

AUGUST 17, 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, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Jack Vickers, Robin Lewis, Mary Beth Guard, Trisha Lopez, Jan Kahle, and Aaron Straub.

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 August 6, 2021, special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the water line replacement on Old Plank and Penfold Roads has been completed.

President Blaylock announced another resident has donated to the cost of tree removal. This person has chosen to remain anonymous.

Mary Beth Guard requested approval on behalf of the design committee of the New Harmony Business Associates to place LED solar lights on the five public trees on Church St. in the business district and the large planters on Main St. They would take care of all installation and maintenance, as well as covering the purchase cost. Mrs. Guard stated the lights would be very subtle. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion a decision be tabled until the next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Williams arrived at this point in the meeting, approximately 8:38 a.m.

President Blaylock presented a list of ten addresses with unlicensed vehicles. He stated this is not a complete list, but is a starting point. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that these properties be declared nuisances and that letters be sent. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that fall clean-up be held October 22. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Robin Lewis presented a proposal to Council for the purchase of new Christmas decorations for the Town. She has contacted a couple of companies to check pricing, and has found the best discounts are offered January-March. The Christmas in New Harmony committee has begun an ornament fundraiser, of which all the proceeds from the first year will go towards the cost of any decorations the Town might approve purchasing. They are hoping to raise \$5000 through the ornament fundraiser, which they hope to have by the first of the year. If they aren't successful in meeting this deadline, the NH Business Associates might agree to make an advance payment to the Town. The estimated cost of the decorations is \$18,000-\$19,000. Mrs. Lewis also presented a proposal to buy the decorations over a two-year time frame. Councilman Williams thanked Mrs. Lewis for her thorough presentation. Mrs. Lewis also suggested the current lanterns be sold to help defray the cost. She feels there is a market for the lanterns as she said used commercial décor is very hard to come by. Councilman Wade asked if it would be possible to have a fundraiser large enough to cover the entire cost. Mrs. Lewis stated she did not know if this was feasible, and she feels the Town should contribute to buying its own Christmas decorations. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion that Council work with the Clerk-Treasurer to determine if funds are available. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jack Vickers stated he has had nothing but trouble since he moved to Town. He complained about junk houses and junk piles in Town. President Blaylock stated Council is looking into this. Mr. Vickers also complained about his neighbors. Councilman Blaylock stated Mr. Vickers and his neighbor have both complained about the other, and he asked that they get along.

Two quotes were received for repairs at the town garage. One bid from Nick Cullum Const. is for \$5,369., and the other is from J. Crum Const. for \$4,200. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the J. Crum Const. bid be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried

President Blaylock reported he has met with a contractor and also an engineer regarding the proposed expansion at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that camp sites 1-3 be rocked at Murphy Park at an estimated cost of \$600. Sites 4-6 are planned to be done in the future. All were in favor except President Blaylock. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that 822 East St. be declared a nuisance regarding weeds etc. and a violation letter be sent. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock stated Relay for Life was held at Murphy Park. He reported the organizers had nothing but praise for the facility and plan to utilize it in the future.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the fine for animals running at large be increased to \$50. This will necessitate an amendment to chapter 6.04.030 of the New Harmony Municipal Code. All were in favor except Councilman Williams. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop noted the fireworks ordinance was not amended as discussed. Council will look over the current ordinance and discuss at the next meeting.

Councilman Alsop asked that Council consider looking into passing an ordinance regarding grass in the street.

Jack Vickers complained about a dog on a leash that is able to get into the street while the leash is attached, and has chased him on his tricycle. He has reported this to Marshal Straub. Mr. Vickers was asked to ride on the opposite side of the street.

Robin Lewis thanked the Town for the COVID relief funds and all that was done to support the local businesses.

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

Councilman Watson reported he was approached by a retired police officer about having a horse patrol. He provided info to Council members.

Councilman Watson reported that Marshal Straub was in a pursuit recently and was hit head on by the offender. The Town police car was totaled. Councilman Watson is currently looking into a replacement vehicle. The Town has not yet received a settlement offer from its insurance carrier. It was agreed that a special meeting will need to be called once a vehicle is found to purchase.

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 9:30 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer