

MARCH 19, 2019

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

A list of visitors is attached.

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

Sue Krozel, Park Board President, gave an update on future tree work. She announced there will be a cleanup day at Murphy Park soon.

Councilman Watson announced golf cart registration dates have been set for April.

Councilman Wade reported the golf cart trail along the river will remain closed until needed repairs can be made.

President Blaylock reported Council had opened six bids on the former school property at the February meeting. He stated Erik Arneberg had submitted a letter since that meeting explaining his intended use of the property. Councilman Watson made and Blaylock seconded a motion that the bid for \$125,000 from Erik Arneberg be accepted. Councilman Watson stated Mr. Arneberg's planned use of the property is nearly identical to what the WMI had proposed. Councilman Flanders asked if the Town was opening itself to legal exposure, since Mr. Arneberg was allowed to modify his bid, and other bidders were not. Attorney Bauer stated she is not aware of any bids being modified. President Blaylock noted Mr. Arneberg did not originally provide his intended use of the property, which he subsequently provided. Also, it was announced that bidders were free to contact President Blaylock with any concerns, etc., which they did not do. Councilman Alsop commented she would have liked to talk to Mr. Arneberg personally, as other Council members did. Councilman Watson stated the same people who were originally involved when the WMI was interested in the property are also involved now, and Council was willing to give the property to the WMI. He feels the people involved are for New Harmony, and they are trying to move forward. President Blaylock pointed out Mr. Arneberg is wanting to save the building, which seems to be what most people in Town want. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Arneberg submitted a check for 10% of the sale price to the Town.

Councilman Flanders made and Alsop seconded a motion that the festival application for Peace, Run & Harmony be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Brian Fribley, with No Sleep Adventures, spoke about his event planned for June 8. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the event be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the New Harmony Alumni Association be given approval to install flags downtown approximately two weeks prior to their event. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that approval be given to the Farmer's Market to install banners downtown. The Farmer's Market runs from April 27 thru Kunstfest, with the banners going up one week prior. They will work with the Alumni Association to switch the banners out for their event. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Murphy Park be reopened to vehicular traffic. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the request to serve alcohol at Murphy Park following the Peace, Run & Harmony event be denied. Councilman Wade noted he feels this will set a precedent for others to do the same thing. Councilman Flanders stated all requests would need to come to Council, and they therefore would be handled on an individual basis. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Flanders seconded a motion the festival application for Arts in Harmony be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the festival application for the Ribeyre Spring Fling be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Johnston spoke to Council about a movie filming he would like to do in New Harmony from April 30 to May 13. No street closures are planned at this time.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the bid from E & B Paving for \$83,760 for street paving through the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the bid for \$25,000 which was submitted by Rodney Wade for the South St. property needs to either be accepted or rejected. Councilman Flanders noted the letter submitted by Rodney Wade suggests that some feel Councilman Wade should have removed himself from the previous vote regarding Rodney Wade and this property, and that he should abstain from voting on the second offer. Councilman Flanders stated he has researched the conflict of interest statute, but he does not feel it applies to this situation, due to the fact that "brother" is not listed as one of the relationships that is considered a conflict. He does feel, however, that the nepotism statute applies which prohibits Council from entering into contracts with those of a familial relationship. Councilman Flanders then explained some of the consequences of violating the statute. He feels another bid solicitation for the property should be advertised. President Blaylock commented he has been contacted by an individual who is interested in the property. Attorney Bauer stated she feels the possible conflict of interest is a non-issue, since she has spoken with Councilman Wade, and he has agreed to abstain from any votes or discussions regarding any transactions with Rodney Wade. She continued that she is not sure the nepotism statute applies in this situation. Councilman Alsop made and Flanders seconded a motion that the \$25,000 bid from Rodney Wade be rejected. All were in favor except Councilman Wade who abstained due to his relationship with Rodney Wade. Motion carried. Councilman Flanders made and Alsop seconded a motion that the South St. property be advertised for 60 days, with a minimum bid of \$2,500. A 10% down payment will be required, with Council having the right to reject any and all bids. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the street closure request from Historic New Harmony for Heritage Days be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the Ribeyre Gymnasium Restroom Agreement be renewed under the same terms as 2018. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the following bids on the 2011 Dodge Charger: Yousef Dabbagh - \$1,568; Michael McGregor - \$1,559.69. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the bid of \$1,559.69 be accepted. There were no aye votes for this motion. Motion denied. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the bid for \$1,568 be accepted, pending the receipt of the funds prior to releasing the vehicle to the purchaser. If funds are not received, the low bid will be considered to be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Also reported she has received a request to place a bench in front of the Main Café. President Blaylock asked that a drawing be submitted to be reviewed by the Plan Commission and the Town Council. Laura Nicholson, building owner, asked to be included in discussions regarding the bench installation.

There being no further business, the meeting meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer