were 15 business checks, 4 neighborhood checks, 56 extra patrols, one domestic violence at 4H, 7 traffic stops, criminal mischief at 4H caused damage running a truck out there, dump trailer was stolen off of Wortman Road, runaway juvenile, false calls claiming to be a law enforcement officer. Sheriff Robinson stated there has been a rash of false calls to people claiming to be a law enforcement officer and to call the sheriff's office directly to confirm these calls, don't trust them without verification. Josh Claybourn stated he had a client that fell for that false phone scam before. Noah Robinson stated he is working with the Flock Camera company to install the cameras in Darmstadt, he has been working with the company on better contract dates. The first bill won't be until June.

### **Maintenance Dept Report**

Cecil Poag stated that the maintenance department had 44 locates and 18 service calls since the last meeting. They have completely rebuilt 4 pump stations. Poag advised that Aaron and Mick were busy moving 9 trees off the road

after the storm, replaced all the led lights on the stop signs again at the BNH & St Joe intersection, as well as researched longer lasting lights for those stop signs. Poag stated that Aaron and Mick located the septic tank at the Old State house and believe it's about 15' deep underground. Poag advised that both superintendents have also completed more GIS training.

### **Wessler's Engineering**

Deen Rogers introduced himself as well as Josh Hood from the Evansville office. Deen Rogers stated he spent several years working for Umbaugh. Cecil asked what services Wessler's could provide for Darmstadt. Rogers responded that they have helped Darmstadt in the past with smoke testing, they also offer I&I studies, eliminating septic systems and pump stations.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

##### **1. EWSU Mandate Charges**

Attorney Josh Claybourn stated he will be reaching out to the city. Claybourn stated that the city has hired a new attorney for Evansville and he will raise that conversation. Cecil Poag added that Evansville was charged for their I&I and in turn charged the mandate charge to Evansville customers but Reedy Financial completed our sewer rate study from Evansville Sewer and stated it was not correct to charge Darmstadt a mandate that our municipality has nothing to do with since we own and operate our own entire sewer system. Evansville has been including Darmstadt in their mandate fees of about \$10,000 per month when we are not considered a regular customer since we maintain our own system.

##### **2. Correction request county records**

Attorney Josh Claybourn advised that he sent a letter to the county and he sees no reason why the correction request of the records wouldn't be met. Cecil Poag added that this has been a long time coming, the records at the county had never been changed when Darmstadt incorporated as its own municipal town in 1973. It has created many issues over the years with the records having the incorrect city name on our property records as Evansville when it's actually Darmstadt.

Attorney Comments

Board Members Comments

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Attest:

Mallory Lowe

Clerk-Treasurer