

FEBRUARY 21, 2013

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: GIBBS, WARRUM, STRAW, and WALKER along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Adam Farrar.

The following visitors were present: Pam Robinson, Nathan & Jeanne Maudlin, Barb McConnell, John Dailey, Jerry Walden, Jennifer & Alvin Blaylock, Tom & Caroline Williams, Johnathan Scott, David Flanders, Laurie Parker, Virginia & Don Alsop, Andrew Wilson, Owen Lewis, Carroll Marcus, Lora Arneberg, Bobby Grider, and Scott Champlin.

In the absence of President Campbell, Councilman Straw chaired the meeting.

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

Councilman Walker made and Warrum seconded a motion the minutes of the February 11, 2013 special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker introduced John Dailey, the new wastewater operator.

Superintendent Dailey reported the wastewater treatment plant is in compliance. He has begun in-house testing at the plant.

Councilman Warrum announced work on the well should be done within a week. She warned there may be some issues with dirty water, and flushing will take place soon.

Councilman Gibbs announced a new federal law mandates that all street signs in Town be replaced. Gas/street superintendent Bobby Grider reported he is working on setting up a program to replace the signs. There is no deadline for having all the signs replaced as long as progress is being made in that direction. He has estimated it will cost \$15,000. to \$20,000. to replace all the signs. Councilman Gibbs asked for input from the public on the color of the signs.

Acting President Straw reported the helicopter pad at the new fire station has been installed and tested.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins read a letter of resignation from David Campbell effective February 19, 2013. Acting President Straw stated the Republican Party chairman has been notified as required due to the fact that Mr. Campbell had filed for Council as a Republican. Acting President Straw commented it was a pleasure working with Mr. Campbell and he thanked him for all the accomplishments he made possible for the Town.

Councilman Gibbs made and Walker seconded a motion that Councilman Straw serve as Council President. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jennifer Blaylock spoke to Council about the trail grant the Park Board received. She stated the Town had agreed to maintain the trail as part of the 2007 grant application. This grant, however, was denied. She wondered if Council had agreed to maintain the trail as part of the 2008 grant application. She has spoken to the Dept. of Natural Resources and they are not concerned with who maintains the trail. Ms. Blaylock stated if Council decides they are not legally bound to maintain the trail, it would fall back to the Park Board. She asked that Attorney Farrar review the documents to determine if the Town is legally bound by them. Councilman Warrum stated that at the April 17, 2008 Council meeting, Ray McConnell had asked approval from the Town to submit the grant application and for agreement to maintain the trail for 25 years, which Council agreed to.

Councilman Gibbs made and Walker seconded a motion that the carriage application from Apple Blossom Carriage Co. be approved. All required documents have been submitted and the required fee paid. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The appointment to the Plan Commission was tabled until the next meeting.

Carroll Marcus, representing the New Harmony Alumni Association, requested permission to place blue and white flags on the street light poles for Memorial Day weekend. Council approved the request.

President Straw introduced Posey Co. Commissioner Jerry Walden who was present at the meeting. He offered their assistance with things going on in New Harmony. Councilman Gibbs asked for Mr. Walden's assistance with the bridge. He agreed to help if possible. Mr. Walden stated there has been discussion about the implementation of the innkeeper's tax which would benefit the Town.

Nathan Maudlin commented on the possibility of using some economic development money to develop the former New Harmony School property.

Virginia Alsop inquired as to why Council meets at 5 p.m. She commented that people who work have a hard time attending at that time. President Straw stated Council had met at 7 p.m. until the last year and there have been no complaints.

Carroll Marcus inquired about the proposed ordinance that requires utilities to remain in the property owner's name. He was informed that the ordinance has not yet been voted on.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins distributed copies of a report on the bicentennial that Connie Weinzapfel had dropped off. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Weinzapfel.

President Straw read Ordinance 2013-1 in title only. This ordinance amends the salary ordinance with respect to the hourly rate of the Town Attorney. Councilman Walker made and Warrum seconded a motion that Ordinance 2013-1 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Straw read Ordinance 2013-2 in title only. This ordinance requires that all utilities remain in the property owner's name. Councilman Warrum made and Walker seconded a motion that Ordinance 2013-2 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins presented a list of checks outstanding for a period of two or more years. One check for \$51. was on the list. Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion the check be receipted back to the fund from which it was originally drawn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Straw read Ordinance 2013-3 in title only. This ordinance establishes water conservation procedures. Councilman Warrum made and Walker seconded a motion that Ordinance 2013-3 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Warrum announced a public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. on March 8 for the storm water grant application. She encouraged citizens to attend.

President Straw reported he has contacted Klenck Const. regarding the former New Harmony school property.

President Straw stated his desire to turn the South St. property over to a realtor. He agreed to look into this. Council agreed with the request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Joe Straw, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer