

AUGUST 20, 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 in person were: SMOTHERMAN, ARNEBERG, WEINZAPFEL and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins. Councilman Clark participated electronically via live stream.

A list of visitors is attached.

Councilman Williams made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular meeting be approved. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Arneberg announced the housing study for Posey Co. is ongoing.

Councilman Arneberg stated the Town is once again income eligible for Community Development Block Grant funds.

President Smotherman reported Council is reviewing applicants for the Town Marshal position.

Councilman Weinzapfel stated an evaluation has been completed on the Town's drainage/sidewalk issues and grant funds may be available to assist with problem areas.

Councilman Weinzapfel announced a grant has been applied for to have a tree inventory done.

Councilman Weinzapfel reported on progress on the comprehensive plan. She announced community design week is set for September 30 thru October 4. There will be workshops held in conjunction with this from 6:30 to 8:00 on September 30 and October 3.

Councilman Williams reported on maintenance work at Murphy Park. Work is continuing on creating an online reservation system for camping.

Charles Bandy asked about a timeline for paving the water leak hole at Taylor Ave. Councilman Weinzapfel agreed to look into this.

Lisa Cousert spoke regarding her property at 501 Taylor Ave. She asked that the water meter be removed. She also requested copies of the Town's ordinances. President Smotherman agreed to discuss these items with her later.

Anita Hawkins spoke about mosquitoes. She asked why the entire Council was not a part of the decision to cease spraying.

Councilman Arneberg made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion that Taylor Price with CDFI be moved to the top of the agenda. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried. Ms. Price explained CDFI (Community Development Financial Institutions) is a nonprofit that seeks to fill financing gaps for the underserved, etc.

President Smotherman read in full a second draft of an amendment to the Town's UTV ordinance. This ordinance allows only residents of the Town to operate properly registered UTVs on Town streets. Councilman Weinzapfel suggested a one year expiration on the ordinance. Councilman Williams stated he has heard from many who do not want the change and he isn't sure he wants it either. Councilman Clark stated he feels the proposed ordinance needs to be available at Town Hall for inspection. President Smotherman will work with Attorney Maudlin to clean the ordinance up and make copies available to the public.

David Vonderscher pointed out Council made the decision not to spray for mosquitoes and he asked what the decision was based on. After talking to others, he feels if spraying is not going to be done then the Town needs to have traps. Councilman Weinzapfel stated she did not make the decision on her own without any knowledge. She stated upon taking office, she familiarized herself with all the equipment, including the mosquito fogger. Brian Strader told her that Bobby Grider felt the spraying wasn't effective. She continued that while there are a lot of people who want the spraying, there are also a lot who don't. She stated she had spoken to the rest of Council and told them spraying was going to be discontinued because it isn't effective. Councilman Weinzapfel announced an entomologist from the Dept. of Health is coming in two weeks to help develop a plan to address the mosquitoes.

There was discussion about when mosquitoes may be discussed further and when others would be allowed to speak as several were told they could not speak at this time. Virginia Alsop asked that mosquitoes be placed on the next agenda.

Tom Armstrong expressed frustration that there was never an open discussion before the decision was made to discontinue mosquito spraying since that was a change from what was currently being done. Councilman Arneberg understands the frustration and said maybe in the future Council should make an announcement that a vote plans to be taken on an issue and give the public the opportunity to have input.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Arneberg seconded a motion that training requested by Attorney Maudlin be added to the agenda. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion that the Town reimburse Attorney Maudlin \$495 for continuing education classes on September 12-13. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion the quote from Layne Christensen for west well repairs be approved at a not to exceed fee of \$15,000. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that five fire hydrants be replaced at an approximate cost of \$18,000. Three obsolete hydrants will also be removed at the same time. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion to add “appointment of Clerk-Treasurer” to the agenda. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Arneberg seconded a motion that Ann Huelsmann be appointed Clerk-Treasurer effective September 1. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding retaining Clerk-Treasurer Atkins as a consultant beyond her retirement date of August 31. Councilman Williams stated he needs more time to look into this and talk to others before making a decision. Councilman Arneberg agreed that more information is needed before making a decision. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins commented a Special Meeting was held to discuss this and at that time it was stated it would be on the agenda for this meeting. Councilman Arneberg stated Clerk-Treasurer Atkins had given her price at the Special Meeting but there are firms that do this type of work also and she thought a proposal was going to be presented from them as well. It was noted a Special Meeting may be required to handle this. President Smotherman stated that Council needs to make a decision quickly. Councilman Weinzapfel noted there are things Clerk-Treasurer Atkins will be needed for. She asked that Clerk-Treasurer Atkins be paid an hourly rate, instead of a flat salary of \$2,000, with Ann Huelsmann keeping track of the time. Councilman Clark agreed he prefers the hourly rate. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins agreed to consider being paid at an hourly rate.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Clark seconded a motion that a quote from Mulzer Crushed Stone for \$16,358 for trail repairs and \$1,962 for camping sites be accepted. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Quotes for the removal of five trees and pruning of five trees were discussed. American Eagle bid \$10,250 while Wabash Valley Tree bid \$6,050. Also, two additional trees have been discovered that need removed. Wabash Valley Tree submitted a bid of \$2,900 for both of them. Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion that the two bids from Wabash Valley Tree totaling \$8,950 be accepted. It was noted all these trees have been evaluated by Tom Guggenheim. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – None. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams asked that the Park Board be renamed Parks, Trails, and Tree Board. Attorney Maudlin is looking into this.

Councilman Williams made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion that six picnic tables be purchased for \$5,438. One New Harmony will reimburse the Town for half the cost. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams reported there are a number of saplings disturbing the stability of the riprap along the riverbank. He has obtained a quote from Ancient Roots Native Nursery for \$2,520 to spray the riprap. Councilman Williams made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion the quote for \$2,520 be accepted. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Smotherman, Weinzapfel, and Williams; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays - none. Councilman Clark abstained due to not having reviewed the claims. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilman Weinzapfel made and Williams seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Arneberg, Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams and Smotherman; Nays - none. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer