

AUGUST 15, 2017

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

The following visitors were present: Brant Shumate, Ryan Rapp, Dan Barton, Lois Gray, Tom Stahl, Audrie Burkett, Greg Wathen, Buddy Wilsey, Mick McConnell, Chris Laughbaum, Marsh Davis, Blake Feldmeier, Lauren Leslie, Lora Arneberg, Jacob Sapp, Aaron Straub, Bobby Grider, and Erik Arneberg.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the minutes of the August 3, 2017, Special Meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders encouraged residents to provide feedback on whether or not the current hours at the Recycling Center are convenient. The center is currently open on Wednesday's from noon to 4 p.m. and on Saturday's from 9 a.m. to noon.

President Blaylock reported some ditches on East and Steammill Sts. have been cleaned.

President Blaylock thanked those who donated time and/or materials to the painting of the Maclure Park bandstand.

Gas superintendent Bobby Grider reported on some upgrades and repairs that need to be made in the gas dept. The Town's high pressure line on the other side of the bridge needs to be lowered. There are also three valves around Town that need replaced. The final item is an insulated flange on the bridge line that needs to be moved above ground. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the repairs be made as listed in the quote from Utility Safety and Design dated July 17, 2017. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the festival application for Kunstfest be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. It was noted the New Harmony Business Associates have donated \$1,190. to the Town from proceeds of festivals within the last year where street closures were requested.

President Blaylock reported the Business Associates have requested permission to hold their monthly meetings at the Town Hall. They currently meet the first Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. It was noted that the Town Council has first rights to the room in the event an emergency meeting is called. President Blaylock stated he may ask that the Business Associates change the start time of their meetings to 8:30. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the Business Associates request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Brant Shumate, property owner of the apartment building on Frederick St., requested a waiver of one of the sewer fees on his property. The property currently has two water meters which correlates to two sewer bills. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the waiver request be tabled until the next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Marsh Davis, President of Indiana Landmarks, who had recently commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of reopening the bridge, reviewed the contents of the study. The written report is not being released at this time. Mr. Davis's intent was to provide a verbal summary of the report. The report concludes that the river spans are in fairly good condition and have a lot of life left in them. However, the approach spans are where most of the problems are that need to be dealt with on both a short-term and long-term basis. The engineer's estimate to get the bridge back to where it was to handle vehicular traffic is \$457,500. This is estimated to give the bridge a ten-year life. If pedestrians and bicycles are added to the vehicular traffic, the estimate is \$573,500. Both of these estimates include the addition of an automated toll system. The estimate to repair the bridge completely and return it to its original use is \$10,865,000. for long-term use. Mr. Davis stated he feels the State of Indiana should be the owner of the Bridge, and this should be part of the long-term plans. They also intend to look into making it a totally pedestrian bridge. Mr. Davis asked for support from Council on moving forward. Councilman Wade asked if there was a timeline for work to begin. Mr. Davis stated there is no timeline. He would like to see local support to gauge what the community thinks is the best approach. Also, sources of funding need to be identified.

Dan Barton noted a letter had previously been sent to the Posey Co. Commissioners from INDOT stating they would take the Bridge down if notified prior to December 31, 2017, that the County wanted it taken down. He asked if the letter is still an option. Mr. Davis stated he is not familiar with the letter, and he isn't sure this letter took into consideration the Town's gas line that is attached to the Bridge.

Ray McConnell asked if the \$500,000. short-term rehab takes into consideration the requirements of INDOT or IDOT. Mr. Davis stated he didn't know.

Lois Gray asked Mr. Davis if he intends to approach the Posey Co. Commissioners and Council and ask for their support. Mr. Davis commented he would like to see a Posey Co. resident do this.

Ryan Rapp pointed out he is familiar with the letter Mr. Barton referred to, but he believes the offer was contingent on the County taking over the Bridge.

Jacob Sapp, with UniFirst, informed Council he is interested in submitting a bid for the Town's uniform service. President Blaylock asked that he submit a price and how long it is guaranteed and Council will take it under advisement. Mr. Sapp will obtain the information he needs from Clerk-Treasurer Atkins to submit a quote.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2017-5 in title only. This ordinance extends the sprinkling credit to October 31. The ordinance will be up for adoption at the next meeting.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2017-6 in title only. This ordinance prohibits the operation of off-road vehicles on Town streets. The ordinance will be up for adoption at the next meeting. Buddy Wilsey questioned the definition of off-road vehicles. He feels that UTV's are safer than golf carts. He also asked why Council chooses to regulate ORV's. President Blaylock stated one concern is that ORV's are capable of traveling at much higher speeds than golf carts.

Erik Arneberg spoke about the proposed ORV ordinance. He stated that to access some Red Geranium property, a UTV must be used. He suggested that Council look into permitting UTV's to transit Town streets, but prohibit leisurely driving the streets. Attorney Bauer commented that a farm vehicle used for farming would be permitted. President Blaylock thanked Mr. Wilsey and Mr. Arneberg for their comments, and stated their concerns will be noted. Mr. Arneberg asked to be kept informed of any developments relating to the ordinance. Councilman Watson pointed out many ATV's are quite noisy.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that a quote from Northrup Grumman to upgrade the Town's meter reading software at a cost of \$5,538. be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced Becky Harvey has resigned as zoning administrator and as a member of the Plan Commission effective August 31. President Blaylock appointed Aaron Straub to the Plan Commission effective September 1.

Councilman Wade commented on the high number of golf carts being driven on Church St. He asked that Council think about what can be done. President Blaylock also pointed out many golf cart drivers are not obeying traffic laws.

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 reported he has had comments from residents regarding the failure of dog owners to obey the recently passed ordinance requiring them to pick up after their dogs. He asked if this could be put on the utility bills to make sure people are aware.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer