

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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, CLARK, WADE and WILLIAMS along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins.

The following visitors were present: Chris Laughbaum, Bill Meyer, Claire Eagle, Connie Weinzapfel, Robin Lewis, Trisha Lopez, David Vonderscher, Chad Foreman, and Joshua Janik.

Councilman Clark made and Alsop seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular meeting be approved, but amended to show that all tree removal that was recently approved be paid from the General Fund, not just those trees located in Murphy Park. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins clarified that the street trees would have automatically been paid from the General Fund, as standard practice.

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

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the Murphy Park shelter house rental be increased to \$50/day, effective immediately. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported Jeff Smotherman has resigned as zoning administrator, effective December 31, 2022. A replacement needs to be made at the next meeting.

It was announced the Murphy Park restrooms have been closed for the winter.

Appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Park Board need to be made at the next meeting.

Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion that Bobby Grider be approved to travel to Olney, IL, on December 13 for gas training. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion that leaf pick-up end on December 16. All were in favor. Motion carried. Leaves will need to be bagged for pick-up beyond this date.

Robin Lewis announced her committee will be decorating on November 21.

Chris Laughbaum asked about the cameras Council had previously agreed to purchase. President Blaylock reported Council previously approved a quote from Cellular Nation for \$16,925. Council will be looking into whether or not this quote is still valid.

Councilman Clark commented Council previously voted to develop a plan on tree replacement. He feels the plan needs to be put together soon.

President Blaylock reported he has spoken to American Eagle and they are planning on taking the rest of the trees down towards the end of the week.

President Blaylock announced the elected officials' salaries for 2023 need to be approved at the December meeting. There was discussion about having a Special Meeting to discuss this.

President Blaylock reported a decision needs to be made at the next meeting regarding the employees' health insurance. Councilman Clark asked if this has been shopped lately. Councilman Wade stated he feels other options should be explored. Councilman Clark made and Williams seconded a motion that a broker be contacted to explore alternatives. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Clark agreed to take the lead on this.

President Blaylock noted the Town's backhoe is getting some age on it, and he asked that Council consider replacing it, with either a new or used model. President Blaylock agreed to look into this. Councilman Wade also asked that a front loader for the Ford tractor be priced.

Councilman Alsop reported the Deaconess Mobile Breast Center is wanting to set up in Town on May 25.

President Blaylock stated Marshal Foreman had gotten quotes for fire/burglar alarms for Town Hall. Councilman Wade offered to obtain a quote from Cellular Nation, the company who will be installing the cameras.

Bill Meyer asked if a risk assessment has been done on the Town's properties. If not, he feels a third party should be contracted to do one.

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

There being no further business, Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer