

SEPTEMBER 19, 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: Chris Laughbaum, Todd Wiley, Dan Barton, Amanda Bryden, Don Alsop, Tom Stahl, Raymond Dudlo, Theresa Bratcher, Lora Arneberg, Lynn Clark, Ryan Rapp, Erik Arneberg, Dan Busler, and Aaron Straub.

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

President Blaylock thanked those who helped make Kunstfest a success.

Councilman Alsop reported trees on Church and Main Streets that were obstructing the sidewalks have been trimmed.

Councilman Flanders stated he plans to ask that the hours of operation for the New Harmony Recycling Center be extended to 6 p.m. on Wednesday's.

Councilman Flanders asked the current staffing for the police dept. Councilman Watson commented there are currently three deputy marshals that are being used at different times. He continued the Town is not very dependent on the sheriff's office for coverage at the present time.

Todd Wiley, with the Ribeyre Gym Restoration Group, requested permission to close various streets in Town on October 21 for their 5K. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the street closure request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the Town's contract with Advanced Disposal is up for renewal. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that a renewal quote be obtained from Advanced Disposal. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented the names of Rod Clark, Larry Gosh, and Bob Spann for zoning administrator. Councilman Alsop nominated Rod Clark as zoning administrator. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor of Rod Clark. This appointment is effective October 1.

President Blaylock announced fall clean-up day will be October 27.

President Blaylock read a proclamation for Arbor Day. It will be held October 21, 2017. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the Arbor Day Proclamation be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chris Laughbaum presented a check from the New Harmony Business Associates for \$1,600. This represents 10% of the street vendor fees from Kunstfest.

Lora Arneberg gave a brief update on the bridge. She agreed to provide written copies of the summary to Council by the end of the day. The estimate to make the bridge pedestrian only is \$380,000. Presentations to the County Council and Commissioners will be done soon. Once it is determined which use is most feasible, fundraising for matching funds will begin. She asked that any contacts that may be provided to solicit funds from be forwarded to her. Monthly reports will be provided to Council. Ms. Arneberg noted the Town will not be asked to take ownership of the bridge. Ms. Arneberg stated meetings will be scheduled with INDOT and IDOT soon.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a request from Brant Shumate for a sewer fee waiver be denied. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2017-5 in title only. This ordinance extends the sprinkling credit to October 31. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Ordinance 2017-5 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2017-6 in title only. This ordinance regulates off-road vehicles. President Blaylock stated Council's intention with the ordinance is to keep the quietness of the Town intact, as well as safety concerns. Raymond Dudlo, representing Erik Arneberg, presented some information on the Polaris vehicle his client currently owns. He asked that Council consider including some exceptions in the ordinance for quiet, electric, low speed vehicles. He stated Mr. Arneberg uses the

vehicle to access his property in various areas of the Town. Mr. Dudlo asked that Council consider putting the ordinance on hold at this time. President Blaylock stated if one variance is granted, it will lead to more and more requests, which is what Council is trying to avoid. He continued that Mr. Arneberg's property can be accessed by another type of vehicle. Mr. Dudlo stated he is not asking for a variance, but that he would like some exceptions to be included in the ordinance before it is adopted. Attorney Bauer commented that it is up to Council if they want to include exceptions, but if they do so it will need to be very carefully written. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Ordinance 2017-6 be tabled until the next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Arneberg commented there are areas of his property which are not contiguous, and due to the denseness of the trees, some are hard to access with another type of vehicle. He also noted the loudness of some motorcycles and diesel trucks. Councilman Flanders noted that the Indiana Code already contains an exception for farm vehicles, and asked if it is necessary for the Town to do anything, in addition to this. Attorney Bauer stated this is a fine line and she feels if Council chooses to allow Mr. Arneberg's vehicle, Council should include an exception for it in the ordinance. Councilman Watson pointed out the majority of the farm property is not in the Town limits. Mr. Dudlo pointed out that although a majority of the property is not in the Town limits, Mr. Arneberg travels to and from his residence from the properties using the ORV.

President Blaylock presented a bid from DeBra Kuempel for \$11,849 to install skirts in the clarifier at the wastewater treatment plant. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the quote from DeBra Kuempel be accepted. President Blaylock will obtain a certificate of insurance from DeBra Kuempel and inquire about a warranty for the work. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock opened the public hearing for the 2018 budget. At the request of Councilman Flanders, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins reviewed the notice to taxpayers. She noted the budget will be up for adoption at the October meeting. There were no further questions. President Blaylock closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Alsop noted that many houses in Town do not have the house numbers on them. She stated this could be a problem in the event of an emergency. Attorney Bauer agreed to look into if there is a law requiring house numbers.

Councilman Flanders reported on the property at 629 South St. He stated the property went up for tax sale but was not purchased. Councilman Flanders is looking for a solution to the problem, as he feels the neighbors should not have to deal with it. He asked for approval from Council to work with Attorney Bauer to try to find a solution. President Blaylock authorized Councilman Flanders to work with Attorney Bauer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer