

MARCH 16, 2021

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: Rod Clark, Mike Duckworth, Dan Mason, Jeff Smotherman, Kent Schuette, Chris Laughbaum, Trisha Lopez, and Connie Weinzapfel.

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

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, public hearing. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, special meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion that the conflict of interest statements filed by Councilman Ward and Williams regarding the COVID-19 Phase 3 grant be approved. All were in favor except Councilman Wade and Williams, who abstained. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Resolution 2021-2 in full. This Resolution proclaims May 14 as Robert Owen day. Councilman Williams made and Wade seconded a motion the Resolution be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Historic New Harmony submitted a request to install banners on the light poles referencing the Robert Owen celebration. Councilman Watson made and Williams seconded a motion that a maximum of 24 of the Robert Owen banners be permitted. It was agreed these will need to share space with other future events, such as the New Harmony Farmer's Market. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion that the scoring matrix for the COVID-19 Phase 3 grant as proposed by the Economic Development Coalition be approved. Council also approved procedures to follow if the grant dollars are either in excess or fall short of the approved applicant award dollars. All were in favor except Councilman Wade and Williams, who abstained. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read a letter from the Ribeyre Gym Restoration Group, where they sated the rental fee for the restrooms for 2021 will be \$500. per month. He reported the New Harmony Business Associates has agreed to split the cost equally with the Town. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the Town pay \$150. per month, which is what the Town paid in 2020. Councilman Williams stated he feels the Town should pay 50%, but he also noted it is quite a hike from last year. All were in favor except Councilman Williams. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the request from St. Stephen's Church to close Granary St. in front of the Parish House on April 4, from 8 a.m. to Noon, be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Williams seconded a motion that a tentative date of May 3 be set for opening of Town Hall to the public. This will be contingent upon the virus numbers continuing to improve. All were in favor. Motion carried. Masks will still be required to enter.

President Blaylock reported he has received complaints regarding abandoned vehicles. This is in violation of section 8.12.020 of the New Harmony Municipal Code. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that letters be issued to those in violation. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that hydrant flushing begin March 22, and continue until finished. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Mason spoke on the dog waste issue. He will work with Councilman Williams on possibly installing waste bag stations, etc. There was discussion as to who would maintain the stations. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the discussion be tabled until more information is available. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Connie Weinzapfel noted the recycling bins have been removed from the post office. She asked what can be done about this. Councilman Williams will look into this.

Councilman Wade reported he is in the process of getting a quote to have crosswalks and parking areas painted downtown. He will report back at the next meeting.

President Blaylock presented a quote of \$3,025.07 for the newly mandated police report writing system. A two-year maintenance agreement is an additional \$249.82. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the quote be approved, and the additional 2-yr. maintenance be purchased. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented Ordinance 2021-2. This ordinance amends the hourly rate for the deputy marshals, as stated in Section 2, effective April 1, 2021. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Ordinance 2021-2 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced the mill ditch does not qualify for OCRA funding. He asked for input from Council members on next steps.

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

President Blaylock reported the IN State Museum has asked if the Town would donate one of the mask banners once they are taken down. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the request for one mask banner be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented a quote from Utility Safety & Design to perform the inspection of the gas line on the bridge, as required by the proposed new contract between the Town and the Bridge Authority. The initial inspection will be \$4,000, with subsequent inspections to be \$2,500 each. However, the contract that was presented by the Bridge Authority and approved by the Town, is now going to be amended. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the proposal for inspection of the gas line be tabled until a contract between the Town and the Bridge Authority is executed by both parties. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented a festival application for the spring fling. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion the festival application be approved. Chris Laughbaum stated the event was approved by the county health department, as long as masks and sanitizer are available. There was discussion as to whether or not masks should be required. The following vote was taken: ayes – none; nays – Blaylock, Alsop, Wade, Watson, and Williams. Motion denied. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion the festival application be approved, subject to approval of the Posey Co. Health Dept. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade asked for approval to check into replacing the light globes downtown. President Blaylock suggested that Vectren be contacted first. Councilman Williams stated a lower wattage might be better.

Councilman Wade reported there are a number of dogs running loose in Town. He asked that Council members review the current ordinance for possible amendment.

Councilman Alsop stated she feels the park needs a few picnic tables. It was agreed to have Supt. Grider get a price.

Councilman Alsop reported things are still being worked out for renovations to the park bathrooms.

There being no further business, Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer