

DECEMBER 21, 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 WILLIAMS, along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Erin Bauer.

The following visitors were present: Tom Cochran, Kent Schuette, Connie Weinzapfel, Lora Arneberg, and Aaron Straub.

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

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the Executive Session Memorandum for December 7, 2021, be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade reported a meeting was held with DNR about the Town possibly accepting Harmonie State Park's wastewater.

Councilman Williams noted there is a tree at Maple Hill Cemetery that needs to be removed. Further investigating will be done to determine if the Town can do the removal.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that the Murphy Park Endowment certificate of deposit for \$6052.58 be cashed at Crane Credit Union, and that an identically named certificate be purchased for \$6,500 at United Fidelity Bank. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At the request of Clerk-Treasurer Atkins, Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that \$100,000 be transferred from the gas cash reserve to the gas operating. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2021-8 in full. This Ordinance amends the salaries of elected officials effective January 1, 2022. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Ordinance 2021-8 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that the list of suggested accounts to be written off totaling \$282.49 as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins announced approximately \$2,000 was received from two donors to help with residents utility bills. The recipients of these funds were very appreciative, and Clerk-Treasurer Atkins wanted to pass this along and thank the donors, both of which chose to remain anonymous.

Councilman Williams made and Wade seconded a motion that an ordinance violation letter be sent to the property owner at 909 Granary St. This is regarding an unlicensed camper that is parked in the alley on the Town easement. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Tom Cochran be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Terry Briant. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock agreed to serve another four-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

There were no nominations for the Plan Commission or for Zoning Administrator.

President Blaylock read Resolution 2021-5 in full. This Resolution authorizes appropriation transfers within the General Fund. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that Resolution 2021-5 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported two vehicles on East St. were tagged November 20, and they may now be towed as the owner did not come forward. The Town Marshal was asked to take care of this.

President Blaylock reported Robin Lewis had called and said she couldn't attend the meeting. Something came up on short notice. President Blaylock announced Councilman Wade and Alsop have agreed to work with the Business Associates regarding Christmas decorations as the Town's reps.

Councilman Alsop made and Williams seconded a motion that Missy Wade be appointed to the Park Board to replace Brenda Sawyer. All were in favor except Councilman Wade, who abstained. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that Zac Clark be appointed to replace Sarah Murphy on the Park Board. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read a letter from a local business owner who donated a picnic table to the Town. The donor was the recipient of COVID-19 grant funds.

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

Town Marshal Aaron Straub presented a quote for a body camera. The total cost if \$4,839. Councilman Wade made Alsop seconded a motion the body camera be purchased as quoted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade noted Centerpoint has been changing out some of the streetlights in Town and replacing them with LED's. He stated the Town has decided to go with 60 watt, and any brighter than that will be replaced. He plans to request that all lights on Main and Church Streets be replaced, and that residents not be permitted to request changes to lights without going through the Town.

Councilman Williams presented some information he received from the Business Associates regarding the cost of the brown highway signs they have been paying for. He stated that since the Ribeyre Gym restrooms are not going to be open in 2022, the Town could use those funds to help cover the cost of the signs. He feels the signs benefit the entire Town. Councilman Wade made and Williams seconded a motion the discussion be tabled until Council has a chance to review the information. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop distributed some information regarding the Deaconess Mobile Breast Center which is wanting to come to New Harmony, possibly in May. Councilman Alsop will follow-up with a firm date.

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