

FEBRUARY 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, WEINZAPFEL and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Huelsmann and Attorney, Nathan Maudlin. Councilperson CLARK was not in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: Barb Mconnell, Diane and Eric Sanders, Julie Reynolds, Judy Baehl, Judy Voegel and Jeanne Maudlin.

Councilperson Arneberg made, and Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 01-21-2025 Regular Meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Arneberg reminded us that we received \$25,000 from the county to upgrade the WIFI, working with One New Harmony. There will be higher capacity availability with routers in businesses to help with larger events in town. Arneberg is with other councilpersons looking at new website platform that will incorporate our future ability to make payments online. She also received information from the Posey County Community Foundation that the Women's grants are open for a few days. We are currently waiting on a financial plan from Baker Tilly to help us identify sustainable spending levels for a five-year plan. Once we have the final comp plan, with identified projects we want to do, we can put those two things together and start doing some fun things. We are on hold until planning documents are ready.

President Smotherman discussed House Bill 1233 which is titled "A threat to Indiana's volunteer fire departments" that was displayed at the fire department bean dinner. He called New Harmony's house representative, Wendy McNamara and found out the Bill was dead. It was understood that Bill 1233 comes up every year. Smotherman announced that we have an employee that is now eligible for Medicare so we will reimburse him for that, and the employee dropped from the town medical health plan, which results in a big savings around \$1,200-\$1,300 a month. Smotherman is looking into future repairs of a roof leak at the fire department, and asphalt repair. He also talked to the fire department regarding some wish list items such as concrete extensions. A pickup truck driver got on our trails by the Atheneum the previous Saturday and got stuck in the mud.

Councilperson Williams said removing the large tree that is down in the cemetery is being held up by inclement weather. The Parks Board had a meeting last week. He wanted to bring up again the good work by Jeanne Maudling for getting New Harmony recognized by the Nation Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City.

President Smother completed the second reading of the 512-10 Permit Fees. Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion to approve. Williams seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel stated that the Zoning Administrator must be trained and certified in flood ways. Zoning Administrator, Tom Stahl, will be attending training in Indianapolis on March 18. Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion to approve Stahl attending the training. Arneberg seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Treasurer asked for approval for payment of ILMCT training and travel happening outside of Indianapolis the week of March 17. Weinzapfel made a motion to support the payment of training and travel. Arneberg seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman asked for funds to complete work at the fire/EMS building. The work consists of stripping, cleaning and waxing floors and upgrading the carpet in the bedrooms and fire

street trees. Councilperson Williams made a motion to accept the quote for work from American Eagle tree service. Weinzapfel seconded it. President Smotherman asked about the town's liability should a street tree fall on a house. Attorney Maudlin said that he would have to investigate it but did say there would be a difference between a tree that was reported and not addressed than an issue from inclement weather. Weinzapfel reinforced the reason for us to have an arborist evaluating all reported trees. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman discussed the quote regarding flooring and paint in the town hall building. Clerk-Treasurer has gotten quotes to redo town hall. There have been discussions on how far we want to go with this building, including expansion. The council is still considering the plans.

Councilperson Weinzapfel updated the town council regarding the Municipal Code Codification. Attorney Maudlin and Councilperson Clark have been involved in the project that started a year ago. She stated it will be much easier to understand and like things are placed together. Future changes will be less expensive due to the pagination. The entire code book will be put online for citizen accessibility and make it available for comments. Weinzapfel made a motion that Street Vendors' hours of operation be based off their application and for the council to approve this change of code 110.40. Councilperson Williams seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Nathan Maudlin brought up some minor code changes that were made such as our cable TV contract proposal, which was never adopted. Also included in the new code are editor's notes in italics after each ordinance that gives the history of the ordinance and when it was amended. A continuity change throughout the code is that all references will be to the Town Council, Clerk Treasurer and Department of Parks and Recreation and Clerk Treasurer. Statutory sites have been updated and/or removed. There have also been some spelling updates.

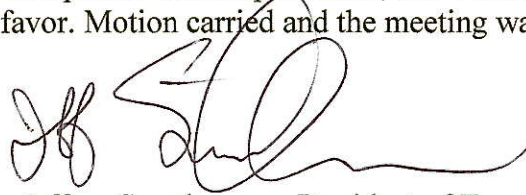
Councilperson Weinzapfel made a motion for American Legal Publishing to be the official reporter of our municipal code. Arneberg seconded it. Weinzapfel clarified that we received 10 copies of the new code book and were paying \$500 for American Legal Publishing will host it online. The cost to change a page ongoing will be \$22.00 per page. Weinzapfel clarified some information on why American Legal Publishing were chosen and that there will be a link to American Legal Publishing website to view code. She stated that it should be published by mid-March. Ongoing changes will be approved by the Town Council and put in the ordinance document once a year. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman announced 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 Arneberg made the motion to approve the closing of streets and Marshal support at the Heritage Days. Weinzapfel seconded it. Diane Sanders reminded us that this is occurring at the same time as the Paint Out. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Judy Baehl asked the town council to approve the Relay for Life in Murphy Park. She thanked New Harmony for letting them have it in prior years. The event will take place Saturday, August 16, 2025, including a 5K walk/run. The registration for the race will be at 7:00 AM and the walk/run at 8:00. The event will end between 3:00-4:00 that day. They asked for approval to set up the park the Friday before. Clerk Treasurer Huelsmann confirmed the date is booked in the park calendar. Baehl asked for continued police and public support for the event. President Smotherman asked that they send the walk/run route to Clerk Treasurer Huelsmann. Councilperson Williams made the motion to approve the Relay for Life, waive the Shelter House fee, no permit fee, and early Friday set up. Arneberg seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel reported that Rundell Ernstberger Associates is nearing completion of the town's comprehensive plan. There will be a final Public Open House covering the Comprehensive Plan and the 5-Year Parks Plan. The meeting will be March 19, 2025, 4:00-7:00 PM at Thralls Opera House. This open house is your last opportunity to learn about the policies and plans shaping New

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Smotherman', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:  
Ann Huelsmann, Clerk-Treasurer

