

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

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, CLARK, WADE, and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Chris Laughbaum, Jeff Smotherman, Jan Kahle, Diane Sanders, Tom Guggenheim, Connie Weinzapfel, Tom Stahl, Caroline Williams, Caila Dostal, Lora Arneberg, Trisha Lopez, Kent Schuette, David Angel, and David Vonderscher.

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

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion the Executive Session Memorandum for October 20, 2023, be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams made and Clerk seconded a motion the minutes of the October 26, 2023, Special Meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the minutes of the November 10, 2023, Special Meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark reported additional gas has been locked in for the winter. Approximately 60% of the Town's estimated usage for this winter has been booked.

Councilman Wade reported the first order of pickets for Playtopia have been delivered and they will be installed soon. He stated the new shelter has been built, however, concrete will not be poured until spring.

Councilman Wade announced the new street trees are in and will be planted soon.

President Blaylock reported surveying is complete for the proposed expansion at Maple Hill Cemetery.

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the single bid received for the sale of the 1993 bucket truck. The bid was from John Pate for \$1000. President Blaylock reported he had weighed the truck and it would bring approximately \$2140 at the junk yard. Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion that the bid from John Pate be rejected. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion the bucket truck be taken to Burnt Prairie junk yard and sold for scrap. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock asked for discussion on the salaries for elected officials for 2024. Councilman Clark recommended a 3% increase for the Clerk-Treasurer. After much discussion, Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that 3% be added to the Clerk-Treasurer's base salary and the longevity pay effective January 1, 2024. All were in favor except President Blaylock. Motion carried.

There was discussion on options for the employees' health insurance. Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion the employees' health insurance be renewed with Anthem with an increase of 7.19%. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion the invoice from Daviess County Metal for the new shelter at Murphy Park be paid from the New Harmony School Fund. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Wade stated the invoice came in higher than originally estimated due to the decision to wrap the poles to protect from wood bees.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins thanked Sue Krozel and Jan Kahle for all their hard work on the Town election as well as the absent voter board members and the poll workers.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that Town Council salaries remain unchanged for 2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion that the January Council meeting be changed to January 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion that leaf pick-up end on December 18. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Diane Sanders, with Historic New Harmony, requested that she be notified of any work to be done near their properties.

Council discussed the conversion of the Town gas meters to radio reads. Attorney Bauer will look into the requirements as to the acceptance of bids. Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion that the Town move forward with the project of converting the Town's gas meters to radio reads, dependent upon the research of Attorney Bauer as to what procedures need to be followed, with the Town performing the work. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Wade 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 Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer