

OCTOBER 17, 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, ALSOP, CLARK, and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Tom Stahl, Chris Laughbaum, Heidi Taylor-Caudill, Diane Sanders, Jan Kahle, Connie Weinzapfel, Emily Broerman, Jeff Smotherman, Sue Krozel, Amy Williams, Melissa Morris, David Vonderscher, Bobbi Jo Bottomley, Joshua Janik, Lora Arneberg, and Trisha Lopez.

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

Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion the 2024 budget be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion the festival application for Christmas in New Harmony be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. Melissa Morris, with Red Geranium Enterprises, reported she has been working with a carriage company to provide carriage rides. She asked if this would be a problem as Christmas in New Harmony is having one also. She was told to coordinate this with Robin Lewis. The company will need a permit from the Town.

President Blaylock read the annual Arbor Day Proclamation. Arbor Day will be held on November 4. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion the proclamation be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock noted two additional purchases have been made for Murphy Park without prior approval. There is not sufficient funds in the park budget to cover the purchases. He stated these should be brought before Council before the order is placed. Councilman Alsop made and Clark seconded a motion that two invoices (ABT-\$1606, Phil Etienne's-\$1159) be paid from the New Harmony School Building Fund. All were in favor except President Blaylock. Motion carried. There was discussion about the Park Board having authority to spend money from their own budget. Attorney Bauer stated the Indiana Code is not clear on the exact procedures.

President Blaylock asked that Councilman Alsop complete a building permit application for the new shelter at Murphy Park. Councilman Alsop stated she will if she has to. She asked if the Town is required to get permits on their own property. Attorney Bauer commented she isn't sure if the Town is exempt, but there is an exemption for the state, such as USI. President Blaylock agreed to complete an application and submit it to the zoning administrator.

Jeff Smotherman asked about the new shelter at Murphy Park. He stated it would be nice for the public to be aware of what it will look like etc.

Sue Krozel announced that voting for the Town Election will take place at the Granary.

There was discussion on Ordinance 2023-3, the abandoned vehicle ordinance. Attorney Bauer stated if any changes are made to the ordinance, it will need to be published a second time. There was discussion about delaying the effective date of the Ordinance. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion that Council consider Ordinance 2023-3. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that Ordinance 2023-3 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Council discussed the proposed water/gas meter replacement project. Attorney Bauer reviewed the bidding requirements for the project. There are different statutes depending on whether or not the Town is doing the install or contracting it out. Councilman Clark feels the Town can do the install themselves. The cost of the project is estimated to be over \$150,000 so the formal bidding process will need to be followed. There will also need to be a notice published regarding the install to be done by the Town. The notice needs to be published twice with the second notice published at least seven days prior to the deadline for receiving bids. Councilman Clark made and Alsop seconded a motion that the Town move forward with advertising the meter project and the notice for the Town to perform the work. All were in favor. Motion carried. Jeff Smotherman inquired if grant funds had been looked into for this project. Councilman Clark stated the Town does not qualify for any federal grants because the income levels in the community are too high.

Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried. There was discussion about the large tree that was removed behind the Opera House. The Town is paying the full cost for the removal but is being reimbursed for 2/3 of the cost by the adjoining property owners.

There being no further business, Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer