

JULY 19, 2022

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

The following visitors were present: Chris Laughbaum, Jan Kahle, Bill Meyer, Tom Guggenheim, Lora Arneberg, Claire Eagle, Bobbi Jo Bottomly, Trisha Lopez, Josh Janik, and Nathan & Jeanne Maudlin.

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

Councilman Wade reported he is working with INDOT on the installation of the security cameras at Main and Church.

President Blaylock announced the painting of the water storage tank is complete.

President Blaylock provided copies of the list of unpaid golf cart registrations. He asked Council to contact those on the list they may know and he will also talk to Marshal Straub.

President Blaylock announced Gary Watson has resigned from the Town Council effective July 1, 2022.

President Blaylock presented a quote from American Eagle Tree Service for the removal of eleven trees. He went through the list and prioritized it and he feels there are five which need immediate attention. Councilman Alsop stated trees that are removed need to be replaced. It is unknown when American Eagle would be able to do the work. Councilman Wade pointed out he feels there are seven which should be high priority. Nathan Maudlin spoke about the tree in front of their home at 524 South St. He noted the tree has not lost any large limbs, and they would like the tree to remain. If the tree is removed, they would like to have it replaced and would be willing to contribute to the cost of a replacement. They would be happy to provide a release of liability to the Town as an effort to save the tree.

Tom Guggenheim, a certified arborist, offered his tree evaluation services at no cost to the Town. He noted those who have experience in looking at trees, such as Council, are usually accurate in their assessments. Councilman Williams made and Wade seconded a motion that Councilman Williams work with Tom Guggenheim to assess the Town's trees and make a report at the August meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Blaylock asked that they also look at the trees tagged with orange ribbon as those possibly need trimming.

Tom Guggenheim stated he has a tree nursery and can help with choosing the right tree for the right location.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the shrubs be removed from the Veteran's Memorial. The Garden Club has agreed to plant new shrubs in the fall. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that nuisance letters be sent to 1017 Steammill, and lot 2 of Richard Owen's Enlargement. Both properties are in violation for weeds and junk. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lora Arneberg reported she will be heading up a New Harmony Business Associates committee to look into the Main Street Program. There is grant money available through the program, with a 50/50 match. A letter of support will be needed from the Town in the future regarding joining the program.

Lora Arneberg announced the Efroymsen Family Fund has granted \$13,000 for planting trees in Town. The money will be funneled through Harmonie Associates and the Park Board will be involved in determining the locations.

Lora Arneberg suggested that in the future when trees are tagged, that an informational tag be used to let people know who to contact with questions.

Claire Eagle, interim assistant director for Historic New Harmony, informed Council that on September 13, all USI freshmen will be bused to New Harmony.

President Blaylock asked Ms. Eagle if she could look into why their properties are not currently subject to building permit applications or fees. She stated she believes it is because the properties are state owned and therefore they supersede local regulations. She agreed to inquire further and report back.

Tom Guggenheim requested permission to speak to American Eagle Tree Service about obtaining the wood chips from the tree removal. He was given approval to talk to Superintendent Grider about this.

Bill Meyer inquired about the Town's emergency plan for extreme heat. President Blaylock stated the Fire Station is an emergency shelter.

Councilman Williams asked why the camping area at Murphy Park has not been graveled yet. Councilman Wade stated he is working on this and it will be taken care of soon.

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

Councilman Alsop asked if mosquito spraying has been done. She will talk to Superintendent Grider about this.

There being no further business, Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer