

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 8:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Blaylock.

Present were: BLAYLOCK, ALSOP, FLANDERS, WADE, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Dan Barton, Heather Morlan, Tom Stahl, Lora Arneberg, Don Alsop, Amanda Bryden, MaryAnn Michna, Aaron Straub, and Bobby Grider.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular meeting be approved. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced dates for golf cart inspections as follows: March 17, 9 a.m. to noon, March 24, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and March 31, 9 a.m. to noon. It was also noted that other times may be arranged by contacting Marshal Straub.

Councilman Flanders commented that it was suggested to him by a citizen that Marshal Straub make a report to Council as other marshals in the area do.

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the lone bid from David Enterprises for the street paving. Their bid was \$194,405. They also submitted a separate bid of \$2,000 for the alley behind Town Hall if it is done at the same time as the rest of the paving. Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion the bid from David Enterprises by approved pending review by Attorney Bauer. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented Ordinance 2018-1. This ordinance sets the hourly rate for the office employee retroactive to June 1, 2017. Councilman Wade made and Flanders seconded a motion that Ordinance 2018-1 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Bobby Grider be authorized to travel to French Lick for the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Conference in March. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion that a nuisance violation letter be sent to the property owner at 316 Steammill St., due to several unlicensed vehicles being parked there. All were in favor. Motion carried. Town Marshal Straub is currently making a list of other properties that are in violation.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a carriage application from Horseshoe Bend Carriage Co. be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that the street closure request from Historic New Harmony for Heritage Days to be held April 18-20 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented an employee evaluation form and asked for Council input. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the employee evaluation form be adopted, and that evaluations be done every six months. Councilman Flanders noted that some of the categories on the form are duplicated, which might cause confusion. He also asked if the comment section is intended for the evaluator or the employee. President Blaylock stated it is for either party to make comments. Councilman Flanders suggested that a category regarding training be added to the form. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock asked that Council consider selling the property where the Tree of Life Clinic once stood. There was discussion on how the property is zoned. Council agreed to do further research. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the discussion be tabled until the next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported that Lora Arneberg has requested a letter of support from the Town regarding the proposed legislation for the bridge and the establishment of a bridge authority. Attorney Bauer has drafted a letter. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the support letter be executed. Councilman Flanders noted an issue with the legislation as noted by Attorney Bauer is that a member of the bridge authority could be removed with or without cause. Attorney Bauer feels that Council needs to be involved in drafting of the legislation. Ms. Arneberg pointed out she is only asking for a support letter for the general idea of a bridge authority, and amendments can be made to the legislation as it proceeds. She continued that if legislation is not passed in this session, it is possible that

the engineering studies will have to be redone. All were opposed. Motion denied. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion that Attorney Bauer draft a letter of support of the establishment of a bridge authority, and that an explicit request be made that the Council be involved in the drafting of the proposed legislation in its final version. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported on a conversation he had with George Bowman with IN DNR. They are still working on amending the floodplain in New Harmony.

President Blaylock gave an update on activities at the former school building. He discussed some of the entities that were interested in the building at one time, which all fell through. He asked Council permission to obtain quotes to demolish the building. He stressed this does not mean the building will be demolished, but it will provide a firm cost if that is what Council decides to do. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Council seek a firm demolition price for the former school building. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock would like to take approximately fifteen acres of the former school property and turn it into agricultural ground. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that roughly 50% of the former school property be used for agricultural ground. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that the New Harmony School sign be removed from the building and placed in storage. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders discussed the property at 629 South St. The property did not sell at a previous sheriff's sale, and is now up for Commissioner's sale. He discussed the assignment process, whereby the County Commissioner's would be asked to assign the property to the Town. The Town could then seek funds through the Blight Elimination Fund to demolish the structure on the property. The Town could withdraw from the assignment at any time. Council members agreed to wait to see if the property is purchased at the Commissioner's sale on February 21.

Councilman Flanders presented a resolution supporting legislation to designate Say's Firefly as the state insect. The resolution is nearly identical to the resolution that Council passed in 2017. President Blaylock asked that in the future, Council be provided copies of these documents in advance of the meeting. Councilman Flanders made and Alsop seconded a motion that the resolution be adopted. The following vote was taken: ayes – Flanders; nays – Alsop, Wade, Watson, and Blaylock. Motion denied. Councilman Flanders asked that items be provided by all Council members in advance of the meeting when possible.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Gas/street superintendent Grider reported the gas line on the west side of the bridge has been lowered. This project was previously approved by Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer