

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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, WADE, WATSON, and WILLIAMS, along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Chris Laughbaum, Ben Barnes, Mary Beth Guard, Trisha Lopez, Connie Weinzapfel, and Aaron Straub.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the minutes of the January 24, 2022, special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Williams seconded a motion that the check dated November 19, 2019, payable to Colton Owens, be canceled and receipted back to the fund from which it was written. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock asked that Council think about possibly selling the bucket truck, as it is incurring a lot of repair expenses. He suggested purchasing a front loader with forks and a basket for the tractor to use for high work. This is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000. President Blaylock will have more information at the March meeting.

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the two bids received for the mowing of Maple Hill Cemetery. C & R Lawn Care bid \$1,400 per mowing. Four seasons bid \$1,160 per mowing. Councilman Wade asked if the mowing contractor for DNR was contacted to see if they were interested in bidding. They were not contacted by any Council member. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that a decision be tabled until the March meeting. All were in favor except Councilman Williams. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported there is still an issue with the storm siren. Posey Dispatch is unable to activate the siren. He stated the system is obsolete. The quote from VEI Communications to replace the siren is \$31,101.34. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the bid from VEI Communications be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Bauer informed Council of the need to amend the Town's fireworks ordinance. It is not currently in compliance with State statute. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the Town's fireworks ordinance be amended, using Evansville's ordinance as a model. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chris Laughbaum reported that with the new parking spaces on Main St., people approaching the intersection of Main and Tavern often have an obstructed view. Council agreed to look into this. President Blaylock would also like to look at the angle parking on Tavern St. This might need to be changed back to parallel parking.

Chris Laughbaum noted business owners need to keep the sidewalks and curbs clean in front of their business. President Blaylock will discuss this with the Business Associates President.

Councilman Williams made and Blaylock seconded a motion that the proposal from Mary Beth Guard, on behalf of the Business Associates, to place lights in the trees on Main and Church be accepted. The following vote was taken: ayes – Williams; nays – Blaylock, Alsop, Wade, and Watson. Motion denied. Mrs. Guard was thanked for all her work on this.

Councilman Wade reported a meeting was held regarding Christmas decorations. Discussions are ongoing.

President Blaylock appointed Steve Huck to the Plan Commission for a four-year term.

Councilman Alsop reported the mobile breast center will be set up on May 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The location has not been confirmed yet.

President Blaylock asked for input on the proposed building permit fees. Councilman Wade agrees with the new fees, but feels there needs to be a fine added for those who fail to get a permit. Councilman Williams feels this will be hard to enforce. President Blaylock agreed with this statement. Attorney Bauer noted there is currently a \$200 fine for zoning violations per ordinance. This was put in

place in 2010. Councilman Williams made and Wade seconded a motion that the building permit fees be increased as recommended. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson stated he is working on getting a second quote on security cameras.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock received a request from the New Harmony Alumni Association that they be allowed to put their flags up for approximately a week over Memorial Day. Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion the request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop reported the Park Board is wanting to set up a pickleball court on the Murphy Park basketball court. There will need to be lines drawn on the court and a net purchased. There was discussion on how to keep the net from being vandalized and also on whether or not Kiwanis is planning on helping cover the cost. Councilwoman Alsop will get more information and report back.

Councilman Wade stated Kiwanis is wanting to extend the basketball court. He suggested that the goals be moved instead. More information will be obtained on this project and forwarded to Council.

Councilman Wade suggested that Council send a letter to INDOT, the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor regarding the road between New Harmony and Wadesville. Many people have gotten cracked windshields and their paint chipped due to the condition of Highway 66. Councilman Wade will make sure the letter is drafted.

Councilman Alsop would like to look at the Town's burn ordinance and possibly amend it.

There being no further business, Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer