

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 November 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 9/17/19, 10/15/19

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT UPDATES

Downtown Revitalization Grant Project

Trena Carter stated we're continuing to work on the square revitalization project. The development team on the project has a meeting on November 26 at 1:00 here to communicate about project needs, status, timing and things of that nature to make sure everybody is on the same page as we move forward. Main Street of Hope will need to deposit some matching funds by the first of the year. We will also be requesting the funds from Heritage Fund about that same time. This will cover fees like engineering fees since we can't draw funds at this time. That can be paid out of local and reimbursed from grant funds.

Owner Occupied Housing Rehab

Trena stated we have completed the seven homes. We're drawing the last of the funds this week. Victoria is completing that project. Then we will proceed with the closeout.

FEMA EFG Program – Hope Volunteer Fire Department

Trena stated the grant from FEMA EFG program was not awarded. If they want to go back in again, we will make sure we are available to review and work with them.

2018 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT – PAY APPLICATION

Steve Robertson presented the 2018 pay application in the amount of \$157,541.00. Steve stated this makes it about \$10,054 under the bid price. The paperwork has to be to INDOT by December 31st. **Clyde made a motion to pay the pay application. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

2019 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT PROJECT

Steve Robertson stated I have a call into Kayti Adams. We will bring our agreement to the December meeting to be signed. We're still making sure we have all of the ramps and everything in place. We'll get started on that in January. We are shooting to get it out for bid in March or April so we can get started on it and make sure we are done in plenty of time. There are forty-two to forty-five curb ramps to be completed.

2020 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT PROJECT/STREET ASSESSMENT

Steve Robertson stated as you recall if you want to keep applying for grants, INDOT required the Asset Manager Plan be updated. The field work and everything is ready. The deadline for that is December 31st. The call for the next round of projects is out. You have to have it in by January. As you previously discussed and as we recommended, you are probably not really ready to do the first round. There should be a second call in July. Clyde questioned the ratings. Steve clarified that is for all the streets in town. Some are rated a ten because they are on the list to be paved. Steve reviewed the list. Ohmer should get information when next round goes out.

PLAN COMMISSION – RE-PLAT IN LIBERTY PLACE

Matt Galbraith stated the Plan Commission met last Friday to discuss the re-plat of lots 19, 20 and 21 of Liberty Place. Lot 20 is getting divided between 19 and 21. The Plan Commission unanimously approved this petition. We are bringing it to the Council for your consideration. **Ed made a motion to accept the re-plat as recommended. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

775 EAST ANNEXATION

Scott Andrews stated as you recall at the last meeting we talked about the 775 East annexation. I received back this afternoon the petition for annexation signed by all three Commissioners. I have given it to Diane to be filed. At this point we have to have a public hearing that can't be any longer than 30 days from today's date and we have to publish notice one time 20 days in advance of that public hearing. We adopt an ordinance no earlier than 14 days after the public hearing. We'll either have to have a special meeting or the first meeting in January we approve the ordinance for the annexation. Scott went through the road options for annexation. There are three pieces on 775 East. Clyde asked can we just do one piece. Scott confirmed. Scott stated it will be up to you after our public hearing. You have a public hearing so people can voice their opinions. Once we are done, we will send notice up to the Indiana Department of Transportation. They will put those roads in our roaster. Ohmer asked about the condition of the road. David answered I drove it today. It's similar to the other one. They both could use crack sealing. Ed brought up the bridges. Steve Robertson clarified I talked to the county engineer this morning. If you only do the .15 mile, you don't get to the bridge. Even if you do take the rest of it, bridges belong to the county not to the town. All the cost, maintenance and everything of the bridges still resides with the County Highway Department not the Town of Hope. Scott stated at the next meeting we will also have to adopt fiscal plan resolution which is a plan of how we are going to take care of the annexed property financially. The Council decided they needed to have a special meeting to decide which pieces they want to annex.

MAIN STREET UPDATES

Susan Thayer Fye stated the Main Street Board is recruiting new board members. We are in the process of inviting some people to come to meetings to see if they want to participate. Pastor Ed has become a member to represent the ministerial group. We are also adding two nonvoting student representatives; one junior and one senior. I'm delighted to announce we have a new tenant on the square, Mr. Keith Pound. He deals in antiques, used furniture and estate items. He is participating in Christmas of Yesteryear Friday night with a soft opening. The store is called Shop 5950 Hope Indiana.

MSRP

Susan stated we offered the tree to Columbus City Hall. They have decided to use a different tree. The legion guys have their regular meeting this Thursday at 7:00. They will be discussing what to do with the flag pole. I will be attending their meeting. I am going to try to steer them at a minimum for new pulleys and wiring to the top. They want to keep the flag pole.

Dec the Town

Susan stated Main Street of Hope is doing the Dec the Town, Christmas decoration contest, again this year. It is all done online. I will do a press release tomorrow. We take pictures. Last year we had fourteen nominations.

Small Business Saturday

Susan stated a couple of people who have shops on the square have indicated interest so we will be participating in the National Small Business Saturday on November 30th.

Signs

Susan stated the MSRP grant included six signs. Four on the inside of the square which we had discussed putting one on each corner and then two on State Road 9; the north and south end of the historic district. Tonight I would like to discuss what you want on the signs. Susan shared what Main Street discussed putting on the signs which includes: Restrooms, Museum/Visitor Center, Town Hall/Police Department and Library. Colors options are historic green, blue or black and white. The two signs on State Road 9 will need to be approved by INDOT. INDOT may have specific color choices and may determine the size and placement. On those two signs Main Street is just recommending to put Hope Historic District. Examples were passed out. Susan stated we want to go with a topper of letter carriers mail hack. We also discussed using the logo of the bandstand. Randy Sims said you would just have to get HOH's permission to use it. Susan stated the signs go on town property so it is the Council's decision. Trena added next week when we have Joe Dodd here, we are planning to run it by him to get his prospective. Randy Sims asked if the Community Center was going to be on the sign. Susan said it was not brought up and asked Jeff Yarnell, Community Center President, if he would like it on there. Jeff confirmed. Randy Sims also suggested Norman Park. Clyde disagreed with putting restrooms on the signs. He feels it is not appropriate. Susan reminded the Council of David's prior comment regarding the restrooms only being opened six months of the year. Trena clarified though that the signs can be changed. The Council decided to give it some thought and consider the opinion from Joe Dodd. David stated we have two more signs that we have to put up for the playground required by our insurance company. They have to be around the playground. Ohmer stated any sign that we put up, the utility

department has to maintain it and mow around it. Susan reminded the Council the reason signs came up is because for a Town the size of Hope we do an unbelievable number of festivals that visitors attend.

Building Façade Program

Susan stated the Building Façade program is going to stop at the end of this year unless we renew it. Do you want me to go back to the Edit Committee or bring it to the next Council Meeting? The Council agreed the request needs to run by the Edit Committee first.

CLEAN-UP DAY – ADDITIONAL EDIT FUNDS

Susan Thayer Fye requested reimbursement for additional funds needed for dumpsters. The total came in at \$930 which is \$80 higher than expected. The amount approved was \$850 however \$200 approved for tire disposal was not used. Clyde asked if Susan got a quote prior to requesting the Edit funds. Susan answered that she went by the quotes she received from the previous year. Clyde questioned the process and feels it should have been quoted closer to time. **Clyde made a motion to reimburse the \$80. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0. 1 abstain.**

2020 SALARY ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE 2019-01)

Diane Burton stated this will be the second reading for our Salary Ordinance 2019-01. At the first reading you decided on a 2% increase. **Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1 with a 2% increase. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

27TH PAYROLL

Diane Burton stated next year, 2020, with the way the calendar falls, we will actually have twenty-seven pay periods instead of twenty-six. This is something that happens every ten years. Hourly employees receive twenty-seven pay periods at their normal, hourly pay so everything is the same for them. Salary employees, with the way the ordinance reads now, will have to have their annual salary split between twenty-seven pay periods instead of twenty-six. This can make an employee feel they have been shorted in their pay since their paycheck is less. I contacted the State Board of Accounts and you can change the salary ordinance to read as bi-weekly salaries instead of annual salaries if you decide to do it that way. In my opinion I feel the bi-weekly salary should be implemented. Since hourly employees are going to be receiving an extra check, I feel it is only fair that salary employees receive an extra check too. This affects the following employees: Utility Superintendent, Town Marshal and the Deputy Marshals. The impact this has on our 2020 budget is about \$7,500 by the time you implement raises. If this is what the Council would like to do, we will need to amend the 2020 salary ordinance and change the language to read bi-weekly. **Nellie made a motion to make the change to read as bi-weekly salary. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Diane stated I will amend the ordinance and have that for next month. Scott stated this can be counted as the first reading.

BUDGET REDUCTION (RESOLUTION 2019-06)

Diane Burton stated this is just a step in getting our certification for our 2020 Budget. The Department of Local Government is wanting to end everything at the end of the year. In the past it wasn't until January or February so we didn't have to go through this process. These are funds we had budgeted to use this year but we have not and we have budgeted to use them next year. Resolution 2019-06 reads

as follows: Be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following 2019 budget reductions be made: From 436001301 Rainy Day – Projects \$72,000, from 401001411 CCI – Land \$15,000, from 401001421 CCI – Building Town Hall \$2,020, from 431001421 CCD- Building Town Hall \$55,797, from 435001004 Riverboat – Park Project \$6,666, from 257001442 LIT Public Safety – Police Equipment \$2,320. **Clyde made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-06. Nellie seconded.** Ed asked if we end up doing some things at Norman Park this year, will that affect this. Diane answered we still have project money available. **Motion carries 5/0.**

COUNTY DONATION OF POLICE VEHICLE

Matt Tallent stated we submitted a request for one of the surplus vehicles the Sheriff's Department has taken out of service. The Commissioners sent me a letter stating we have been granted a 2013 Dodge Charger. We have to return the Crown Victoria that we got from them back in 2014 when we take possession of the Charger. They need a resolution from our Town Council accepting the donation of the Charger and stating we are returning the Crown Victoria to them. The Sheriff's Department has been gracious enough to leave all the lights in it and the console in it. All we have to do is have it marked and put our radios in it and it is in service. **Ed made a motion to accept the Dodge Charger and return the Crown Victoria. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.** Scott stated they will need to vote on it again when we have the resolution.

PARK REQUEST – SMOKE ON THE SQUARE

Jeff Yarnell stated I'm here representing the Community Center to request the square for May 15 and 16 of 2020. We are excited that this will be our 10th year. The calendar has been checked with Diane. It is available at this moment if you guys so approve. We would like to shut down the inside right away for cars. We would also like to request to be able to have a bouncy house. Ohmer asked if Matt is okay with shutting down the inside right away. Matt confirmed. There was discussion on the effect of the Downtown Revitalization Project. **Nellie made a motion to approve the park request. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PARK REQUESTS – MAIN STREET

Ground Hog Day

Susan Thayer Fye requested use of the square for Groundhog Day on Sunday, February 2nd from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Susan stated Grubby is alive and well according to Kathy Hershey. The event will start about 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Civil War Days

Susan requested use of the square for Civil War Days on May 1, 2 & 3. They normally come to set up on Friday night around 5:00 p.m. They stay overnight. Last year they exited the square before 4:00 on Sunday. They will be shooting off cannons.

Cruise-in to Hope

Susan requested use of the square for the Cruise-ins on first Fridays starting in June and the last event is in October. The Cruise-in is planning to combine with the Old Fashioned Independence Day on July 3rd. Susan will confirm that with the Yellow Trail Museum Board. Susan stated we plan to see if the Students Fund of Hope want to share an event again in September like last year. A pooch Halloween costume

contest parade is planned for October. We have had this in the past on Saint Patrick's Day. Due to weather and Spring break the Cruise-in Committee recommended combining it with the Cruise-in event. Diane Burton requested permission to close the one lane on the east side because that helps with traffic. Nellie questioned if there will be a bouncy house. Nellie stated there was a bouncy house used last year by Students Fund of Hope without permission. Susan will ask if they plan to have that again. Ohmer stated they will need adequate liability coverage. Nellie added they will need volunteers to supervise the bouncy house. It was suggested that they come back to Council to request permission if they plan to have a bouncy house next year.

Arts and Antiques Festival

Susan requested use of the square for the 2020 Arts & Antiques festival which is a signature event for the Hope Chamber of Commerce. That will be on Sunday, August 30th. They start setting up around 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Randy Sims stated Walt from the State Fire Marshal's Office asked us to get together with all the groups who have events on the square for a festival permit. All of the events can be on one permit. They will inspect the events.

Ed made a motion to approve the park requests for Main Street contingent on sufficient liability coverage if a bouncy house is used. Clyde seconded. Diane confirmed dates are available. **Motion carries 5/0.**

HOPE HERITAGE DAYS

Randy Sims stated thank you for the use of the park and the town square on Heritage Days. We had a real successful weekend. Everything went well. Matt stated we had very few issues. David stated he didn't have any problems. JoEllen Seright stated she was glad the alley by her home was closed. Randy stated all of our receipts are in for Edit.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Chad Emmitt stated everyone should have a copy of the contract and a budget estimate for the Town and the Township. It is based on last year figures. The contract verbiage is the same as it has been the last three or four years. With the increase in cost for equipment and supplies, we are asking for around a 3% increase. Nellie stated she feels the contract amount should be 2% like the employees were given. Clyde agreed. Ohmer asked about what kind of fundraisers they have been doing. Chad shared the events they have participated in. Chad stated the fundraisers do not bring in much. We are dependent on the contract amount. The reason we are asking for 3% is because we are trying to stay ahead on all the cost we incur every year. Trena stated the cost are operational not for salaries. Nellie stated she understands it is different. **Clyde made a motion for 2% increase. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Chad also gave an update on the Fire Department. Chad stated they are close to 400 runs this year. We did not get awarded the grant. That is why there was an increase in the line item for equipment in the budget. Chad explained their need for new equipment. David asked about the new containers they have. David asked if they were for smoke. Chad confirmed. Chad stated we did get two more containers. The goal is we talked to ISO and the FDA about getting points for an ISO survey to get a training tower. This will potentially lower resident's insurance premiums. There was discussion on the rating. Chad

explained what the rating is based on. Chad stated the hydrants out at Schaefer Lake are now added to ISO's water map as an additional water source. Randy Sims asked if our fire hydrants have been rated. David confirmed. David stated flushing is done annually.

NEW METERS & VXR METER READING EQUIPMENT

David Clouse stated you have been given a quote for a new batch of meters for 2020. The quote per meter is the same as it was last year. There is a change in software which requires us to upgrade our handheld. The one we have is no longer supported. This new equipment is not required until January 2021 but it is a \$2,000 discount if we order it before the end of the year. **Ed made a motion to approve the purchase. Nellie seconded.** Clyde clarified this is for the meter and the software. David confirmed. **Motion carries 5/0.**

SLIDE FOR NORMAN PARK

David Clouse stated our insurance company is requiring us to remove the slide at Norman Park. The cost to replace it is \$4,670 plus sales tax. David stated that's just the box, pieces and parts. We still have to put it together and install it. Clyde stated I think we should hold off until spring. It was a consensus of the Council to go ahead and remove the current slide. Clyde asked about other types of playground equipment. Randy Sims suggested checking with Linda Glick for a quote on a slide.

LIAISON FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS

Ohmer Miller stated the Council has discussed having a liaison for our Police Department and our Utility Department. **Nellie nominated Jerry Bragg for the Police Department and Ed Johnson for Utility Department. Clyde seconded.** David asked for clarification on the liaison's role. The Council explained everything stays the same. If you have an issue in the department then you would discuss it with the liaison. **Motion carries 5/0.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

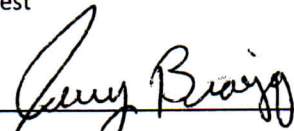
*A Police, Animal Control and Utilities report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

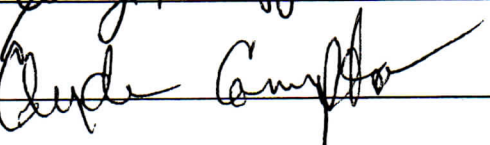
Pastor Ed Cottrell stated a concern with toters left out on Main Street. There was discussion on who should handle this. It was determined Matt Tallent will handle the notifications for the toters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Attest





Nelson Mack
Dana M. H.