

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 April 30, 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 Ed Johnson.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

HOPE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Bob Nobbe, Economics Teacher, stated these are our advanced economic students. One of the things that I wanted to do was to challenge them to think about our community in an economic sense. Think about economic goals, think about tradeoffs, think about how they would like to see our community developed. That was the initial project. They had the choice of developing downtown or on SR 9 and 600. They did a great job. They're two individuals that are here to present. We appreciate the opportunity to share some of their thoughts on what they would like to see for our community.

Sean Miller, Senior for graduating class for Hauser, stated my goals and focuses throughout my presentation are to focus on family and a small business setting. I feel like most of the successful businesses in Hope are from a small business prospective. I think that the businesses that are very successful are small businesses and family businesses around the square especially. That was a big focus of mine is trying to implement family businesses that would also add a new touch to the Town of Hope. My three goals are: Economic Equity, Economic Security, and Economic Growth. Sean expanded on the three goals. Sean presented nine economic business which are as follows: Fire House Barbeque to be located on the square where the old fire department is, Doughnuts n' Coffee a new building in the open lot area, The Jet Hanger on the second level of the same building, Suds Laundromat on SR 9 and 600 N, Barnes & Noble also located in that facility, Anytime Fitness, Hope Town Bed and Breakfast, Best Buy Extension, American Eagle Outfitters. Sean shared why he feels each of these businesses will benefit Hope. A site map was shown. Sean stated this gives everyone the opportunity to spend their money in Hope rather than a surrounding town which is very important. Sean shared a timeline of one business every one to two years and eventually establish all nine businesses.

Abigail Johnson stated this is our econ project about how we can basically raise the standard of living in Hope, Indiana. For my project I chose to do a Hope Town Plaza. The Hope Town Plaza is a Strip Mall. It will contain nine select businesses. Each business I believe can enhance the standard of living in our community. The businesses chosen for retail are: Macy's, Denim & Honey Boutique, and Geek Squad. The businesses chosen for food are: Panera Bread, Puccini's, Dickey's Barbecue Pit. The businesses chosen for services are: Sky Zone, Speedy Clean Laundromat, and BoRics Haircare. A map was shown of the strip mall located at SR 9 and 600. Abigail expanded on the impact this may have on the small

businesses in Hope and the impact on the land zoned as agriculture. She also talked about the reality of name brand businesses coming to Hope due to our size. Abigail stated if you will possibly implement some of my ideas, it will give everyone in our community a hope for our younger generation to come back here and to start their families. I feel this will be a great addition to Hope. I appreciate your time and allowing me to tell you about my ideas. Applause. Ed Johnson stated I would like to challenge both of you to come back here after you are out of college and make these work.

Ohmer thanked Mr. Nobbe and the two participants, Abigail and Sean, for coming and sharing. Mr. Nobbe stated we appreciate the opportunity to do that. I think it is a great educational experience for these guys to be able to come to a meeting and express their ideas, their thoughts and start to understand the challenges you have, the questions you have to answer and the things you have to think about.

OLD BUSINESS:

STORM WATER PROJECT AWARD

Tony Akles stated in front of you is a copy of the letter for the Washington Street Storm Sewer Improvements Project. On April 23rd we had our bid opening here at Town Hall. We received five bids. Roy Holman with Holman Excavating is the apparent low bidder at \$172,166.50. We reviewed the bids. His bid is complete. Scott Andrews has reviewed the bid. It is our opinion that Holman Excavating is responsive. Strand finds him responsible. We have worked with him before. I would make the recommendation that the Town award it to Roy Holman. We will then get the contract agreements together, Roy will get his bond and insurance together and get everything signed. We will bring it back to the Town. We'll have Ohmer sign everything and give him a notice to proceed. Clyde asked about engineering costs. Tony answered our engineering fees is around \$54,000. Part of that is hourly. That will be used as needed. Clyde stated we were originally breaking it down for some of it to come out of Storm Water, some of it to come out of CCD and some of it to come out of Edit. I believe we're within the price where Storm Sewer can pay for it itself. I want to suggest that the money we were going to take out of Edit, that we block that out and apply it to roofing the shelter house. Tony stated I would leave 10% to 15% contingency. Clyde stated I am going to suggest \$25,000 banked for roofing. **Nellie made a motion to award the contract to Holman Excavating. Jerry seconded.** Ohmer stated your comment is valid. It's a point we need to look at another time. **Motion carries 5/0.**

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT PLAN

Diane Burton stated as you recall at the last meeting, Aaron from Northpoint came and made a recommendation on our health insurance benefit. It was the wish of the Council to get the employees opinion on that. The employees did meet with Aaron on April 17th. Aaron reviewed the plan options. He gave his recommendation. Actually all the employees agreed with his recommendation which is to stay with Anthem, the Silver Blue Access 2900 HSA. **Clyde made a motion to renew the insurance with Anthem. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

EDIT REQUEST

Ohmer Miller stated we have an Edit request from Cruise-in to Hope. We had a special meeting in regard to that. The Edit Committee was all favorable on that request. Nellie added there are going to be some changes than what we have had in the past. Ed stated it does not have anything to do with this motion.

Nellie disagreed. Ohmer answered they are going to focus more on the car show. Ohmer stated the request is for \$1,500 for entertainment and \$1,000 for promotional and miscellaneous expenses. The total request is for \$2500. I'm under the impression that nothing is going to change but our flyers are going to promote the car show more than the Farmer's Market. We're hoping if we promote the car show, we get better participation at these events. Tom Barrett stated it is still going to be open to any and all vendors. We are going to work on getting food vendors there as well. Diane stated the Edit Committee recommended approval of the request 4/0 with one abstention. **Motion carries 5/0.**

EDIT FUNDS RESTRUCTURE

Ohmer stated Clyde sent out an email to the Council. Did everyone see that? Nellie stated there have been several things that have come up since we have been looking into the Edit funds. Probably something no one was aware of. When I was at the Edit meeting, I realized the two people requesting the money left the meeting. Why was that? Tom Barrett answered it was my understanding to leave so you could discuss it and vote on it. Nellie stated that's an Open Door Law. That can't happen. Any committee that comes from here is an Open Door Law. It's open to the public. This was set up as a resolution. I think at the time it was set up as a resolution because they didn't know if it was going to be a long lasting thing that they were going to be getting this money or what. Tom stated I just don't think any of us knew that. Nellie stated we have to go by the resolution we have here until it is changed. There are so many things that play into this, I don't think we can make all of the changes tonight. Clyde stated I don't either but there are a few things I want to point out. They have five people on the Edit Committee as it is right now. 2010 is when the Edit Committee was formed. It states that the board will consist of two Council Members and two Community Members. In 2018 every one of us at this table signed to a resolution that states that the Town Council plans to use the Economic Development distribution receipts over the next two years for Economic Development of the Town. I'm not sure what the two year plan is to start with. It states two Council Members and two Community Members. Diane stated the County requires a two year plan for those funds. Clyde stated I think until we get this all rectified, we need to remove somebody from the board. Nellie stated somehow a third community person has been put on. I don't know why that happened. It was an illegal move. Diane stated I know why that happened. Early on, Dave can probably attest to this, we had a problem with members not making it to the meetings. We would not have a quorum. Several times we had to reschedule which can be difficult when you have a lot of people putting in request. It was a Council decision. Nellie stated those people should be removed from that committee and new people added on if they can't make it to the meetings. You can't just add to it unless the resolution is changed. Clyde stated the Council would have to change it not the Edit Committee. Diane stated it was the Council that made the decision not the Edit Committee. Clyde stated there is no paperwork. Diane stated I know apparently they didn't do a resolution but it was a Council decision not an Edit Committee decision. It would be in the minutes. Ed stated I think anytime you have a committee, there needs to be an odd number of people on that committee to vote. Clyde stated I would like to see one less Council Member and one more community person on it. There is not proof that it can be any more than what it states here. We're not doing it legally. If we can get it done before the next meeting, so be it. Ohmer asked if there was any suggestions on how to dissolve these conflicts. Nellie said there will still be the four people working on that committee. Ed stated I don't think we need to take anyone off of it. Ohmer requested to call another working session. If we are going to do this, we are going to have to have some input from the current committee members as well as input from this group. Scott Andrews wanted to look at the statute that

sited the resolution. Scott stated part of me thinks that that has been repealed. I agree the only thing we can base the current membership of the Edit Committee on is the resolution of 2010 unless it has changed. Diane questioned if it should actually be an ordinance. Clyde questioned if the resolution can be changed since it is a two year plan. Diane confirmed that it can be changed. Nellie wanted clarification that it can be used for any fund that you have. Diane answered the use has broadened. There was more discussion on the committee and use of funds. Scott said I think for you guys you want to make a decision as to what constraints you want to have on the committee as to what decisions will be made on those funds. Nellie stated she feels Hope residents should be on the committee. Scott asked for a request form to review. It was decided to put it on the agenda for the regular meeting. Ohmer asked current members on the Edit Committee to formalize their thoughts and for the Council Members to formalize their thoughts so that we can all come together with something concrete to look at and see what direction we want to go. The Edit Committee Members agreed to write down their thoughts for the Council. Nellie stated until it is changed, there can only be four committee members. Michele volunteered to step down since she was the last member added. Clyde stated it is the president's decision. Jessica asked if you only have four people on the committee what happens if there is a tie. Clyde stated the Clerk Treasurer will break the tie. Diane stated it is not set up that way, not for the Edit Committee. Clyde stated you can set it up that way. I think five people is the best solution. Nellie stated to Dave Miller that she had asked if there wasn't some hostility toward her at the Edit Committee Meeting and you said not just with me but with the whole Council. Do you want to tell the Council why you are angry? Dave stated I feel like the Edit Committee is at a disconnect with the Council's decisions. Every month when we have a meeting it feels contentious and then bringing those items to the Council is something that I know carries a lot of anxiety with the Committee Members that are not Council Members. I don't think we are in agreement with what you as a Council are wanting to do with that money and how you feel it is allocated. Nellie stated well we can't let you decide what to actually do with it. You can make a recommendation. We have to by law be the ones to say how this money is spent. Dave stated of course. I feel like I am looking at these requests based on the criteria set up by the Council. You seem to be looking at it through a different lense and I don't know what that is. It's hard for me to make recommendations based on your wishes because I can't interpret that. It was a consensus of the Council that is what they are trying to do and they want their input. Ohmer requested their thoughts by the end of the week on the 18th. Dave asked what is the process to change that resolution. How hard is it to change it to a five member committee? Nellie stated there is no point in changing that one part until we have many changes to make on it. Diane stated a new resolution would just need to be done to replace the current resolution. Ohmer stated I am going to remove one person from the committee. Michele I would appreciate your input as well since you have been a part of that. I know this is not going the way you want it to but we are trying to get some definition on how we spend money and what the appropriate way to do it is. We're not trying to be the bad guys. We are trying to be appropriate gatekeepers for the community. Dave clarified I don't think you are the bad guys. I don't think I am the good guy. There is a disconnect between what the Council is looking for out of that money and what the Council has previously assigned as uses for that money. Ohmer stated I get it.

Nellie made a motion to appropriate \$25,000 from the Edit Fund for roofing in the park. Clyde seconded. Nellie asked Diane for clarification on what funds and amounts had been allocated for the Storm Water Project. Diane answered with the bid and engineering fees ends up being around \$230,000 which is what we had budgeted from Storm Water. I recommend that first we take the amount that was

approved from Storm Water then move to CCD. Even if there are more costs as they start breaking ground and so forth, I would recommend you take it from CCD first which is \$40,000. I recommend leaving Edit alone if possible. Actually what we had allocated in Edit was \$20,000 but we can take some from projects. We can still do \$25,000. **Motion carries 5/0.** Ed stated he has contacted about four people to get ideas on roofing. Ed showed examples of roofing and the prices as well as warranties. Jerry suggested new decking. Ed stated the costs is \$38,000 without the decking and installation. The Council preferred metal. The council agreed they wanted some quotes with all costs included.

Ohmer stated United Way is looking for projects. Ohmer asked Diane for the date. Diane stated I don't recall a specific date. I think they are looking for mainly outdoor projects. I will forward the email to you. Ohmer stated let me know of any ideas and anything that you know of that needs to be done.

Clyde asked who is responsible for grass clippings. Diane stated I believe it is the Utility Department. I don't know who reports it. Jerry brought up a lot of grass clippings on the road.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Attest






