

MAY 15, 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: Greg Grabner, Philip Bernard, Dan Barton, Gerald Benton, Amanda Bryden, Rod & Lyn Clark, Tom Stahl, Don Alsop, Tom Straw, Chris Laughbaum, Bobby Grider, and Aaron Straub.

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

Councilman Flanders urged residents to not leave their recyclables at the center at times when it is closed.

President Blaylock reported appraisals have been done by two companies on the former medical building property and the former school property. The Town has not yet received the reports.

President Blaylock announced the Boy Scouts will be placing the flags on the graves of veterans ahead of Memorial Day.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the proposal from Frontier Geospatial LLC to prepare GIS maps of the Town's utilities at a cost of \$18,000 be approved. Paper maps will also be prepared as part of the project. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the festival application for the Golden Raintree Antique Show be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock opened the public hearing on the additional appropriation and read Resolution 2018-5 in full. This resolution is an additional appropriation for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Resolution 2018-5 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. The public hearing was then closed.

A proposal from Utility Consultants, Inc. to handle the drug testing for the gas utility was discussed. The Town's current drug testing program is outdated. The annual administrative fee is \$200. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the proposal from Utility Consultants Inc. be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2018-3 in full. This sets salaries and wages effective June 1, 2018. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Ordinance 2018-3 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock proposed the following salary and wage rates effective June 1, 2018: Becky Harvey, \$15 an hr., Bobby Grider, \$25 an hr., Brian Strader, \$15 an hr., Jon Gates, \$14.85 an hr., Aaron Straub, \$3070.83 a month, and Erik Janik start at \$12.50 an hr., with a \$1 an hr. increase after 90 days. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the rates as recommended by President Blaylock be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock asked for suggestions on relocation of the "Ropp Field" plaque that is currently located at the former New Harmony School. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the plaque be moved to the lot adjacent to Town Hall. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Marshal Straub be given approval to travel to Indianapolis for training Jun 22-24. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Upon question from Tom Stahl, President Blaylock stated some volunteers will be doing some needed maintenance at the cemetery. He also reported the softball field will be farmed as agreed upon by Council at a prior meeting.

Gerald Benton, 311 Church St., complained that he received a certified letter about a zoning meeting that was held on April 16. However, he noted the letter was mailed to him on April 13, and he did not receive it in time to attend. He feels there should be a sixty day window between when the required notices are sent and when the meeting is held. Mr. Benton noted this is the third bed and breakfast to begin operating in his neighborhood. He noted one such property across the street from his home is owned by the State of Indiana, and he termed it to be a brothel or booze house. Mr. Benton

urged Council to consider requiring at least a two week notice be given to neighbors by those applying for zoning variances. Mr. Benton reviewed some state regulations for bed and breakfasts. President Blaylock assured Mr. Benton that Council would look into his concerns.

Amanda Bryden reported that a celebration will be held on July 2 in honor of Say's Firefly being named the state insect.

Councilman Flanders presented information regarding the Wabash River. He proposed that the Town partner with USGS to perform a survey to determine the condition of the riprap and changes in the volume of water. Councilman Flanders stated he has spoken to both DNR and the Posey Co. Commissioner's and both have declined to participate financially. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a decision be tabled until the area can be viewed from a boat. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced the Community Crossings Matching Grant is being offered again for 2018. Council will be looking at what streets need to be included in this next cycle.

There was discussion about the Peace Run and Harmony race to be held in New Harmony on May 19. Council asked for details on which streets will be closed and the duration. Rod Clark, community volunteer, stated they are expecting over 1000 runners, and all should be done by 12:30. President Blaylock stated there are 42 houses on Main and in Woodlawn. He expressed concern over having the street closed for four hours while the residents have no other way to get to or from their homes. He noted he wants to support the runners, but he has also received complaints from citizens. President Blaylock will call the race director following the meeting.

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

Councilman Flanders moved that Council adjourn in recognition of police officers memorial day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer