

MARCH 18, 2025

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

President Smotherman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in person were: SMOTHERMAN, ARNEBERG, CLARK, WEINZAPFEL and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann.

Visitors in attendance: Pat & Theresa Smith, Jo Briant, Lynn Clark, Diane and Eric Sanders, Lois M. Gray, Audra Lambert, Bill Meyers, Michael Guard, Jeff Koester and Peggy Taylor.

Councilperson Weinzapfel made, and Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 02-18-2025 Regular Meeting. Smotherman, Arneberg, Weinzapfel and Williams were in favor. Clark excused himself because he was not in attendance at the 02-18-2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark made, and Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 03-11-2025 Executive Meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark announced that Johnathon Webber, Superintendent, passed the water distribution test. He will take the treatment test again. The council will need to discuss compensation as Webber completes his certifications.

Councilperson Clark discussed his investigating an OCRA grant specifically focused on the town utility infrastructure plan. Clark and Johnathon Webber met with ERep and Commonwealth Engineers on 02-14-25. They discussed the information that had to be gathered to start the grant process. To apply, a salary survey needed to be done, which was, but now the survey must be expanded to include a salary survey for customers that live outside of city limits. There was also discussion about storm sewers being under the guise of utilities. So, there are more issues to investigate before they can proceed with the grant. Commonwealth Engineers said that the study could cost as much as \$100,000. With the OCRA grant, our cost is only 10% of \$100,000.

Councilperson Clark met with Johnathon Webber regarding the re-paving of Church St. by the State. That will hopefully happen in 2026. This project will go out for bid probably at the end of this month. When they re-pave that road it will be a good time to do our upgrade on all the service lines. It was decided that the town should go forward upgrading our service lines now. Webber is looking at vendors to complete the work. The State will also make the intersection at Church/Main ADA accessible. The new design will bump out the sidewalk nine feet into the street. This will involve three corners at that intersection. Councilperson Weinzapfel commented that it is a natural way to slow down traffic.

Councilperson Clark announced an upcoming meeting with Farrar to discuss water lead lines. In September the council passed a motion to go ahead with an automatic sampler at the cost of \$10,000. Farrar clarified that we must get two auto samplers, should one break down. Clark asked for motion to vote on the purchase of the second sampler. Councilperson Williams made the motion to vote on the purchase of a second automatic sampler and Weinzapfel seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Clark then made the motion that we purchase the second automatic sampler at the cost of \$10,000. Williams seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel announced that the State is installing a speed sensor 550 feet from the intersection coming into town, close to the fire department.

Councilperson Williams reported that the Parks Board met the previous week. Reservations for camping in Murphy Park will be online April 1, 2025. Williams met Johnathon Webber and Andy Batt on opening Murphy Park and placement of picnic tables. The Park Board is continuing to look at

and work with her council colleagues and the Clerk Treasurer on the best choice for New Harmony. Arneberg presented an initial comparison of the costs of the different options. Councilperson Weinzapfel asked about the security of these vendors. Arneberg confirmed that sensitive information on the website and that payments would be processed by a third party. President Smotherman said that he had met with the Clerk Treasurer of Posey County and recommended that Arneberg meet with her regarding their website and online utility payments.

Bill Meyer asked that attention be given to the alley that runs behind his house. He also mentioned that some street trees need pruning at Main and Church. Meyer was given a tree report form.

Peggy Taylor thanked people for taking down the tree in front of her house on Steammill. Where the tree had been is a crater and buckled concrete that needs to be addressed. Taylor was given a tree report form.

Marshal Heslet mentioned that he will be getting notifications of the online camping reservations and arrivals for his patrol.

Councilman Clark stated that at the 11-19-2024 town council meeting the installation of the equipment for the sewer plant was awarded to Melkay for \$7,000. The project expanded as Melkay found other issues, so the bill went up to \$16,290.72. All involved said the additional work/cost was needed and a reasonable costs. Councilperson Clark made the motion to approve the additional \$7,290.72 payment to Melkay. Williams seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman reminded us about Heritage Days. Heritage Days will be April 23-25, 2025. There will be some street closings, and the town Marshal will be present from 7:30-9:30 for traffic control.

Councilperson Williams announced the speed limit in Murphy Park will be moved from 15 to 10 mph. Speed limit signs in the park will be replaced. The town council supports the park board in this change.

Jeff Koester, representing the Robert Blaffer organization, requested that the 16-foot alley be vacated behind the Poet's House. There are trees, a partial garden and a fence in/on the area. If the alley is vacated, the garden could be expanded. Koester went to the recorders office to see if that area had previously been vacated. Nothing was found and he was told to go to the town. There are no town utilities on the property. Councilperson Clark advised that he get a quit claim for us to turn this property over to the Robert Blaffer organization. The town council will seek advice from Nathan Maudlin.

Councilperson Clark announced personnel changes. Bobby Grider, former Superintendent, has been on the payroll as a consultant due to his utility certifications. Because the current Superintendent, Johnathon Webber, now has his certifications. Clark made the motion to remove Grider from the payroll effective 03-19-2025. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Karla Atkins, former Clerk/Treasurer, also remained on the payroll to consult her replacement. Atkins has resigned from this consultation position. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion to remove Atkins from the payroll effective her last day of consultation. Clark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark and President Smotherman thanked both Grider and Atkins for their service. Clark mentioned that the council will be reviewing the Salary Ordinance in June of this year.

Clerk Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann, stated that in her capacity as Clerk Treasurer, she has evaluated the work that needs to be done in the office. Along with the SBOA financial work the town has a lot of big projects that are starting to come to fruition. One being paying by credit card. It was just announced that Grider and Atkins are both coming off our payroll so there are savings there. Huelsmann proposed

Weinzapfel announced as the planning commission has been going through the process of the comprehensive plan, and because the school has sold to a private individual, they have had concerns about a request coming to them to subdivide property. The planning commission doesn't have any systems in place to address such a request. Weinzapfel received information from our comprehensive plan firm REA, and they provided her with a rezone application and a plat amendment application. The planning commission adopted both of those applications. The new applications vary slightly from the town's current subdivision ordinance. Weinzapfel is proposing that the ordinance rezoning or subdividing of land be amended. It specifically has to do with the drawings/maps size requirements. In a previous ordinance the planning commission had to set up a technical review committee. Weinzapfel is proposing that we change the current ordinance to something that is New Harmony specific. She read the proposed change to the ordinance. The change means the planning commission can ask for specific expertise as needed. Councilperson Clark made a motion to change code amendment 151.03. Arneberg seconded it. Councilperson Clark commented that when the initial ordinance was written the county's ordinance was used so the technical review committee was comprised of all county positions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

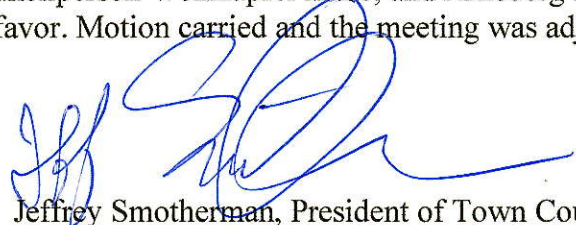
Councilperson Weinzapfel reminded us of the Comprehensive Plan Final Open House, tomorrow night 4:00-7:00 pm, Thrall's opera house. This is an open house for residents to have one more chance to review and comment.

Councilperson Weinzapfel wanted to acknowledge that the town of New Harmony was represented in Indianapolis, over the weekend, at a tribute to the Indiana Landmarks President, Marsh Davis, on his retirement. A letter was signed by our town council President wishing him well and welcoming him to New Harmony as a resident.

President Smotherman reminded us that Golf Cart Registration is coming up. Dates are Friday, 04-11-25, 4:30-7:30, Saturday and Sunday, 04/12-13/2025, 12:00-6:00, and Saturday and Sunday, 4/26-27/2025, 12:00-6:00. The Town Wide Yard Sale is 05-03-2025 and Big Trash Day is 05-16-2025. This is not for demolition disposal.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the claims. Clark seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilperson Weinzapfel made, and Arneberg seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.



Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:
Ann Huelsmann, Clerk Treasurer