

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 4:30 p.m. on March 17, 2020.

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

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Bragg.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

**Clyde made a motion for the approval of the claims. Ed seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT**

Diane stated the first thing we need on this grant is a financial commitment for additional funds needed for the project. The bid did come in higher than the original estimated budget. We need approval for \$29,140 to come from EDIT funds. We will be receiving some grant funds from the Visitor's Center so it will actually end up being \$10,000 less than that. But with the timing, we need to be able to get this to OCRA to receive a release of funds. **Ed made a motion to approve the financial commitment for \$29,140. Clyde seconded.** Clyde stated this has been the most long, drawn out affair that I have ever been associated with on this Council. It is getting very aggravating. It seems like we have to keep putting more and more money into this project. I want to warn whoever has this bid, it better not go over because we have absorbed enough of this cost. I think it needs to go on simply because of what it will do for the elderly people and the improvements for the park. If I had to do it over again, I probably wouldn't. **Motion carries 4/0.** Diane stated the second approval we need for this project is to award it. The lowest responsive bidder was the Poole Group. Trena wanted me to pass on that the motion needs to be made contingent upon the release of funds from OCRA. Clyde stated he had spoken with Tony Akles and the project does have to be done by September 11<sup>th</sup> which will be before Heritage Days. **Clyde made motion to award the project to Poole Group contingent upon the release of funds from OCRA. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **PARKS**

Susan Thayer Fye stated some people have contacted me with concern about kids going to the playground especially after the Executive Order we received yesterday. Ohmer stated we are not in a position to sanitize our playground. I think you are going to the park at your own risk. Scott said about the only thing you could do is shut the whole playground off. Jerry voiced concern with the Police Department having to enforce it. Jerry stated it is the parent's responsibility what they let their children do. Clyde stated I agree but the point of all of this is what they pass on to somebody else. Scott suggested limiting use of the park. Chelsea Warriner added I was on a webinar yesterday with Indiana

Department of Health that stated being outside is better for you than being inside. It was a consensus of the Council to leave the park open.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EDIT REQUEST**

Clyde Compton stated we have an Edit request from the Community Center for Smoke on the Square. The expenses are musical entertainment and Easterling entertainment in the amount of \$2,350. The request was approved 4/1 from the Edit Committee. Ohmer questioned bands and Easterling entertainment. Jeff answered what Easterling entertainment covers including: magic shows, balloon animals, face painting and a bouncy house. Jeff shared the schedule of events. Clyde stated I don't think there needs to be three bands. I suggest one for each day and that we cut Easterling down to \$750 to see how it goes. Ohmer suggested getting High School Bands. Chelsea stated we contacted the director of the school last year. They were not interested because they were not going to be able to pull together enough of their students due to the time of year of the event. Ohmer then suggested surrounding communities or churches. Jeff expressed the need of the band to draw the people. Clyde stated I am amazed for all they do down there, there projected budget is so low they don't have too many chances to make a mistake. **Motion carries 3/1.** Ohmer stated I really want to see you do something different in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.



Attest

