

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

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: Nathan Maudlin, Dan Barton, Gretchen Gossman, Mick McConnell, Chris Laughbaum, Tom Stahl, Don Alsop, Jeff Smotherman, Aaron Straub, and Bobby Grider.

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

Councilman Flanders thanked those who attended the September Plan Commission meeting, and he particularly thanked the Workingmen's Institute for use of their facility for the meeting.

Councilman Flanders congratulated the New Harmony Business Associates for a successful Kunstfest.

President Blaylock announced tombstones are being repaired at Maple Hill Cemetery.

President Blaylock noted poison ivy is growing on the west side of the recycling center, and he asked Councilman Flanders to look into it.

Councilman Wade made and Flanders seconded a motion that probationary employee Erik Janik be made a permanent employee. He will be given a \$1. an hour pay increase effective September 16. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the service agreement with Hoosier Accounts be renewed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock opened the public hearing on the 2019 budget. There were no additions or corrections, so it stands as advertised. It will be up for adoption at the October 16 meeting.

Councilman Flanders read Resolution 2018-7 in full. This resolution recognizes the Evansville Philharmonic, and its conductor, Alfred Savia. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the resolution be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Wade commented he thinks Council needs to set some guidelines regarding resolutions, such as requiring them to honor those who donate their time, and not those who receive compensation.

President Blaylock reported the property at 304 Church St. has high weeds and grass and two vehicles with expired license plates. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a notice of a nuisance violation be sent to the property owner at 304 Church St. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported a RV with expired license plates is parked in the Town right-of-way at 824 Brewery St. Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion a nuisance violation be sent to the property owner at 824 Brewery St. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a nuisance violation be served on the property owner at 316 South St., due to tall weeds and grass. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that a nuisance violation be served on 628 Murphy St., Lot 2, due to accumulation of trash. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jeff Smotherman requested approval of a festival application for a pot luck party to be held in the 600 block of Main St., on October 14. Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion the festival application be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chris Laughbaum thanked the Town workers for their help with Kunstfest.

Gas/street superintendent Bobby Grider announced the GIS mapping is mostly complete, except for some training that remains to be done. He also announced that hydrant flushing will begin September 18, and sewer cleaning will begin soon also.

President Blaylock reported Council plans to replace fire hydrants at the following locations: Granary and Brewery, Church and East, Tavern and Brewery, Steammill and Main, and Steammill and West. Also, two hydrants which are not in use will be removed. The estimated total cost is \$28,000. Blankenberger Bros. will be doing the job. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the hydrants be replaced as requested. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported the North Posey School District has informed Council they have no interest in the former New Harmony School property. He noted the next step in the process is to set a minimum bid for the property. The minimum bids must then be advertised for a maximum of sixty days. Councilman Wade suggested a minimum bid of \$75,000 for the three lots on South and Steammill Sts., and a minimum bid of \$360,000 for the former school property. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that a minimum bid of \$75,000 be set for the lots on South and Steammill St., and a minimum bid of \$360,000 be set for the former school property. The public notice will be published September 25, and October 2, with the sale starting October 9 and continuing for sixty days. The bids can be opened as they are received, and this does not have to be done at a public meeting. Councilman Flanders asked for a division of the question so the properties can be voted on separately. The following vote was taken on the three lots on South and Steammill Sts.: Ayes – Alsop, Wade, Watson, and Blaylock; Nays – Flanders. The following vote was taken on the former school property: Ayes – Alsop, Flanders, Wade, Watson and Blaylock. Motion carried.

President Blaylock presented a verbal request from the RGRG for their annual 5k on October 20. They have requested permission to close Main St. from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. that day. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the street closure request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried

Councilman Wade asked that Attorney Bauer look into the Town's options when property owners block off the Town right-of-way in front of their property during Town festivals. Attorney Bauer will report back.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer