

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

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: Dan Barton, Chris Laughbaum, Jim Bush, Briel Kobak, Randy Pease, Connie Weinzapfel, and Aaron Straub.

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

Councilman Alsop reported the trail signs have been posted.

President Blaylock announced the Town has submitted an application for the 2020-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the two checks outstanding for a period of more than two years, as shown on the list presented by Clerk-Treasurer Atkins, be canceled and entered as a receipt to the fund upon which they were originally drawn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Bush, with Peace, Run, & Harmony, requested permission to change the date of his event from April 18 to May 9. He had previously received approval from Council to hold the event on April 18. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the date change be approved as requested. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported a quote has been received from Expressway Chevrolet for a truck to replace one the Town currently owns. The price of the truck is \$20,900, plus \$1,400 for the strobe lights, safety equipment, etc. The old truck will be disposed of at a later date. Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the Chevrolet truck be purchased for a total cost of \$22,300. All were in favor except Councilman Watson, who abstained. Motion carried.

President Blaylock noted Council is in need of a new dump truck. There is a used GMC dump truck for \$19,900 for sale by an individual in Evansville. He plans to test drive it on February 19. Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the dump truck purchase be authorized at a maximum of \$19,900. All were in favor. Motion carried.

It was agreed that discussion on surplus equipment to be disposed of be done at the next meeting.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the \$100,000 balance in the water cash reserve fund be transferred to the water operating fund. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chris Laughbaum brought up the continued problem of golf carts on Church Street. There were several ideas put forth to try to stop this.

President Blaylock reported, at the request of the New Harmony Bridge Authority, that work should begin on the bridge in late spring or early summer.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Town Marshal Aaron Straub be given approval to travel to Indianapolis on February 19 for training. There is no cost for the training itself. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the New Harmony Alumni Association be given approval to hang their banners on the light posts one week prior to Memorial Day through one week following Memorial Day. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the Town in 2019 paid a total of \$1,675 for the Ribeyre Gym Restrooms in order to have them open from April thru October. This includes the cost of cleaning. The proposal for 2020 is a flat rate of \$1,800. President Blaylock verbalized his opinion that the citizens of New Harmony do not benefit from tourists being in Town and the restrooms being open, but they are the ones paying the bill for the restrooms. He feels the Business Associates should be paying more toward the cost of the restrooms. It was noted that the Business Associates paid \$900 to keep the restrooms open

during the 2016-2017 winter. They have paid nothing sense. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion to table the discussion until President Blaylock can meet with Jeff Smotherman, Business Associates President. Councilman Williams noted he disagreed with President Blaylock's comments, and he feels a vibrant downtown benefits everyone. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade noted horses in Town over the weekend had left feces on Town streets. He asked that this be looked into to determine if the Town ordinance needs amended.

President Blaylock announced a contract for mowing of Maple Hill Cemetery needs to be awarded at the March meeting.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer