

JULY 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: Thomas Clowers, Tom Latham, Trisha Lopez, Chris Laughbaum, Ryan Rokicki, Jan Kahle, Tony Treadway, Kent Schuette, and David Vonderscher.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the minutes of the June 15, 2021, special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop stated the trail is being monitored for possible closure due to flooding.

Councilman Wade reported he will be starting repairs at Playtopia following the meeting.

President Blaylock announced Blankenberger Bros. will begin the water line replacement on Penfold/Old Plank on July 26.

Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion that the grant administration contract with the Evansville Regional Economic Development Partnership for the COVID-19 Phase 3 grant be approved. All were in favor except Councilman Wade and Williams, who abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

President Blaylock stated Council previously approved a bid of \$710 from Hardwood Floor Specialties to strip and wax the floors at the Fire Station. The job was never completed due to COVID. The same company has now submitted a new bid for \$787.23. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the bid be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Resolution 2021-3 in title only. This resolution formalizes the internal control policies for the Town. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Resolution 2021-3 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Clerk-Treasurer Atkins be authorized to cash certificates of deposit at Crane Credit Union as they mature, and purchase new certificates of deposit at United Fidelity Bank. The new interest rates are unknown at this time, as they change weekly. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Tony Treadway and Chris Laughbaum presented a check to the Town to show their appreciation for the Town's efforts in helping make Arts in Maclure Park a success.

President Blaylock noted a donation was made by a resident to help with the cost of street tree removal which was recently completed. This donation was very much appreciated.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the Relay for Life 5K be approved. A definite route has not yet been confirmed. President Blaylock will continue working with the group. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion that a special meeting be held to make recommendations for the 2022 budget on August 10 at 8:30 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a new letter of support be issued for the "more perfect places" project. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding having the Town's ordinances online. This can be done by Municode for a cost of \$275/yr. Councilman Wade feels many of the Town ordinances need to be updated before they are put online. It was also noted that the ordinances would need to be added upon passage, and not just once a year. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that a decision be tabled until Council has the chance to review the Town ordinances and update them and to also get more information. All were in favor except Councilman Williams. Motion carried. Councilman Williams feels this is a good idea for a nominal cost and it should be done immediately.

President Blaylock presented a bid from Nick Cullum Construction for \$5,369 to replace the door jams at the old Fire Station. The current trim is rotting and in poor condition. Councilman Wade offered to get a second bid. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion a decision be tabled while additional quotes are obtained. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock stated Council needs to look into making some improvements to the parking area and drive at Maple Hill Cemetery. He asked for input from Council members on what they would like to see done. It was mentioned that increasing the size of the existing culvert would help with the flooding issue. The cost to do this is approximately \$4500 for the pipe. President Blaylock urged all Council members to contact the Posey Co. Highway Dept. and request they do a better job of keeping their culvert cleaned out. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion the parking lot be graded and graveled. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Blaylock stated he feels this would be a good use of the funds remaining in the New Harmony School Fund.

President Blaylock stated a number of years ago, additional property was purchased adjacent to Maple Hill Cemetery with plans to expand. Nothing has been done since. He noted there are very few graves available to purchase at this time, so something needs to be done. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that President Blaylock begin to get quotes for road and drainage installation for the cemetery expansion. He agreed to keep Councilman Williams informed. All were in a favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Tom Latham offered assistance to the Town as needed.

David Vonderscher, representing the Park Board, asked Council to consider adding rock to the camping area at Murphy Park. He agreed to get a cost estimate to do this.

President Blaylock asked for input on the request from the Workingmen's Institute that was presented at the last meeting. Councilman Williams stated he would love to see the Town participate. Councilman Williams made and Blaylock seconded a motion the Town contribute \$25,000 to the Workingmen's Institute for the roof replacement. Councilman Alsop stated she feels if Council approves this request, others will come forward with similar requests. Councilman Williams stated he does not think this would set a precedent and the WMI is a community asset. Attorney Bauer stated the Indiana Code allows the Town "to provide aid to libraries and museums". She also stated there is another section that allows "aid to others", and it would be a question as to who would fall into this category down the road. The following vote was taken: ayes – Watson, Williams; nays – Alsop, Blaylock; Councilman Wade abstained due to being a member of the WMI Board. Following the tie vote, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins voted nay. Motion denied.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. Councilman Alsop inquired about the invoice submitted by American Eagle Tree Service. President Blaylock stated after the original quote was submitted, items were added to the job. He reviewed a number of items that were changed/added. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson noted several properties in Town need to be declared nuisances. A list of properties will be presented for approval.

Councilman Alsop expressed concern about dogs running at large. The maximum fine in the ordinance is \$25. Attorney Bauer stated the fine can be increased.

Councilman Alsop stated she received complaints about fireworks. She feels the Town ordinance needs to be amended.

Attorney Bauer noted both of the above can be amended, if Council chooses. However, she advised that the ordinance would need to be prepared and placed on the agenda at such time.

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 9:31 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer