

JUNE 18, 2024

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Smotherman.

Present were: SMOTHERMAN, ARNEBERG, CLARK, WEINZAPFEL, and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Nathan Maudlin.

A list of visitors is attached.

Councilman Clark made and Arneberg seconded a motion the Executive Session Memorandum for May 17, 2024 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Clark announced several rural water customers are currently under a boil order due to a water leak.

Councilman Clark reported the well inspection has been completed. Repairs at the wastewater plant are scheduled for July or August.

Councilman Clark reported computers for Town departments have been ordered. Tonight's meeting is the first to be live streamed. They will be broadcasted on You Tube. He is still working on getting the in.gov e-mails set up.

Councilman Weinzapfel informed residents that yard waste is picked up weekly. They request that it be out by Friday mornings. Approval was granted by INDOT to close a section of Church St. for Kunstfest.

Councilman Weinzapfel reported INDOT has removed the detour signs from the entrance to Town.

President Smotherman welcomed Ann Huelsmann to the meeting.

President Smotherman reported he has been checking interest rates due to the Town having several CD's maturing in July. He explained that Town funds are covered at 100% by FDIC and Public Deposit Insurance Fund.

Councilman Arneberg reported the Stellar grant application was not approved. She announced the Posey Co. housing study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.

Councilman Arneberg reported the visit New Harmony website is being revamped and it was noted that Murphy Park info is currently on the site although the Town is not a member. The annual dues is \$125.

Councilman Williams announced the cemetery expansion is currently on hold. Tree removal at Murphy Park should be complete soon/

Jeanne Maudlin announced Playtopia pickets are scheduled to be installed on June 28.

Numerous visitors spoke in support of the Town allowing UTV's on Town streets. This will require an ordinance as the Town currently has an ordinance prohibiting them.

Laura Nicholson suggested the Town look into prohibiting idling vehicles.

President Smotherman announced the Deaconess Mobile Breast Center will be in New Harmony on June 28 from 8 to 2.

Council members had a lengthy discussion about allowing UTV's. They will not be allowed on the state highway or the golf cart trails. It was noted Poseyville currently has an ordinance allowing them. Attorney Maudlin will draft an ordinance.

Councilman Williams made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion that a quote for \$22,875 from BL Anderson to replace a blower at the sewer plant be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. This purchase was approved at the last meeting for \$22,365 but the price had increased since that quote was received.

Attorney Maudlin read Ordinance 2024-7 in full. This ordinance amends the Town's ordinance regarding trees. Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion that Ordinance 2024-7 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Robin Lewis presented a proposal to Council regarding the "Santa house", which was gifted to the Town several years ago. She asked that the Town donate the "Santa house" to One New Harmony. However, Attorney Maudlin noted the Town would need to sell instead of donate. It was also requested that the Town store the house. Councilman Weinzapfel made and Clark seconded a motion that the "Santa house" be sold to One New Harmony for \$1. All were in favor. Motion carried. A storage location will be decided later.

Councilman Weinzapfel reviewed the process the Plan Commission just completed in order to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Request for proposals were sent to ten firms, and four proposals were received. All proposals were reviewed and scored by the Plan Commission members. Developing the Plan will involve a lot of public input. In conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan, there is also going to be a five-year master plan created for the Parks/Trails. Councilman Clark spoke about the need for an updated Comp Plan for the Town to be eligible for grants. Plans are typically updated every ten years, and the Town's current plan is 16 years old. There will be a steering committee set up to help guide the compilation of the Plan. The firm recommended by the Plan Commission is Rundell/Ernstberger Associates at a cost of \$70,000 plus \$25,000 for the Parks/Trails master plan. In order to be eligible for grants, the Park Board needs a plan as well. The delivery of the final plan is expected to be March, 2025. There was discussion regarding how to pay for the plans. Councilman Clark made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion that the Town retain Rundell/Ernstberger Associates to prepare the Town's Comprehensive Plan and five-year Parks/Trails Master Plan for a total of \$95,000. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Councilman Weinzapfel made and Arneberg seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer