

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 called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 6:30 p.m. on September 15, 2014.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Paula Pollitt (President), Jonathan Titus (Vice-President), Tim Shoaf, Jerry Bragg and Greg Sims. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

The budget hearing was called to order by Paula Pollitt.

Paula opened the meeting for public comments about the budget. No comments were made. Diane stated the 2015 budget that I am proposing as it is advertised in the paper is: Rainy Day \$9,727, General \$540,285, Local Road & Street \$83,735, Motor Vehicle Highway \$158,500, Cumulative Capital Improvements \$58,500, Cumulative Capital Development \$46,372, Riverboat \$60,000 and Economic Development Income Tax \$232,000 for a total of \$1,189,119. Paula asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Diane asked the council if they had any questions on Form 4B or on what we discussed at the August Working Session. The only change I made was I increased the Deputy Clerk Treasurer \$500 as we discussed at the meeting. On the Cumulative Capital Improvements I did increase buildings to \$20,000 because not all the funds were appropriated just in case in 2015 the funds are needed. They were no questions.

Budget hearing adjourned 6:34.

The Town Council meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance by Paula Pollitt and a prayer by Jonathan Titus.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 7/7 & 7/21

Tim made a motion for the approval of the minutes for 7/7. Greg seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

Jonathan made a motion for approval of the minutes for 7/21. Tim seconded. Motion carries 3/0. 2 abstain.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Greg made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jonathan seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

PROJECT REPORTS:

Place Based Investment--Eric Frey, ARa: Ground breaking is set for Sept 28th, after Heritage Days. They are looking at getting some quotes and specifications together. There is a report coming up in October and ARa will be compiling information for that report. Larry Simpson stated that due to the inability to get some state officials here for the groundbreaking, we are not going to do that for Heritage Days. A new date will be set and he will keep everyone posted.

Water Systems Improvements Planning Grant --Eric Frey, ARa: The grant application is near completion. Draw for the initial 60% was submitted with itemized statements from Strand. The Public Hearing will be October 20 at the Council Meeting. Steve Robertson stated that he had talked to Ryan today. He will make sure that Trena or ARa has an advanced copy before the public hearing.

Housing Rehab--Eric Frey, ARa: The bid packets were sent out for all 9 participating homes. ARa expects to have the bids back by September 22nd. At that point, ARa will contact the homeowners to review the bids and what's being proposed and shortly after that will be scheduling the loan closings.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Crohn's Disease Walk – Katrina Erickson and Cindy are requesting to do a benefit walk on the town square on October 4 for their friend Melissa, who has Crohn's Disease. She has been in and out of the hospital near death two or three times since February and has been unable to work. Melissa is a resident of Hope. There will be a walk around the square and activities for kids. Tracey Fugate will host a bake sale at her business. There will also be a free-will dinner. They are also requesting the use of the shelter house. There may be a bounce house for the kids. Tim and Paula explained the need for additional insurance needs for a bounce house. They are looking at a possible hayride as well. Tim advised they talk to Matt about the requirements for a hayride. Council approved this event.

Seal Coating & Painting Parking Lines – Greg Sims stated that we talked about this a few years ago. He believes that seal coating is needed on the square as well as re-stripping. David Clouse stated that he had spoken with Eric Robertson previously about seal-coating and Eric had said that this will make the surface slick. Greg said that what Rural King used was a spray and David stated that what Eric talked about was applied with a squeegee. David said that he didn't know if the spray-on seal coating was less slick. David stated the striping is three years old and he would look into the cost to do this. David will look into this project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COMMUNITY CENTER—No report from the Community Center

ATTORNEY

Cindy Boll presented a quick update on cases she thought the Council may be interested in. Per Matt, the 223 Union property & 205 Robbins property is in compliance. There was a hearing regarding the 624 Walnut property. There will be a status hearing on December 19, 2014 to determine if the Stokes are making reasonable progress. They were ordered to do a number of things. Under F, Cindy still does not have good service on that case. Greg stated that that property is now listed again under a realtor. We now own 154 Elm. Jonathan stated that there was work under way yesterday at 114 Schaefer. Cindy and Mel have spoken and have a "semi" plan in place for getting the weed abatement ordinance updated in time for weeds next summer. This ordinance will state that instead of sending several notices, one notice can be sent and post a notice for an entire year. Cindy is working on the rental registry. Cindy is

also still working on the Verizon issue. Tim stated that the grass across from 624 Walnut Street is very high.

POLICE

*A Police Report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Matt Tallent stated that he hopes to get released to return to work next week. Matt indicated that the new car is outside and asked if everyone has seen it. Paula stated that it looks very nice. Tim stated that he has received complaints about the RTVs on the streets. Tim called Matt regarding these complaints. Tim believes there is some confusion on these vehicles. Matt stated we don't have any regulations for these vehicles. The county has no regulation against them as long as they have a slow-moving placard and a steering wheel and headlights. Discussion followed regarding registration of these vehicles. Matt said we will start enforcing it if that is what the Council would like. Council agreed.

ANIMAL CONTROL

*An Animal Control Report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Jonathan stated that Jennifer Hadley continues to do a good job for the town. Paula stated good job Jenny.

TOWN MANAGER

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Mel addressed the estimate for demolition of the house on Seminary and Elm Street. To tear down the house, take out the stump and concrete slab, and haul away the debris, the grand total is \$5,000. Regarding the estimate for Rural Carriers Museum, once the items are moved, the total for the project is \$2500.00. **Jonathan made a motion to move on this to accept J & J Excavating estimates for the demolition of the house on Elm Street and the Rural Carriers Museum. Greg seconded. Motion carried 5/0.** Steve asked if there was a time frame to have the museum items moved out. Randy Sims said we have until spring. Tim asked about insurance on our newly owned property at Seminary and Elm, does that need to be brought up to the insurance company. It was agreed that this would be done tomorrow. Jonathan stated great report Mel. Mel said it's been a tremendous effort. The feedback went off the charts. There were 523 likes on Facebook. The seniors love it. They love the benches. If you work together, you get a lot accomplished. I'm hoping we can get a lot more benches. We would like to see if people would donate them. There can be a lot more done once Larry gets us up and going on Main Street. One problem around the square is cigarette butts. Mel would like to address that issue at the next meeting. Tim stated that the beautification is contagious. The town has a whole different flair.

UTILITIES, STREETS, PARKS

*A Utility Report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

David stated that the damage to the line that was damaged was done by Indiana Fiber's crew so they will be paying for that. The line was for old service to the fire station and David didn't know it was there. David found when pouring the concrete cap over it, it is still being used. The fire station is going to have to plumb again. If it hadn't changed hands, we would have never known the line was there. Paula said thanks for filling in the holes in the alley. Greg asked if he was down an employee. David stated yes, he has been short since February.

BUILDING & ZONING

Matt Galbraith looked at 114 Schafer Drive, Jennifer Hardy. We are at the point that we have sent her to court for not mowing and where she has removed a tree. It appeared that they were working on it yesterday. We have compliance on 149 Hitchcock Place. On 139 Hitchcock Dr., we have a huge dead tree that is not being mowed around so we are getting a letter out regarding that. 170 Hauser Court is now in compliance. In regards to Kenny Wentworth's property at 169 Hitchcock Court, it is in terrible shape. When Matt spoke with him on Thursday, Kenny said he will have everything done by Tuesday, which is tomorrow. Matt will follow up with him tomorrow. If not complete, Matt will move on to the next step. 142 Meadow Place is going to be a problem. It was owned by Courtney Colson. We had two letters out. It is now vacant and repoed and there is a pile of junk behind the house. Pertaining to 160 Meadow Place, all of the junk vehicles are gone; however, lining the driveway are miscellaneous pieces of junk with weeds. It cannot be mowed until the junk is removed. There has been a letter from Cindy delivered by Mr. Tallent. This needs to be re-sent. Regarding the Steining property, 223 Union St, Mr. and Mrs. Steining have divorced. The house has been repoed. The big pile of demolition debris has been cleaned up so we have compliance with that property. On 621 Washington, Mr. Baxter's property, the place looks terrible. All of the vehicles on the property are plated. It appears that wherever he drops the trailers, he lets the weeds grow up. Matt is not sure how to address this issue but is looking for a way to proceed. At 732 Walnut St, a second letter has been sent. This will go to Cindy for a 3rd letter. We have compliance on 704 Washington, 732 Harrison, and 521 Broad St. The letter you got a copy of pertains to the Victor Schrader property on Elm St. that has two houses on one lot. He only wants to sell one of the houses to his daughter. She cannot get a loan because he only wants to sell one house. Mr. Schrader is trying to figure out what he has to do. 624 Walnut Street--this is the one that's been to court. The court has entered a judgment saying that the owner must get a new building permit and submit a timeline to do the building permit. Mr. Sharp came in 1 month after the hearing (when he was told to do it immediately) to get a building permit and submitted a timeline that called for completion September 30, 2015. Matt did not feel that he should issue a building permit because if he issued the permit, it would be accepting that timeline. Matt talked to Cindy who said this is a decision for Council. Is this an acceptable timeline for the Council? If it is acceptable, Matt will issue the building permit. If not acceptable, Mr. Sharp will be notified and then Matt will see what he can get done. Mr. Sharp applied for the building permit on Sept 2nd. The court said he is not in compliance to do it expeditiously and this is why there is a need for a new permit. Cindy stated we talked about going through tax season for the repairs. Jonathan confirmed on tax season was talked about. Cindy said court stated that the project needed to be done in a reasonable time frame. Tim stated he feels that six months is a reasonable time frame. Greg stated that he feels we should go back to the previous date. The Council was in agreement with this.

In regards to the FEMA flood map, we've got it on disk and paper copy. It can be left here at town hall. It didn't look like the new map affected very many in Hope. We've already done the ordinance for the map. They can be kept on file.

HOH

Randy Sims got the report from the electrical inspector. The inspector found some things that need to be fixed before the Hope Ride. We need to get some covers put on and repair an electrical box. David said Dempsey was out there working so the repairs may have already been done. Larry stated you're all invited to sit on the reviewing stand.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Diane Jekel said the Arts and Antiques Fair on the Square was very successful this year. There were people in attendance from Nashville, Atlanta, Franklin, Camby, Hartsville, Shelbyville, Fishers, Waldron, Indianapolis, Westport, Edinburgh, Columbus, Flat Rock, Greensburg, Anderson, Fairland, Brownstown, Seymour and Batesville. We are going to do that again next year. Tracy said she sold out. We were able to recruit five people for United Way. We are reworking our structuring as far as how we are encouraging people to join the Chamber. We're not going to be use employees anymore. We're going to use benefits such as Office 360 which offers lower cost on office supplies. On Facebook, the highest liked item was the local artist competition that was posted, with 523 likes. The biggest complaints from people were regarding the restrooms in town.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had a total of 32 runs for the month. Squad runs were down for the month. It only got out on the street 3 times during the month, 2 of them were on the 4th and again on the 25th. There was a total of 27 Ambulance runs. Even when the ambulance was gone, we still responded with our first responder group with an EMT. We had 16 ambulance runs in town and 11 in the township. For fires, we had 5 runs—4 in the township and one in town. We have an engine that's down and are looking for the parts for the repair. Paula stated that Bruce said he is getting the weeds mowed at the new station before Hope Heritage Days. Paula asked about an Open House date. Bruce said we are trying to get some things worked out and hopefully they can set that date and everyone can come and have a good time.

CLERK TREASURER

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLAN COMMISSION

The Plan Commission met on September 8th. They had one petition to go over and that was Mi-P 14-01, Cynthia Miller Replat petitioned by Gary Dodd to subdivide 9.41 acres into 2 lots. This was a sparsely attended meeting but good information was brought about. The Plan Commission is bringing a recommendation of approval for this minor subdivision. The only stipulation put on this was that if the existing mobile home is ever damaged or removed, it must be replaced with a frame-built structure.

Motion carries 5/0. The only person at the meeting other than the Commission members and Mr. Dodd

and the surveyors was Mrs. Martha Bayless, who bought Hope Law's house. She was looking at the Comprehensive Planning maps. This brought some concern to her because her property is listed as undeveloped. She would like the council to change the listing to R-1. The Plan Commission is making that recommendation to the Town Council.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nothing to report.

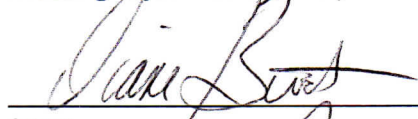
OTHER BUSINESS:

In regards to the Place Based Investment, Randy Sims is trying to get the electrical sized, figure out what size wire we need. He talked to Ed Johnson who was involved in a lot of electrical work down there. Ed is looking at the plan and will make some recommendations by the next Working Session. The Council will have to review the specifications and then get them out. If we take bids at the next Council Meeting which will be in October, we would have to review the bids. Could we have a special Council meeting a week after the regular meeting to award the contracts? Tim asked if there is a meeting where the Council can sit down before bids are let and make sure the Council and HOH are on the same page as to exactly what is going to happen on the project. The town might be able to get some things in the project that needs to go in at the same time. Tim would like to see sewer line ran and the park irrigated. These items will be discussed at the meeting on the 6th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt asked about ordinances online. Mel said we are looking at building a new website and this will be a part of the website. Hopefully this will be up and running by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Attest

