

MARCH 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, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Dan Barton, Tom Stahl, Rod & Lynn Clark, Sandy Brown, Chris Laughbaum, Lora Arneberg, Annette Buckland, Aaron Straub and Bobby Grider.

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

Councilman Flanders reported on the total amount of materials recycled in 2017.

President Blaylock announced that a new two-year mowing contract has been entered into with Four Seasons Landscaping for mowing of Maple Hill Cemetery.

President Blaylock reported the Eagle Scout project being done at Maple Hill Cemetery is complete. This involved the replacement of hand rails and concrete benches.

President Blaylock stated four contractors have toured the former school building and will be submitting estimates for demolishing the structure. There have also been two individuals interested in either buying or leasing the property. He asked that a proposal be submitted to Council in writing. Councilman Flanders asked if a process on how to proceed has been developed. President Blaylock responded that all options are on the table, and anyone with ideas should present them to Council. Councilman Flanders suggested soliciting help from the Posey Co. Economic Development Partnership.

President Blaylock announced the golf cart trail is closed due to flood damage.

President Blaylock reported all required documentation has been submitted for the Community Crossings Matching Grant. The Town should be receiving the funds soon.

Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that the request from the New Harmony Alumni Associations to put up flags on the light poles for the annual banquet be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that Chris Laughbaum and Zac Weinzapfel be appointed to the Posey Co. Tourism Commission to replace Jon Winne and Jim Spann. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Flanders seconded a motion that Terry Briant be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Jim Spann. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that the agreement with the Ribeyre Gym Restoration Group for public restrooms be renewed for 2018. The Town will pay \$750 towards utilities and supplies. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders presented Ordinance 2018-2, which amends the zoning ordinance to regulate use of the storefront portion of buildings in the Business Historic District. He stated the ordinance is presented with unanimous recommendation from the Plan Commission. President Blaylock read Ordinance 2018-2 in full. Councilman Flanders made and Alsop seconded a motion that Ordinance 2018-2 be approved. All were in favor except President Blaylock. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders reported the Plan Commission will be looking into the problem with signs blocking sidewalks, etc. which was recently brought to their attention by a resident.

Councilman Flanders proposed consolidation of signs at the east entrance to Town. He would like to relocate the Kiwanis, golf cart community, etc., signs that are currently located at the Premiere Healthcare entrance to the area adjacent to the "welcome to New Harmony" sign. He would also like to see the signs currently located at the south entrance to Town relocated to the area adjacent to the "welcome to New Harmony" sign. Councilman Flanders made a motion that the information signs currently located at the entrance to Premiere Healthcare be relocated adjacent to the "welcome to New Harmony" sign. There was no second. Motion denied. Councilman Alsop stated she feels the relocation as proposed takes away from the beauty of the existing welcome sign. Councilman Flanders stated he has seen a similar set-up in other communities.

President Blaylock reported some issues have arisen regarding a probationary employee on the street dept. Also, the employee has, at times, missed work. According to research that was done, probationary employees can be terminated at any time, with or without cause. Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that the probationary employee be terminated. Upon question from Councilman Flanders, Attorney Bauer noted the termination needs to be done at a public meeting. Supt. Grider noted the employee is a good worker, but he has had some problems in the past. Attorney Bauer commented Council could have an Executive Session to allow the employee to be heard. All were in favor except Councilman Alsop. Motion carried.

Lora Arneberg reported the legislation creating a bridge authority passed in HB1290. Once the governor signs the bill into law, appointments to the bridge authority will need to be made within 30 days. Once the members of the bridge authority are appointed, work will begin on getting the bridge transferred to their ownership. There was discussion about the language in the legislation which allows a bridge authority member to be removed with or without cause. Ms. Arneberg stated this could be changed through additional legislation. Councilman Flanders inquired about the filling of vacancies on the bridge authority. Ms. Arneberg agreed to look into this and provide copies of the final legislation to Council.

Chris Laughbaum stated that instead of the individual organization signs being moved, she thinks one large sign with all the organizations listed would look nicer.

Rod Clark asked if the former school property has ever been listed with a commercial realtor. President Blaylock responded he is not aware of this being done. He also reiterated that all options for the property are on the table-selling, leasing, demolishing, etc. He encouraged others to look into any feasible options for the property.

President Blaylock reported two appraisals were done in 2014 on the former Tree of Life property. The appraisals gave the property value at \$92,000 and \$91,000. He noted this property probably needs to go to a realtor as well. Councilman Flanders stated this property may be worth more if the floodplain is changed.

At the request of Councilman Flanders, President Blaylock stated no new information on the floodplain has been received.

Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion that Supt. Grider be authorized to attend a pipeline safety meeting in French Lick July 10-12. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Flanders reported the governor is scheduled to sign the legislation designating Say's Firefly as the official state insect on Friday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer