

AUGUST 20, 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.

The following visitors were present: Dan Barton, Donnie Martin, Tom Stahl, Jeff Smotherman, Chris Laughbaum, Sue Krozel, Briel Kobak, Don Alsop, Dan Mason, Jeanne Maudlin, Rick Johnson, 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 Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion the minutes of the August 2, 2019 special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders reminded residents to not put medical needles or household waste in with the recyclables.

Councilman Wade reported he has spoken with an individual regarding the overgrowth along the trails. He hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

President Blaylock reported closing on the sale of the former school property is getting closer, and he hopes to have something to report at the next meeting.

President Blaylock announced one bid was received on the South and Steammill St. lots. The bid was from Rodney Wade for \$50,000. Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion that the bid from Rodney Wade be accepted. Councilman Flanders questioned the impact the contracting with a relative statute has on the transaction. Attorney Bauer stated Councilman Wade will be abstaining from the vote, and she doesn't feel the statute is applicable for this type of transaction. Upon further questioning from Councilman Flanders, Attorney Bauer agreed to look at the statute. All were in favor except Councilman Wade, who abstained. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read a letter he had drafted to Posey Co. Area Plan Commission President Mark Seib. The Posey Co. Area Plan Commission is asking all communities in Posey Co. to submit a letter on how they would like to address the proposed wind turbines. Councilman Flanders made a motion to table a decision on the letter. There was no second. Motion denied. He suggested that a public hearing be held to get the opinion of Town residents. Due to lack of a motion to submit the letter, President Blaylock announced it would not be sent.

Councilman Alsop brought up the problem of golf carts being driven on Church St. She contacted a sign company and they drafted a proposed sign to be placed on the streets that intersect Church St. The signs would be 8" x 8", for a total cost of \$105.58 for seventeen signs. Councilman Wade suggested that a statement be added to the bottom of the sign regarding the fine that will be issued for violators. Attorney Bauer will look into if this is legal or not, and also, if the sign can be placed on the same post as the stop signs. Councilman Wade made and Flanders seconded a motion the golf cart signs be purchased. All voted against the motion due to the decision to have Attorney Bauer do some research. Motion denied.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the festival application for Kunstfest be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Blaylock agreed to talk to Erik Arneberg regarding the former school property being used for overflow parking during Kunstfest.

President Blaylock reported the Town has submitted two requests for the United Way Day of Caring to be held September 27. The Town requested volunteers to help with staining at Playtopia, and also to paint curbs.

Councilman Flanders reported he has received a revised proposal from Morley & Associates to provide assistance to the Town regarding remapping of the Wabash flood zone. The revised proposal occurred as a result of conversations with FEMA and DNR. President Blaylock asked that Morley & Associates attend the September meeting to explain their proposal and answer questions.

President Blaylock asked for volunteers to serve on the Town's complete count committee for the 2020 census. He stressed it is very important for all residents to be counted as this affects the Town's funding.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the property at 803 Steammill be declared in violation of 8.12.010 of the New Harmony Municipal Code and a nuisance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion that the property at 822 East be declared in violation of 8.12.010 of the New Harmony Municipal Code and a nuisance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion that the property at 703 Tavern be declared in violation of 8.12.010 of the New Harmony Municipal Code and a nuisance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented an estimate from E & B Paving to resurface the alley between Church and Tavern Sts., behind the 500 block of Main St. The estimate is \$2,500. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the estimate be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the bid from E & B Paving to pave Murphy Park for \$27,500. be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Town will be putting down a chat shoulder once the paving is done.

Tom Stahl suggested that Council consider putting in a lighted stop sign at Main and Stearnmill Sts., as he often sees people running it. President Blaylock agreed to look into this. Mr. Stahl pointed out there are many speeders on south Main St. He also noted he has seen golf carts on the sidewalks of Church St. recently. President Blaylock commented he has spoken with the two golf cart companies and has not gotten much cooperation. He continued that Council is looking into issuing fines to the rental companies, instead of the cart operator. Town Marshal Straub compared this to a rental car company being liable for violations of the person renting the car. He noted he will be adjusting the time of his shifts in the near future in hopes of taking care of these issues.

Sue Krozel commented the golf cart signs are a great idea, but she suggested the lettering be red instead of green.

Jeanne Maudlin asked what Council's plans are for addressing the western end of the golf cart trail. She noted there is an area that is totally inaccessible, including an area where a bench donated in memory of Don Shoultz was installed. President Blaylock noted the trail is being worked on, as time permits. Chris Laughbaum noted the river has been out of its banks from February through June this year, which is highly unusual. There was no way any repairs could have been made during that time.

Dan Mason, who stated he was speaking in defense of Jeanne Maudlin, asked what the next steps are regarding the golf cart trail. Councilman Alsop commented the Town workers are busy all the time, and it bothers her when people say otherwise. President Blaylock repeated that the trail will be worked on as time permits.

Rick Johnson, representing the RGRG, requested permission for their 5k on October 19. The route may be different this year, depending on the condition of the trail. They would like to close Main in front of the gym for the start of the race. Council approved the request.

Chris Laughbaum commented the houses on each side of 803 Steammill also have weeds, tall grass, etc., as well as the property at 1225 Main. President Blaylock stated Council is looking into possibly controlling what is done in the Town easement.

Dan Mason, submitted a list of nine questions to Council just prior to the meeting. The list is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Regarding question #1, President Blaylock agreed to contact INDOT about the crosswalk at Church and Main. He feels the one at Main and Park Ave. is no longer needed since the school is closed. In response to question #2, President Blaylock reported the trees are to be removed very soon. The trees will be replaced. Question #3 was related to recent boil advisories. President Blaylock noted lines are being replaced to try to eliminate such problems in the future. President Blaylock noted, in response to question #4, leaf pick-up was delayed, but the end date was nearly the same as in recent years. President Blaylock commented Council can look into recognizing George Rapp, in response to question #5. President Blaylock stated dirt work at the Dollar General was delayed due to the weather, and the wooden handrail that Mr. Mason inquired about is permanent. He feels it is not pleasing from an aesthetic standpoint, and looks industrial and incomplete. He asked that Council request representatives from Dollar General to provide Council with an update upon completion of one year in business. In question #7, Mr. Mason thanked those who did work at Murphy Park. President Blaylock commented a number of these people preferred to remain anonymous, which is why he did not previously mention their names. It was noted in response to question #8, that a new location has been found for the food pantry. Mr. Mason announced that October 10-12 is the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atheneum.

Jeff Smotherman requested permission to close Main from Tavern to Steammill on September 29 for the Meet in the Street celebration. A festival application has also been submitted for this event. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the application be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Donnie Martin presented documentation regarding the fence he installed around his pool. He asked that Council revisit the Town ordinance to clarify the requirements.

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

President Blaylock reviewed the Town policies on yard waste a limb pick-up.

There being no further business, Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned in honor of Dr. George Rapp. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer

**Questions submitted by Dan Mason, 831 S Main Street, NH  
Town Council Meeting - August 20, 2019**

- (1). What is the status of repainting street lines and crossings? Cars continue to drive through the stop sign on Main Street etc.
- (2) The trees on granary street have been "butchered" for lack of a better word. What is being done to bring this iconic corridor back ASAP?
- (3) We've experienced multiple boil advisories this year. Is there a comprehensive strategy to address the aging infrastructure?
- (4) Leaves around town were not picked up until very late in the season last year because of mechanical issues. Are we planning on testing equipment early and preparing?
- (5). New harmony resident Dr George Rapp is being recognized by the governor for his accomplishments and continued contributions. Can the town do the same in some way?
- (6). Has or can the council request an update from dollar general? How are they doing? When will the wooden railing be replaced with something permanent? Any changes planned in inventory etc.?
- (7). Several residents have pitched in to clean up and paint the playground equipment in Murphy Park. Many thanks to them.
- (8). The new harmony food pantry is slated to shut down at the end of the year. This is a critical resource for many new harmony families. How can the council help with solutions to keep it running and services available?
- (9). The river trails are in very bad shape... no gravel, trees blocking the paths etc. What is the plan to get them cleared and usable again?