

NOVEMBER 16, 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: Trisha Lopez, Zac Clark, Jan Kahle, Lora Arneberg, Connie Weinzapfel, Mary Beth Guard, 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 announced two trees were planted at Murphy Park on Arbor Day. She also stated work on the restrooms has begun and should be completed within a month.

President Blaylock reported two appointments need to be made to the Park Board. He asked Council to think about potential nominees.

A target date of December 17 was set for the end of leaf pick-up.

President Blaylock reported he had contacted DNR regarding the status of the floodplain in New Harmony. This is an ongoing discussion for approximately eight years. The study has been completed, and maps are being drawn. DNR stated they will be coming to New Harmony during 2022 to present the maps.

President Blaylock announced that salaries for elected officials for 2022 need to be set in the December meeting. There was discussion on having an Executive Session to discuss this.

President Blaylock reported Harmonie State Park is wanting to bring their wastewater to the Town for treatment. There will be no cost to the Town for this to be set up. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the Town enter into negotiations with DNR regarding the possible acceptance of Harmonie State Park's wastewater. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced the first lady of Indiana has requested an ornament from each county in the state for a special themed tree at the Statehouse. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins has purchased one of the limited edition New Harmony ornaments. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the Town cover the cost of postage for mailing the ornament. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the employees' health insurance with Anthem be renewed with Proposed Plan 1. This will result in a 2.78% premium increase. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Connie Weinzapfel asked if Council had considered any projects in light of the infrastructure bill that was recently passed. She noted one of the biggest issues is the erosion. President Blaylock noted the erosion is being monitored by DNR, and it is being kept at a minimum. Ms. Weinzapfel also noted broadband, burying lines, etc. have all been discussed for many years.

Mary Beth Guard thanked Council for allowing her to use the parking area on Tavern St. adjacent to Capers for the tent sale.

Lora Arneberg reported the Bridge Authority is still waiting to hear on grant funding.

Mary Beth Guard announced she had ordered new lights for the trees downtown, but she has not yet installed them. She will get this done soon.

President Blaylock reported the unlicensed vehicle on Arthur St. needs towed. The time is up for the owner to take action.

President Blaylock noted the Town will need to be involved in purchasing Christmas decorations due to the use of public funds.

There was discussion on nuisance properties. Attorney Bauer stated she will need to look into the statutes as to what the Town's options are. There was discussion on getting a salvage title. Attorney

Bauer will look into this. Councilman Watson asked if the health dept. could do anything. He agreed to talk to them.

President Blaylock reported he has spoken to INDOT about cleaning out the ditch under Highway 66. Adjacent property owners have cleaned their part. He is waiting to hear back from INDOT.

Councilman Wade made and Watson 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 Alsop seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer