

January 21, 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 participated via camera.

Visitors in attendance: Diane and Eric Sanders, Joshua Janik, Andy Batt, and Jeanne Maudlin.

Councilperson Williams made, and Weinzapfel seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/17/2024 Regular Meeting. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Clark stated that dates to meet with Matt Eckerle from Baker Tilly were emailed out to all council people and the Clerk-Treasurer. Baker Tilly is going to talk to us about TIF funding and redevelopment districts. Please respond to Clark with your availability.

Councilperson Arneberg is waiting to hear from the county on \$25,000 Wi-Fi grant working to execute. Clerk-Treasurer announced that we did receive \$25,000 from Posey County. Councilperson Clark and Arneberg identified some big economic development goals for this year but want to wait on our five-year financial plan results. She has been working on some preliminary steps with the website – some technical issues. Will be sorted out soon.

President Smotherman reminded us that the fire department is hosting the sausage and bean dinner this Sat. from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the 4H Fairgrounds. There is also a Birds and Beans chili cookoff and Falconry Frenzy at the State Park, February 8 from 8:00 am -12:00 pm (taste testing at 1:00 pm). President Smotherman will be a judge at the chili cookoff.

President Smotherman stated the roll-up doors at the fire department were serviced. We are getting quotes on servicing the automatic controls on the doors. They are over 12 years old and starting to falter.

Councilperson Weinzapfel thanked her colleague on streets, Tom Williams, and she particularly thanked the town crew for the work they did to clear the streets as best they could working with some private individuals and the state highway department who clears Church St. She heard good reports about what was done.

Councilperson Williams reported on a downed branch at the cemetery, which was reported to Johnathon Webber. The downed branch at Murphy Park has already been picked up. He's happy to report that the Port-o-Potty is clean. The Parks Board had a really good meeting to discuss their five-year parks/trails plan. Ideas will be presented soon.

Diane Sanders announced that there is a bicentennial meeting tomorrow for the Owen Experiment, with plans forthcoming. They will have a proclamation to present to the Town Council.

President Smotherman noted the need to elect a 2025 Town Council President. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion that Jeff Smotherman be our President for next year. Arneberg seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried. Smotherman thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann presented changes to the most recent Salary Ordinance. The changes included clarification on sick and vacation accruals for Anita Hawkins, replaced semi-monthly with bi-weekly under the insurance section and added Short Term Disability and Accidental Death and Dismemberment to Life Insurance as coverages covered by New Harmony for employees. Huelsmann did add that employees that do not take Medical, may take Vision and Dental independently at a cost of \$10 per paycheck. Ordinance 2025-1. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion to approve these changes. Williams seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Huelsmann presented a contract with a company to digitize our fixed assets. The agreement includes a thorough review of our existing capital asset records, integrating information from multiple sources, estimating the useful life of our assets, depreciation, and consolidating the capital asset records for each individual entity into the SOBA standard. Their service includes physical inventorying, excel spreadsheet and training. The cost is \$100 an hour, not to exceed \$7,500. Huelsmann stated that she believes that when the consultant sees our book of assets, the cost will be lower. This contractor was highly recommended by another consultant, Suzy Bass. Councilperson Arneberg clarified that we need to make sure the data is backed up. Councilperson Williams asked how much we must utilize that record. Huelsmann responded not much, but it's required. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion to approve this work. Clark seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Weinzapfel requested that many of the public records, such as the town council meeting minutes, be transferred to the Working Man's Institute (WMI). It is a governmental agency, it is the town's archive for the future, and it is a safe place. Weinzapfel has been talking to the director of the WMI about storing these records, so they are accessible. Weinzapfel talked to Nathan Maudlin about this also. Maudlin stated that this benefits the town and agrees with moving forward. Councilperson Williams also asked about the boxes of things stored in equipment buildings – it is a massive amount. Councilperson Weinzapfel clarified that we are not moving everything to the WMI. We are determining what we need to continue to store and what can be destroyed. We are looking at the State Retention Schedule. Ultimately, we are going to get rid of a lot of paper. Starting next Monday, she and Linda Warrum will be looking through the files and records here at the town hall and determining what can be moved. Weinzapfel mentioned that we have a lot of maps and may have to purchase a flat file to house them. Weinzapfel made a motion that the town transfers appropriate documents to the WMI for archival purposes. Arneberg seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman introduced the police equipment needs. A quote was sent to the town council members. This includes some equipment that we've never had. The equipment was highly recommended by the former marshal, Aaron Straub, for protection and safety. There are two quotes. The first one is for a handsfree radio that is replacing the one we currently have which is old and broken. The set up is arranged from the radio to the Posey County system. The current one will be moved into the office and the new radio will go in the police vehicle. (\$1,600) Marshal Heslet clarified that it is a system and equipment that is used in the county. Heslet presented and requested that the council approve the purchase of a five-year contract that includes body camera, Taser 10, accessory equipment, transcribe system, evidence system, service and certification/training programs. The supplier is Axon Enterprises. The estimated cost of these programs and equipment is \$35,640.20 to be paid out over a five-year period. Heslet clarified for the council the advantages to this program, including replacing any faulty and/or expired equipment. With the Taser 10 our marshal gets certification. The biggest part of the expense is the Fleet 3, which integrates everything, such as the car camera with the Flock System. Everything used is retained at Evidence.com, such as taser use, body cam, and dash cam. The warranty is for five years. Councilperson Williams asked if Marshal Heslet should leave, would Axon train the new person. Heslet said that he could train his replacement. Nathan Maudlin asked if we needed to notify our liability carrier if we carry a taser? President Smotherman said that he would call and check. Maudlin also asked if such evidence in Evidence.com was ever used in court. Heslet responded yes. Councilperson Weinzapfel made the motion to accept both contracts to fully equip our town marshal. Arneberg seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Smotherman presented an amendment to Chapter 5.12 SPECIAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS to exclude not-for-profits based in Posey County from paying event permit fees. Councilman Clark suggested this be the first reading, giving the public time to comment, and we move the vote to the February Town Council Meeting.

President Smotherman presented Horseshoe Bend Carriage Company's request for an annual permit. Proof of insurance is present. Councilperson Williams made the motion to approve the request. Arneberg seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilperson Williams made a motion to approve the claims. Arneberg seconded it. Roll call vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:  
Ann Huelsmann, Clerk-Treasurer