

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on February 6, 2018.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Ed Johnson (President), Jerry Bragg (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, Ohmer Miller and Nellie Meek. Town Manager JT Doane and Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

Purpose of the meeting: Working Session

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS:

2018 PLAN COMMISSION / 2018 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS / 2018 COMMITTEES

Ed Johnson stated we are gathered here this evening to make appointments to the different committees.

The following was discussed for Board of Zoning Appeals:

Amee Taylor requested to be taken off of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Jerry Bragg will represent the Council.

Add Herby Asher who volunteered to be on a committee.

It was decided to leave Plan Commission the same. Nellie stated it is not set up as it should be. There should be terms. JT read Chapter 10, Article 5 which stated it consists of seven members, Town Council shall appoint three persons of town government as members. The President of the Town Council shall appoint four citizen from whom not more than two can be of the same political party. Terms of citizen members; two shall initially be appointed for a term of three years and two citizens members shall initially be appointed for a term of four years. Clyde stated if I recall right, I appointed that committee last year. If that is the case, they would four years and two years so this is a moot point. JT continued to read when the initial term of an office of a citizen member expires, each new appointment will be for a term of four years. The term shall expire on the first Monday of January of the third or fourth year as the case may be after the year of the member's appointment. Clyde stated Mike Nading and John Walstead were new last year. JT stated if I can offer some clarity, Mike and John are one year into their term. The two the Council should consider from this article is Randy Sims and Mary Bragg. It was determined that it is Mary's third year. Nellie stated Randy is a good one to have on there because he does know what is going on. JT contacted Randy about his length of term. Randy was uncertain but he has been on the committee for a long time. Nellie asked if he can be kept on the committee due to his knowledge and experience. JT answered you can if that is the desire of the Council.

Brandon Green volunteered to serve on a committee.

It was decided to leave the Personnel Committee the same.

It was decided to leave the Storm Water Committee the same.

JT stated you received Resolution 2010-1 in your packet which has some details pertaining to the Edit Committee. The following was discussed for Edit Committee:

- Ed stated he has received some comments that the individuals sitting on the committee should reside in the town limits.
- Nellie agreed it should change out every so often.
- Clyde stated I disagree. If it is a functional body that is doing good for this town, I don't see why you change it just to change it. Clyde also commented on the resolution stating it is a four person board. Diane answered that a person was added several years ago to make it a five person committee. This was done to ensure we had enough for a quorum.
- John Clark pointed out since it is income tax money, that is money from the people who work in your community. Everybody who is on that committee works in this community. They pay income taxes that go back into this community.
- Jerry agreed with Clyde that it is functional and working. As long as they are active members.
- Ohmer agreed it is a functional body. The people that are on there do a good job. There are some things I would like to see change with the format of the committee but that has nothing to do with the members.
- Nellie stated Ed asked for volunteers. Ed stated none was received. Nellie corrected several were received including Jonna Shepherd, Pam May and Shirley Robertson. Ed responded I had forgotten about those. Jonna then stated she no longer wants to be on the committee.
- Ed suggested they could add people to the committee. Ed asked do we want to just add Pam May and Shirley Robertson to that committee. Ohmer agreed. Clyde stated the resolution will need to be changed. Nellie stated we also need to add terms. Clyde stated I'm against seven people on this board and I will turn in my resignation as of today. Ed stated to table it. Diane asked if a replacement is needed for Clyde.
- Clyde stated you can take it down to three members. The more that you put on something like this, the less you are going to get down. Ed added unless you have a definite agenda to get it done.
- Nellie stated an option is to bring it back to the Council.

Vickie Tedder, Edit Committee Member, stated we always have good discussion on the requests and have brought different lights to it. I have no problem with adding the two. There are going to be times when someone is not able to come. It was stated that of the current committee Dave Miller is the only one who has been on it since the beginning. Vickie stated I think it is good to have someone who rules over every time because they know what is going on. Nellie suggested rotating out. Vickie stated we have done that. It is good to have new people and to have the stability of the leader is a good thing. Clyde asked Vickie her opinion on serving on the board when you don't live in town. Vickie answered I do not live in town. I have owned a business for thirty-three years on the town square. My parents raised me just a block off of the square. My best interest is this community. I come here seven days a week and I don't live in this town. I do have passion and compassion for this town. I do expect the town

to stay alive. I don't want it to fall. That is why I have the business on the north side of the square. I chose to do that and I still have a full time job on the east side of the square and have real estate businesses that I rent out to people. I have Hope as my best interest. Ed stated I brought it up because I was told by several people. I have not voiced an opinion on that. Vickie stated the ones that don't live in town but serve on committees, I do believe they have Hope as their best interest or they wouldn't choose to be in those positions. We all want this town to grow or we wouldn't want to be on committees.

Dave Miller, Edit Committee Chair, stated I have been on the Edit Committee a long time. I believe if Council Member Meek believes that I served my time and my community and it's time to step aside and let someone else do that, I'm totally on board with that. Nellie stated I don't mean anything against you. David continued I have been on the committee for eight years and that is awhile. I think Jonna Shepherd, Pam May or Shirley Robertson could fill my shoes. I have no problem with that at all. When it was originally brought up to you guys, it was about people on the committee who don't live in town. I am taking this opportunity to tell you the opposite. As someone who doesn't live in town, I take a great deal of pride in serving this community. It means a lot to me. Nellie stated we appreciate what you guys have done. Dave stated it has been implied that I don't have the town's best interest and that is offensive. If you decide to pull me off because I have been on the committee for a while, I have no problem with that at all but please don't tell me it is because I don't live in town. You as Town Council Members live in town and are voted in by town members. You serve as that check against any abuses that would come from the Edit Committee. As Edit Committee members, we're chosen for our wisdom, our experience and our outlook on town events. If you feel there are abuses to the town money that is on you to make sure that doesn't happen.

Upon Ed suggestion, the council decided to postpone this decision to allow time to consider what was discussed.

Ed stated Diane is on the Endowment Board and she is on there for one more year.

Ed suggested adding Chad Emmitt, Fire Chief, to the Emergency Warning Committee. The council agreed.

Ed stated he feels the Town Hall Committee is a moot point now.


RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Ordinance 2018-01)

Ed Johnson read Ordinance 2018-01 regarding recreational vehicles. Ed stated he thinks it needs to be rewritten. There are several trailers sitting in front yards, across the front of the house. There was discussion on the current problems the town is having with trailers, campers and boats. Ed brought up as long as it is sitting on a paved lot, he doesn't have a problem with it. JT added the primary emphasis behind this is looking out for those who essentially do not want to see this. Imagine sitting on your front porch, if your neighbor had a boat sitting in their front yard that blocked your view from the street. JT gave some other similar examples. Pastor Ed Cottrell stated I live in the churches parsonage on Washington Street. I have my RV on a paved lot, five feet from my neighbor's house. However in part D it says used for living, sleeping or home business purposes. My wife and I go out there sometimes and

sleep because we like it. It is relaxing. It is relaxing to write my sermons. Am I in violation of this? Ed answered that is not living in it. Ohmer brought up that children are going to be camping in RVs all summer. It's going to be their playground or their hideout. Ed stated you have to use some common sense. Ed gave some examples of what the town doesn't want like allowing a family member to live in it or renting it out. JT suggested adding language that states more on a permanent basis. Clyde stated there is nothing that you can write where there isn't going to be an exception to the rule. JT stated he can make that change and have Cindy review it. I can have it for your regular meeting this month.

Ohmer stated I am receiving pressure or comments from people wanting to know when we are going to have our called meeting on the employee situation. It was decided to schedule an Executive Session on Monday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



Attest



