

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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

A list of visitors is attached.

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

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the following bids which were received for the 1995 Ford backhoe: John Pate - \$4,100; Stephen Reed - \$2,012; George Machinery, LLC - \$9,250.; Justin Ferrell - \$20,000. Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion the bid from Justin Ferrell for \$20,000 be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion that approval be given for Bobby Grider to travel to French Lick, March 14-16, for the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water conference. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the shelter house fee be waived as requested by the Hoosier Salon for the Children's Art Camp scheduled for May 30 thru June 1. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion that the request from Historic New Harmony to close North St. for Heritage Days on April 12-14 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that a carriage license be approved for Horseshoe Bend Carriage Co. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lora Arneberg thanked Council for their support on the Indiana Main Street application. They will be notified the first week of March as to whether or not the Town has been accepted.

Lora Arneberg inquired about putting banners up on the light poles. They proposed some to advertise certain events, and others to promote certain properties. They agreed to bring a sample to the next meeting.

Lacey Ashby, with the National Guard, introduced herself and offered their assistance with events or issues in Town. Councilman Wade noted mulch needs to be removed and installed at Playtopia. He will work with Sgt. Ashby on this.

Robin Lewis proposed that Council contribute 50% of the cost of a Christmas tree to be placed at either Red Bud Park or by the Veteran's Memorial. The Business Associates are also requesting that the Town put up, take down, and store the tree. President Blaylock commented storage could be a problem as all Town buildings are currently full. Ms. Lewis will work on this. Ms. Lewis stated this will not interfere with the tree lighting ceremony as traditionally held by the Red Geranium. Chris Laughbaum asked how much money the Business Associates are requesting from the Town since they have the funds to cover the purchase. Councilman Wade stated the full cost of the tree is approximately \$5000. Kent Schuette commented he believes this is a great opportunity for the Town and the Business Associates are trying to build collaboration with the Town. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that 5 discussion be tabled until the March meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the semi-annual gas line inspection was completed in January and it was reported to be in good condition.

President Blaylock reported planning has begun for the total eclipse which will occur on April 8, 2024. Councilman Clark attended a meeting in Evansville to discuss planning. He feels the Town needs to be prepared for a large crowd. Councilman Clark will continue to attend meetings and begin planning as needed.

President Blaylock reported on behalf of Councilman Williams. A quote from American Eagle was obtained for the removal of two trees and trimming of two additional trees. The total price is \$4450. Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion the tree work at Maple Hill Cemetery be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade presented a quote from Icon Concrete Coatings for \$8568 for an epoxy floor in the Murphy Park shelter house. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that the bid from Icon Concrete Coatings be accepted. Councilman Clark suggested a decision be tabled to allow members a chance to review the information. The following vote was taken: Ayes – Alsop, Wade; Nays – Blaylock, Clark. Due to the tie vote, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins voted nay as the tie breaker. Motion denied. Councilman Clark made and Blaylock seconded a motion that a decision be tabled until the next meeting. The following vote was taken: Ayes – Blaylock, Clark; Nays – Alsop, Wade. Due to the tie vote, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins voted aye as the tie breaker. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade reported the Park Board has been looking into a second shelter house at Murphy Park. It would be 30' X 40', with no sides. He obtained a quote for \$18170 for such a structure from Daviess County Metal Sales, Inc. He also obtained a quote from Graber Post which was approximately \$2000 higher. It is planned to be constructed near the Scout Cabin. Councilman Clark made and Blaylock seconded a motion a decision be tabled until the next meeting. There was discussion about also charging a fee for the new shelter. The following vote was taken: Ayes – Blaylock, Clark; Nays – Alsop, Wade. Due to the tie vote, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins voted aye as the tie breaker. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade obtained a quote for concrete work at Murphy Park. This includes a concrete floor for the new shelter, plus sidewalks to both old and new shelters, and concrete for a section of Playtopia. The total price is \$11,000. There was no name stated as to who submitted the quote. Councilman Clark made and Alsop seconded a motion a decision be tabled until the next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Meyer followed up on a couple of items that were discussed at the September meeting. At that time, he brought up about employees hand sweeping of streets. Upon further discussion, he has learned this practice will continue. Mr. Meyer also discussed the Town's current mosquito spraying practices. He asked that Council establish a more structured policy for mosquito control.

Councilman Wade commented on some painting needed at Town Hall. He obtained two quotes for the work, but did not specify who the quotes were from. Also, the gutter on back of Town Hall was damaged and Mann's Gutter gave an estimate of \$850 to replace it. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the bid for \$850 for the gutters and the low bid of \$1100 for painting at Town Hall be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer