

JULY 16, 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, CLARK, and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins. Councilman Arneberg was absent. Councilman Weinzapfel participated electronically via live stream.

A list of visitors is attached.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular meeting be approved. Councilman Weinzapfel offered a correction to these minutes regarding the completion of the comprehensive plan. She stated the estimated completion is April-May 2025. This correction was noted. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion the minutes of the June 24, 2024, special meeting be approved. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

President Smotherman reported for Councilman Arneberg. She is still working on the Read-I grant program and participating in the county housing steering committee. She will be recusing herself from any voting concerning development of the former school property.

President Smotherman announced the Town will be rolling over a number of certificates of deposit that recently matured at United Fidelity Bank. The new rate will be 5.23% for ten month certificates.

President Smotherman reported the Posey Co. Prosecutor's office will be purchasing the new Toughbook for the Town Marshal.

President Smotherman reviewed yard waste policies.

President Smotherman asked that delinquent golf cart fees be paid.

Councilman Williams reported the light on the new shelter at Murphy Park will be replaced. The Park Board is also looking into new lighting throughout the park and also upgrading the electric.

Councilman Williams reported the number of "no mowing" signs along the trail has been reduced from six to three.

Councilman Weinzapfel reported work is continuing on how to identify dangerous trees. An arborist will be hired to assist with this.

Councilman Weinzapfel commented that the comprehensive plan will be addressing drainage.

Councilman Clark announced the project at the wastewater plant is scheduled to begin in approximately 30 days.

President Smotherman introduced Peyton Seymour, who presented a proposal for an Eagle Scout project. He is proposing to restore damaged head stones at Maple Hill Cemetery. It was suggested that he research the correct materials to use and that IN Landmarks be consulted. He was asked to contact Diane Sanders, with Historic New Harmony. Councilman Clark made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion the project be approved, with appropriate research on proper materials etc. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

David Vonderscher asked how the decision was made to not spray for mosquitoes. President Smotherman stated that would need to be placed on the next agenda as this is not the time for q and a.

Andy Batt and Tom Guggenheim both spoke against mosquito spraying.

Numerous visitors spoke both in favor and against the proposed UTV ordinance changes.

Greg Cox thanked Councilman Williams for assistance with a tree issue.

Several expressed their opinion that UTVs are not any more dangerous than golf carts.

Dawn Worman suggested that UTVs be allowed, at a minimum, on a trial basis.

President Smotherman stated Attorney Maudlin had written up, at the request of Council, an ordinance to amend the Town's UTV ordinance. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that a quote from Layne Christensen Co. for \$5840 be approved. This involves pulling the west well to determine what repairs may be needed. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark reported the Posey Co. Council has awarded \$200,000 to the Town to use towards purchasing the former school property. Two appraisals must be obtained before the Town may purchase the property. The County Council has set a deadline of October for the Town to decide if they wish to pursue purchasing the property. Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that two appraisals be obtained at a not to exceed fee of \$9000. There was discussion that this is a good time to consider this due to the Town currently working on a new comprehensive plan. Council members all stated they have no set agenda for the property at this time. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Jim Brown spoke regarding ordinance 2024-7, which addressed trees. Mr. Brown asked about the previous ordinance and when it was passed. Councilman Clark explained the ROW belongs to the Town, and that is how things are handled state wide. Mr. Brown stated that is not how things are done in Mt. Vernon. Mr. Brown asked when the original ordinance was passed and Council stated this would have to be researched.

Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that the topic of purchasing computers for Town Hall be added to the agenda. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried. Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that two computers with dual screens be purchased for Town Hall at a not to exceed fee of \$2100. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays – none. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams made and Clark seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams, and Smotherman; Nays - none. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilman Clark made and Weinzapfel seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. The following roll call vote was taken: Ayes – Clark, Weinzapfel, Williams and Smotherman; Nays - none. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Jeffrey Smotherman, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer