

NOVEMBER 21, 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, ALSOP, FLANDERS, WADE, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Rick Russell, Dan Barton, Tom Stahl, Carlene VanLaningham, Don Alsop, Gretchen Gossman, Phillip & Georgia Kaiser, Heather Morlan, Ryan Rapp, Raymond Dudlo, Andy Porath, and Bobby Grider.

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 announced that Marshal Straub has one more week of the academy.

Councilman Wade reported the curtains on the clarifier at the WWTP have been replaced.

Councilman Alsop reported the alley behind the Yellow Tavern has been paved.

President Blaylock stated four new fire hydrants have been installed.

President Blaylock reported Charles & Sally Huck have donated a new flag for the cemetery. The Eagle Scout project at the cemetery is underway.

Councilman Flanders noted a number of residents were not aware of the Monday water shut-off which was necessitated by the hydrant replacements. Also, many were not aware of how long the boil order would be in effect. President Blaylock responded that the shut-off notice was broadcast on a number of television stations, as well as through the Code Red telephone service. He continued that the length of the boil order cannot be determined ahead of time. Councilman Flanders also questioned an unscheduled water shut-off on November 3. This was done for a small section of Town. Gas/street superintendent Grider stated he made a mistake when figuring which homes/businesses this would affect. He noted the Town maps need updated, which he will be working on in the future. President Blaylock apologized for the inconvenience, but noted that infrastructure updates come with inconveniences. Residents were encouraged to sign up for the Code Red notifications through Posey County's website.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the annual budgets for the water and wastewater utilities as required by USDA Rural Development be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders asked that Council approve partnering with the USGS to do two surveys of the riverbank, one in 2018, and the other in 2020. The total cost of the surveys is estimated to be \$22,500., with the Town paying 70% of that cost. It is hoped the federal government will pay the other 30%. President Blaylock expressed concern regarding the Town committing an unknown amount of funding. He asked if other agencies have been asked to assist. Councilman Flanders stated he has spoken to Posey Co. Commissioner Jim Alsop about the county assisting, but he has not yet gotten a firm commitment. Councilman Flanders stated he feels this is an investment worth making, and he does not feel it is an excessive amount. He noted that although the river is outside the Town limits, the Town owns the trail and also has an agreement with the Corps of Engineers to maintain the riprap. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the proposal be tabled until more information can be gathered. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the employees' health insurance with Anthem be renewed with a 22.5% premium increase. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the salaries for elected officials need to be set no later than December 31. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the ordinance be tabled until the December meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Carlene VanLaningham asked for an update on the property at 629 South St. Councilman Flanders stated he is looking into getting the property included under the Blight Elimination Program.

Rick Russell requested a sewer fee waiver on the vacant lot at 625 Frederick St. He has no plans to build on the lot. Councilman Wade made and Flanders seconded a motion the sewer fee waiver be granted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Andy Porath introduced himself as a new deputy marshal.

President Blaylock presented Ordinance 2017-6, which is now on second reading. This ordinance regulates off-road vehicles on Town streets. Raymond Dudlo, representing Erik Arneberg, spoke to Council about the vehicle his client owns, and noted the safety and quietness of the vehicle. He noted the Council could include a “grandfather clause” in the ordinance, which would allow those who already have ORV’s to allow them to use them. Mr. Dudlo noted a petition to not approve the ordinance contains twelve signatures, and he offered to provide it to Council. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Ordinance 2017-6 be adopted. Councilman Flanders asked why the designation “on Town streets” was added, and how does this affect the use of ORV’s on the trails. Attorney Bauer explained that as the ordinance was originally written, it banned ORV’s from being operated on private property, which is not legal. President Blaylock noted the trail is regulated by signage and a prior ordinance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported that Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch visited New Harmony on October 20. The topic of discussion was the New Harmony floodplain. Since that meeting, President Blaylock has been contacted by DNR, and there seems to be progress on getting the floodplain issue resolved.

President Blaylock noted the invoice for \$13,600 from Blankenberger Bros. for installation of the fire hydrants, which was previously approved, was inadvertently left off the claims list. Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders announced that the Indiana Office of Tourism Development has designated Kunstfest as one of the ten best fall festivals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer