

JULY 18, 2023

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, and WADE along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins.

The following visitors were present: Jan & Larry Kahle, Chris Laughbaum, Trisha Lopez, Tom Guggenheim, Gary Gentil, Bobbi Jo Bottomley, Jeff Smotherman, Aaron Straub, Joshua Janik, Paul Allison, and Diane Sanders.

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

President Blaylock opened and read aloud the one bid that was received for the alley paving. It was from E & B Paving Inc. for \$58,666. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the bid be accepted for \$58,666. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported he was contacted by Indian Mound Farm regarding the expansion of Maple Hill Cemetery. Indian Mound Farm has agreed to donate enough land to construct a road to the new section. In exchange for the land donation, Indian Mound Farm is asking for a not yet determined number of graves. President Blaylock noted the construction of a road on the proposed donated land should be fairly inexpensive due to it being on flat ground. Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion that Indian Mound Farm's proposal be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins stated the 2019 Town Election was conducted by the Town at a cost of \$1,745. County Clerk Kay Kilgore provided an estimate of \$6,000 for them to conduct the 2023 Town Election. Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion that the Town Election be conducted by the Town. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock read Resolution 2023-2 in full. This resolution states the Town will conduct the municipal election in 2023. Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion the Resolution be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark presented information on amending Charter 8 of the New Harmony Municipal Code regarding unlicensed vehicles. He would like to remove "unlicensed vehicles" from the nuisance ordinance and create a new ordinance. Councilman Clark read the proposed ordinance in full. Attorney Bauer will look into the legalities as proposed. As written, the new ordinance lists a separate fine for such offense and calls for liens to be filed if fines remain unpaid.

Larry Kahle spoke on behalf of the North Posey softball team that recently won the state title. Mr. Kahle read a Proclamation honoring the softball team. Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion the Proclamation be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Guggenheim stated he provided to Councilman Clark a Tree Risk Management Check Sheet, and he offered to review it with Council.

Paul Allison announced that two groups will be working at Playtopia on September 22.

There were no updates on the nuisance violation at 1017 Steammill and LDA Properties.

Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion the quote from Bur Oak Services for \$1,590 for tree removal on Wood Ave. be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the tree behind Town Hall not be removed at this time. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Clark seconded a motion that trees two, four, five, six, eight, and eleven as quote by American Eagle be removed at a total cost of \$8,725. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made and Wade seconded a motion that trees seven and ten be trimmed and tree number nine be removed at Maple Hill Cemetery as quoted by American Eagle at a cost of \$4,350. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins read a statement to Council regarding the acceptance of credit cards by the Town along with other issues. This statement is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Councilman Wade commented several residents have spoken to him and requested that the Town accept credit cards. He stated, however, that if the office can't handle it, that's a different story. President Blaylock stated if a new employee will be necessary, that is a budget matter which will have to be looked at during budget preparation. He continued that he has heard from people who are not in favor of credit cards. Councilman Clark pointed out this needs to be done in conjunction with the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. They need to be on board and involved with choosing a vendor.

Councilman Clark acknowledged the work that has been done at Murphy Park.

Councilman Clark acknowledged Annette Buckland for her contributions to the business community for the past 32 years.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop 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 Clark seconded a motion the meeting be adjourned. All were in favor. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer

I don't appreciate being blindsided at the last meeting regarding the acceptance of credit cards in my office. None of the Council members discussed this with me before that meeting, and none have discussed it with me since, with the exception of Rod, to learn what this involves regarding my office. I, however, have spoken to the SBoA, and they have provided guidance. An ordinance is required, as well as setting up an additional bank account for the payments to be receipted into. Those payments will then have to be transferred out to the correct utility accounts, along with other processing to the accounts, etc. This totally affects my office and none of you are at all aware of what this involves on our end. We must conform to SBoA guidelines.

I am aware that the Town of Poseyville currently accepts credit card payments. They do have, however, two full time employees in addition to the Clerk-Treasurer. I only have one part-time person, who is currently in training.

Right now, on top of everything else, I am in the middle of a SBoA audit, the Town election is this fall, it is budget season, and I am still training Becky's replacement. I also have a lot of extra work due to the business grant that the Town just completed.

Anita and I neither one have the time it is going to take to get this set up and processed on a daily basis. The only way to feasibly start the process of accepting credit card payments is for me to hire an additional office employee. At this time, we do not have the staff to take on the additional work, and we also don't have the space to accommodate another employee, which would necessitate purchasing another computer, phone, etc. for this person. Also, I feel this needs to be a full-time position, which will make this employee eligible for PERF and health insurance.

Also, some of you seem to think that I work for you, and that you have a say in my schedule, days off, etc., but you don't. I am an elected official and do not have to be in the office AT ALL. I just need to make sure the work is done, either by myself or someone else. And the work is being done. By Indiana Statute, I am only required to be in the office one day a year, yet I have worked full-time for over 29 years. Also, it is

none of your concern who my friends are, who is in my office and how long they stay. I have never in my 29+ years been subjected to the disrespect I have received in the past few years.