

APRIL 20, 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: David Flanders, Kent Schuette, Jeff Smotherman, Connie Weinzapfel, Trisha Lopez, and Debbie Bennett-Stearsman.

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

Councilman Williams reported the post office will not allow a recycling bin to be placed there any longer.

President Blaylock announced the paving has been completed as part of CCMG 2020-2. The crosswalk at Main and Church Sts. still needs to be painted.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the festival application for the New Harmony Antique Show be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Bobby Grider be authorized to travel to French Lick for the Alliance of IN Rural Water conference May 18-20. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock asked that Council members think about salary and wage increases for all employees other than elected officials. These need to be finalized at the May meeting to be effective June 1.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2021-3 in title only. This ordinance establishes the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Ordinance 2021-3 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented a quote from Blankenberger Brothers Inc. to replace a section of water main off Old Plank Rd. for \$38,900. This expense can be covered by the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund. Councilman Williams asked if other quotes have been solicited. President Blaylock commented this is not required for work under \$50,000. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the bid from Blankenberger Brothers Inc. be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced the Town was awarded a \$250,000 OCRA grant for phase 3. This grant is to provide grants to businesses in the Town, at a maximum of \$10,000 per business. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman, with the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, provided details of the grant and dates when applications will be accepted. She encouraged the Town to get the word out as soon as possible. Applications will be completed on line, with the application being very similar to the one in phase 2. Once the application period closes, Ms. Bennett-Stearsman will score them based on the scoring matrix that Council approved. That information will then be sent to the state for their approval, then to Council for approval. She encouraged all businesses to apply. David Flanders asked about the scoring matrix that was approved by Council. He asked for a definition of "store front". Ms. Bennett-Stearsman responded this is for business owners with a business store front. Mr. Flanders pointed out it was reported in the newspaper that properties zoned residential would not be eligible for store front points with the scoring matrix. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman stated she is not aware of zoning designations in Town, and so that would be a decision by Council. Mr. Flanders asked if it was Council's intention to disqualify businesses who were awarded funds under phase 2 by giving bonus points to those who did not receive funding in phase 2. He noted that by using the scoring matrix, no business who received funding in phase 2 would be eligible for the maximum of \$10,000 in phase 3. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman stated that was not the intention at all, and that it is going to be difficult for any business to score high enough to receive \$10,000. She pointed out that Council had the right to exclude prior recipients, and some communities are choosing to do so. President Blaylock stated if a person lives in their business, they will not be considered a store front, and therefore will not get the store front points through the scoring matrix. Kent Schuette, New Harmony Business Associates President, commented the issue was discussed at their previous meeting, and the consensus was that the scoring matrix was the way to go. Councilman Williams noted these grants are geared to helping businesses retain employees, and he hopes all are grateful for what they do receive. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman reiterated this grant is to retain employees. She pointed out that 119 applications were submitted, but only 80 were funded, so she hoped the Town is thankful they were approved.

Councilman Wade presented a quote for \$550 to stripe parking spots on Main from Granary to Steammill, on Tavern next to Capers Emporium on both sides of the street, on Brewery by Black Lodge and to the south of Church, and to install the crosswalk at Main and Steammill. Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion the quote be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the Ribeyre Gym Restroom Agreement has been executed. The restrooms opened April 15, and will remain open until December 14.

There were no updates on the proposal for the dog waste stations.

There was discussion on amending the Town's animal ordinance. Councilman Wade suggested increasing the fine. Councilman Wade made a motion the fine be increased to \$50. There was no second. Motion denied. Attorney Bauer suggested that a trial period be set to determine the effectiveness of the current fine if more tickets are written. If tickets are written for ordinance violations and the perpetrator does not pay at the Town Hall, the Town will have to take the perpetrator to court.

President Blaylock reported INDOT has agreed to clean out mill ditch on Church St. The landowners to the north of Church St. are going to clean that part at their own expense.

President Blaylock stated Vectren has been contacted about the decorative globes on the downtown street lights and they are going to look into replacing them.

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 Wade presented estimates to upgrade the restrooms at Murphy Park. New partitions for both restrooms are estimated at \$2,090, for epoxy flooring, the estimate is \$2,320, and a new dryer for the men's is \$79.97. He also noted a new exterior door needs to be purchased for the men's restroom, but he does not have a price for that yet. The total for all items is approximately \$4,573. Councilman Alsop made and Williams seconded a motion that the three items totaling approximately \$4,573 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced spring clean-up day will be April 23.

President Blaylock stated Council had approved stripping and waxing the floors at the fire station for \$710. The project was not completed due to COVID. Councilman Wade will be obtaining an updated quote.

Councilman Alsop noted many are bringing golf carts to Town that are not registered. She asked what can be done about this. There was no solution mentioned.

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 9:28 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer