

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 March 19, 2019.

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

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ohmer Miller.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 1/15/19, 2/27/19

Clyde made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Ed made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT UPDATES

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Trena Carter, ARA, stated it's my understanding that the Washington Street (Storm Water) project has moved to local funds in order for timing to meet the CCMG funding. So we are moving forward with the Downtown Revitalization; sidewalks, streetscape throughout the park and some additional improvements surrounding the park. Tonight I just wanted to bring you up to where we are and what I need from you in order to proceed. We are going to apply for a grant for the revitalization of the downtown square. The required match is 20% of the entire project costs. The proposal is due May 3rd. The full application is due June 28th. Susan is still working with Joe on fine tuning things. I printed off a couple of larger maps for you to share. Reduced maps were emailed to the Council as well. Trena reviewed the map and design with the Council. Trena stated keep in mind that placement was needed for the application but the location is not fully defined. I want to request that you appoint me as the public hearing officer which allows me to send the notice to the paper, allows me to do the public hearing minutes and allows me to be the environmental officer. **Nellie made a motion to appoint Trena Carter for this role as presented. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Trena requested the public hearing be held at the next Council Meeting, April 16 at 5:30. The Council agreed. Trena reviewed the packet of information sent to the Council. Trena requested Council decision on the light fixtures. There was discussion on the light fixtures and maintenance on the light fixtures. David Clouse voiced concerns on maintenance if light fixtures are purchased with someone other than Duke Energy. Trena stated there is five year warranty on the fixture. The bulb is expected to last eleven years. Ohmer clarified that there is \$118,000 difference in price. Trena confirmed. Greg Sweet stated the poles have a thirty to forty year expected life span. The fixtures are a five year warranty. The bulbs are \$29 on Amazon.com. They last about eleven years. I looked at it like if after five years every fixture at the same time blew up, it

would cost \$15,000 to fix every fixture. On the Duke Energy insurance plan after five years, you would pay \$15,000. There was more discussion on the light fixtures. Greg also pointed out the globes selected by Main Street match the time of the buildings the Town has now so they would be historically correct. These globes are not an option with Duke Energy. Trena emphasized these amounts are estimates. They are not in any way a bid. They are the best guess that we have at this point in time. The project will be bid out in total. Clyde stated no one has explained where we are going to get the \$111,000 local match. Trena answered we do know Main Street has received \$25,000. Additional applications have been submitted by the Main Street Director. Part of engineering, landscape architecture is to be donated so it will be an in kind service. It can be five percent of the grant up to \$25,000. We are not certain what Mr. Dodd is going to provide. The rest of it, I would like to think, the Town would be willing to put something in. This project will benefit the Town as a whole. Trena said potentially funds can be taken from Riverboat or Edit Funds. Trena reminded the Council that if approved, we are looking at next year as far as expenditures. Clyde complimented Joe Dodd's drawings. Ohmer voiced concern with the weight of vehicles and trailers destroying the new pathways. Susan answered the pathways for unloading which are critical and are what everybody wants are twice as thick as the other ADA pathways. Trena added you will notice on the east and the west side, there are wider areas that will be thicker, heavy duty concrete. Pastor Ed Cottrell suggested having Heritage of Hope make stipulations to the vendors and put in there if you damage it, you have insurance. You repair it. **Clyde made a motion to go with Globe Lighting with black poles and other amenities as presented. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT

Trena stated as far as I know we still haven't heard anything on FEMA. So we are still in the running.

OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB

Trena stated I want to let you know that we have met the goal of five homes and there were funds left over. We are looking at two additional homes to assist. That means we will be able to assist a total of seven homes. We have met the original bench mark. All work is to be completed by mid-September.

WASHINGTON STREET STORM UTILITY PROJECT

Steve Robertson, Strand Associates, gave the Council a preliminary plan sheet. Steve stated this will give you an idea of what our designer is looking at. He tried to design something within the parameters of the budget. We are going to dig out the old line and put the new one back in approximately in the same location. That should eliminate collapses in the future. Steve reviewed the options for crossing the highway. One of the ways is bore and jack. The other option is to dig a trench across the highway. Typically this option is cheaper. INDOT does get the final say so on how you cut across the highway. Ohmer asked if you do a cut across the highway, how many days do you look for that to take. Steve answered less than a week. Steve explained the process of crossing the road. Ed asked about the storm sewer stub. Steve explained the plan to allow for the future storm water project. There was discussion on the process options. Steve stated this does have a very tight timeframe. The current schedule is: this has to be advertised twice in the paper; Friday, April 5 and Friday, April 12th. We will have a pre-bid conference on April 15th. We will have the bid opening on April 23rd. We will need you to have a special called meeting on April 30th to award the project. Law requires contractors to have so many days between the bid award and when they have to get all their paperwork, insurance and all that stuff back to you. This will keep you on the timeframe that they can start work on June 1st and be done by

September 1st. This will allow time for this to be done before the bike ride. The overlay project, they cannot work on the square until October 1st. Steve discussed the effect of the other events. Steve stated we will try to keep one way traffic and one way parking open on Washington Street as much as we can. There is no way to avoid some closing. Clyde voiced concern with it looking like a big band aide across square. Steve answered it's totally your call. If you want to bore and jack a pipe, I will contact INDOT and let them know that is the way we want to go. Ohmer requested a cost estimate to be emailed to them. Clyde asked on this map I don't see where the water goes. Steve stated the inlets are not shown and explained the process. Steve will try to get some numbers on the cost difference of the two options. The Council agreed to have a meeting on April 30th to award the project.

2018 CCMG PROJECT

Steve Robertson stated tonight the project will need to be awarded. Six firms turned in bids. They all turned in their bid bond. They all acknowledged the addendum. Robertson Paving of Flat Rock came in at the lowest bid of \$167,595.00. Our estimate was \$242,000. We do not have company experience with Robertson Paving. I did send the contract to Scott Andrews to review. It's a standard contract that follows State law. Steve went over some date requirements included in the contract. The contract states they can only shut down one side at a time. There will be a clause in there for the Storm Water Project that when they are working at Norman's Funeral Home, they'll have to work around their services. Clyde asked if the unused funds can be used in any other format. Steve answered no. **Clyde made a motion to award the contract to Robertson Paving. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Clyde made a motion to authorize Ohmer to sign any required paperwork between now and the next meeting. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Steve stated one last reminder, the final contract with Robertson has to be at INDOT by April 15th. Steve stated I will have a meeting with the contractor before they start. They will be told no overruns without prior authorization from the Town Council.

MAIN STREET PARKING LOT

Steve Robertson stated the parking area on west side of square is not allowed in the INDOT Overlay Program. Steve said the Council may want to consider having that area paved. State stated I have spoken to Eric and Aaron Robertson. They agreed if the Town is interested, they will enter into a separate contract and honor the bid prices. The cost will be right around \$5,000 to mill, surface and stripe the west side of the square. The Council agreed that this should be done. Steve will get have Robertson's provide a formal quote and give it to David. The Council will take action when the formal quote is received. Nellie questioned if all required insurance will be taken care of. Steve confirmed. Steve stated Strand is listed as additional insured as well.

2016 CCMG INELIGIBLE COST

Diane Burton stated INDOT is saying they overpaid us in 2016. They are requesting back \$2,479.13. I believe only two of our five Council members were here during this time. Back in 2016 with the Community Crossing Grant, there was an error where there was additional asphalt needed with O'Mara. It was a large cost. You were willing to split the cost with them and pay \$8,000 to get the project completed. INDOT is not allowing that to be part of the project. Some of the other costs came in lower. They are only willing to pay the 50/50 match for the items listed not including the additional asphalt. We are required to give that amount back to INDOT. Steve added they were probably auditing their projects. They have a new requirement coming up if you're not squared up on these Community

Crossing Projects, you're ineligible for the next go around. If you want to dispute this, you run the chance. **Nellie made a motion to approve returning the funds. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

MAIN STREET OF HOPE UPDATES

Susan Thayer Fye stated I want to thank everyone who helped with the Pooch Parade on Saturday. We will end up donating about \$133.00 to the Paula Pollitt Animal Shelter. There were several donations also.

NEW BUSINESS:

UTILITY BILL – HARRISON STREET

Tabled.

ANTHEM RENEWAL – NORTHPOINT

Aaron Van Pelt, Northpoint, stated I do have good news. Handouts were given to the Council. Aaron reviewed the plan. Aaron stated your Anthem renewal, which went into effect March 1st, is a 2.76% increase. If you are familiar with the insurance world and what is happening now, 2.76 is a fantastic number. We also went out and looked at the competition in the area. We really have two options; Anthem and United Health Care. Aaron reviewed the two plan options. Aaron stated it is my recommendation that you accept the Anthem renewal. It is a better plan. Ohmer stated he would like the opinion of the employees. It was a consensus of the Council for Aaron to set up a meeting with the personnel to receive employee input.

PARK REQUEST – CAMON MASONIC LODGE CAR SHOW

Darren Brown stated I live Columbus but I'm here representing Camon Masonic Lodge. This will be the third year, with your permission, that we would like to do a car show fundraiser. This is something we do each year to raise money to, around Christmas time, feed needy families. We would like to ask permission to use the square on May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. **Clyde made a motion to approve the park request. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PARK REQUEST – OLD FASHIONED INDEPENDENCE DAY

Barb Johnson, Yellow Trail Museum, requested use of the square on June 28th for the Old Fashioned Independence Day. Barb stated we will need Jackson Street blocked off so people can sit there for the fireworks. The other events that will happen that evening are basically the same as usual. We have already turned in a written request to the County Commissioner for road closings for the fireworks. Fireworks have been purchased. The Banister Band is scheduled.

PARK REQUEST – CHRISTMAS OF YESTERYEAR

Barb Johnson requested us of the square on November 22nd for Christmas of Yesteryear and that live animals will be allowed for the live nativity. **Nellie made a motion to allow use of the square for both events, Old Fashioned Independence Day and Christmas of Yesteryear. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0. 1 Abstain.**

HOPE FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chad Emmitt, Fire Chief, stated I just want to give you an update so far this year on what we've accomplished or are working on. I still haven't heard anything on the FEMA grant. We just had a pancake breakfast. For those of you who were there, you were able to see the station is painted. We're still moving things around. We are getting another dumpster at the old station. We're still cleaning out. Ohmer asked any thoughts on what you're going to do with that building. Chad answered I can't speak for the department. I would say the general consensus is probably to sell it. Clyde said good job, Chad.

2020 CENSUS

Nellie Meek stated Diane and I met with a lady from the 2020 Census. She is asking us to commit to advertising and to make sure people are aware of the census. Nellie reviewed handouts with the Council. Groups can be formed. Nellie suggested ministerial to be a group. The Chamber is also another group option. This will help get everyone in our Town notified that the census needs to be completed. Nellie stated not only is this important information for the government, this is important for us to help us get grants. The last census was in 2010. We are not committing to anything other than helping them to get the word out to everyone. You can apply online if you want a census job. They will be hiring people in every area to do this job. The census day is April 1 of 2020. It was a consensus of the Council to participate in the census.

RECEIVER FOR METERS

David Clouse requested a new receiver for the meters. David stated when someone calls and complains about their bill, we can print ninety-one days of history off of it. This helps diagnose the problem. The cost is \$2,700. Right now the Utility Supply has to come down and download the information. David explained how the meter works. David stated it takes four to six weeks for Utility Supply to come down and print the report for us. This will be paid half by Sewer and half by Water. This benefits sewer as well. **Clyde made a motion to approve the purchase of the new receiver. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

EDIT REQUEST

Clyde Compton presented the following Edit Requests:

Lisa Long, Willow Leaves of Hope, requested funds for a new sign as part of the Building Façade Program. The amount of the request is for \$1500. The committee approved the request 4/0. 1 Abstained. Nellie stated I didn't realize that a business sign was a part of that program. Trena stated the building façade programs that I have worked with has signage as a part of it. It does attract businesses. It does affect the overall look of the building. Ed stated it is a business on the square that attracts a lot of out of town people. **Motion carries 5/0.**

Barb Johnson, Yellow Trail Museum, requested funds for fireworks in the amount of \$3500 and a band in the amount of \$500 for the Old Fashioned Independence Day celebration. The total of the request is \$4,000. The committee approved the request 4/0. 1 Abstain. **Motion carries 4/0. 1 Abstain.**

Jeff Yarnell, Community Center, requested \$2,800 for meat and buns and \$2,000 for musical entertainment for Smoke on the Square. The total request is \$4,800. The committee approved the

request 4/1. Nellie stated that's what they do to make money on that. Ed asked if we have given them money in the past. Clyde confirmed. Clyde stated the Community Center does a lot for the town. I think we need to look at the Edit parameters closer. **Motion denied 3/2.** Ohmer stated I think this Council needs to come together and redefine the criteria for the Edit Committee. We need to define the people that is going to be on the committee. We need to find a time to redefine this process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pastor Ed Cottrell, Ministerial Association, stated we have Easter coming up. The Baptist Church is going to host Good Friday Community Service at noon on Good Friday, April 19. On Easter morning, the 21st, the Methodist Church will have a sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. We have reserved the square. The Methodist Church is also hosting a senior's gathering time on the third Thursday of the month which will be this coming Thursday. Millers Merry Manor is putting this together. It is open to the public. It starts at 10:00. A light meal or brunch is provided. This month Tim, the pharmacist, will be speaking. Willow Leaves has been so gracious in hosting the Cross of Hope, which is a community religious event, on the second Sunday of the month. During the claimant weather, they've opened their doors for us.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

*A Police, Animal Control and Utilities report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Ohmer stated this is your town. We work for you. If there is anyone that is not comfortable speaking in public that has a concern or issue, feel free to contact each and anyone of us on an individual basis. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Attest






