

SEPTEMBER 17, 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: Rhonda Beuligmann, David Vonderscher, Dan Mason, Rob Peters, Dan Barton, Tom Stahl, Chris Laughbaum, Don Alsop, Sue Krozel, Rod Clark, Briel Kobak, Bobby Grider and Aaron Straub.

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

President Blaylock announced the former school property has been sold to Indian Mounds East, LLC., and closing has been completed.

President Blaylock reported household batteries will now be collected at the Town garage on Tavern St. This is being done in cooperation with the Posey Co. Solid Waste District.

Councilman Alsop reported a large hornet's nest was removed near the Atheneum, courtesy of Jeff Moore.

Rob Peters, with Colonial Life Insurance Co., talked to Council about the services they offer. This would be a supplement to the regular health insurance employees currently have. President Blaylock agreed to discuss this with the Town employees, and provide the written literature to them if they desire.

Rhonda Beuligmann requested use of Murphy Park on June 20 for the North Posey Relay for Life. An insurance certificate was provided. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the request be approved, with no charge for the Park. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion the festival application for the Peace Run and Harmony on April 18 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that Jim Bush will need to check with Indian Mounds East LLC regarding parking being allowed at the former school property.

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

President Blaylock opened the public hearing on the additional appropriation for the Community Crossings Matching Grand Fund. There were no questions. The public hearing was closed. President Blaylock read Resolution 2019-3 in full, which is an additional appropriation for \$160,980. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Resolution 2019-3 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced Suzanne Crouch has created a "Brilliant Firefly Award" to honor outstanding students. The first recipient will be the students from West Lafayette who were instrumental in getting Say's Firefly named as the official state insect.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the property at 614 Granary St. be declared a nuisance. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

Town Marshal Straub presented information on mobile, solar powered security cameras. The images from the cameras can be sent directly to his cell phone. The cost of the cameras is \$549.99 each, plus a \$20/month fee per unit. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that two cameras be purchased. Councilman Flanders asked about the recording of videos on the camera. Town Marshal Straub stated he is still looking into exactly how this works. He also stated there is not currently a policy on how long the videos will be retained. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

President Blaylock opened the public hearing on the 2020 budget. Dan Mason asked if Council has top priorities for the 2020 budget. President Blaylock commented items were not prioritized, but Council's intentions are to continue to improve the infrastructure for the Town. The public hearing was closed. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins stated the 2020 budget will be up for adoption at the October meeting.

President Blaylock announced fall clean-up day will be September 27.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins updated Council on the upcoming municipal election. She stated all voting will be done at the Catholic Community Center. Election Day is November 5. Sample ballots are available at Town Hall. Absentee voting dates have been set and will be published soon. The Election Board has agreed to pay inspectors and absent voter board members \$140. each, and clerks and judges \$115. each. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the poll worker and absent voter board member rates be approved as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported a written request was received to relocate the bench on the riverfront trail to the Town Hall that was donated in memory of Don Shoultz. A second bench which does not have a plaque will also be moved. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the two benches be relocated. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Resolution 2019-4 in full. This Resolution adopts a Title VI Implementation Plan for the Town of New Harmony. Councilman Flanders asked several questions regarding clarity of the plan. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Resolution 2019-4 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Mason announced the Atheneum 40th anniversary celebration will be held October 10-12. He reported on numerous events going on during that time.

Chris Laughbaum stated a wedding party had set off lighted lanterns on Friday night. She is concerned about the danger of this. Sue Krozel commented she also had a lantern in her yard, and concurred this could cause a fire, and is also littering. President Blaylock agreed to talk to Red Geranium Enterprises about the lanterns.

Councilman Alsop announced there will be 30 volunteers staining at Murphy Park on September 27 as part of the United Way Day of Caring. Community volunteers are welcome also.

Councilman Alsop presented a template of the proposed golf cart signs. They will be 8" X 10". Per Attorney Bauer, the signs will need to be placed on their own post. The total cost for the 17 signs is approximately \$116. The posts will be approximately \$10 each. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the golf cart signs and posts be purchased. All were in favor. Motion carried. There was discussion regarding the fine that would be applicable to violators.

President Blaylock gave an update on the three nuisance properties from the previous meeting. 803 Steammill is still not in compliance, and a second letter has been sent. The property at 822 East has recently changed ownership and an address for the new owner has not been determined. The property at 703 Tavern has been mowed and is now in compliance.

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

Councilman Flanders announced that Morley & Associates will attend the August meeting to discuss the proposal they submitted to assist the Town with remapping of the Wabash River flood zone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer