

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 June 16, 2020.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), Clyde Compton (Vice-President), Nellie Meek, Ohmer Miller 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 Jerry Bragg.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Minutes 5/19/2020**

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

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

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **2019-2020 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT**

Steve Robertson stated I've been in communication with O'Mara this morning. The next time it rains they will be up to inspect the Brookside Drive situation. It will get redone. By contract they have until September 11 to be complete. The Town is holding retainage of about three times the amount of the work. Clyde stated I went by there yesterday and those places are now filled with gravel and dirt. Thank you.

##### **2020-2021 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT**

Steve Robertson stated I emailed you copies this morning of the information you requested on the streets considered for application. The application due date has not been determined. It will be sometime in July. I received a recommendation from a couple of contractors to not use your money for crack sealing. I know there was discussion about keeping it under \$150,000 so that it can be quoted. You will need to contact three firms. Your choice. You still want to do the technical specs, the bonds and the insurance. You have to protect the Town. You don't have to go through an open bidding process. You can be a little more selective. There will still be a designer's fee to do the paperwork and walk you through the bonds. Someone will need to review the quotes. Ohmer asked David about the crack sealing. David answered we have used Robertson Paving in the past. David Clouse recommended 775 East be crack sealed since it has been about five years since it has been done. Steve suggested waiting until the paving project starts and the Town might get a better price. David asked when the project will start. David stated there are four water works issues on Aiken Street that we will need to complete. Steve stated you can include a start date in the contract. David shared with the Council the work that needs to be completed. **Clyde made a motion to complete an application with INDOT for the paving of Aiken Street and Schaefer Drive. Clyde added Tony stated there will not be a cost for Strand to assist**

with the application. **Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Steve stated there is a Financial Commitment letter that will need to be completed by Diane. Diane confirmed. Ohmer is still the LTAP contact person. We will work with him on getting everything submitted. Once you know whether you have been awarded the grant, you will enter into an agreement for us to do the design. We will state the fee when you know that you are receiving the money.

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

Steve Robertson stated I have two copies of the agreement that Jerry needs to sign. This agreement allows the Town to place historical markers in INDOT right of way. This allows you to proceed. The contractor has to get the permit to work in the right of way. The agreement will be signed by INDOT and then the Town will get an original signed copy back. Steve stated the reason you don't see any work going on at the park is because we have not given them notice to proceed due to a missing insurance requirement for pollution. Steve clarified they've known about this requirement since day one. This is not a reason for extension. Ohmer stated normally policies will cover something like that. Steve said they have everything required except for the pollution coverage. Ohmer questioned why adding this to their insurance policy would take so long. There was conversation on the delayed start. Clyde stated it's been a month. We are the employer here. It should not be Strand to tell us when it is going to happen. It should not be Main Street and it shouldn't be them. We should be the ones that say you said you were going to start on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Here it is the 16<sup>th</sup>. Nobody knows when it's going to start. I think we should dictate to them if you don't have this done at this period of time, you're finished. You have already violated what you said you were going to do. I'm tired of messing with this. It's been over two and a half years. Here we are still dragging it out. Nellie asked if Ohmer knew of a reason they wouldn't be able to get the pollution insurance. Ohmer stated I don't know of a reason they can't get it. Somebody is dragging their feet. That coverage is out there. It is available. In my past, professional experience, I see no reason why they do not have this coverage. Ed questioned if the whole project is going to be like this. Steve stated they received great reviews by the school. The start date was their date, not ours. The contract only has a completion date. Scott confirmed the school project was done on time and everyone at the school liked dealing with them. Ohmer asked the name of their contact person. Steve answered Jeff Poole. Steve stated we are frustrated too but I'm not sure you can do a whole lot until the completion date. Clyde asked for Scott's opinion. Scott stated I would have to look at the contract but if it just has a completion date, they would have up to that date before they breach the agreement unless we can prove there was an anticipatory breach. I'm assuming there is still substantial time for them to complete it by that date, I think it would be a hard to take the contract away. If they go over that date, there is usually penalties of a certain amount per day. Clyde asked Scott to look at the contract and see if we can say you have seven days to get this done or you're out. Ohmer stated I don't see us being able to kick them to the curb at this time. Clyde asked about getting rid of the current historic signs on State Road 9. Steve answered you don't need a permit to remove a sign that small.

Susan Thayer-Fye stated I have some questions about events on the square. Right now, we are still discussing the cruise-in scheduled for the first Friday in August. This will probably be the first event on the square this year. Susan asked if the Council is still okay with this event being held. Susan stated we have a band scheduled for the next three cruise-ins. Michael Dean is checking the HOH insurance policy with Johnson-Whitkemper to be sure they are still willing to insure the events like they have in the past. If so, we will probably move forward with the events unless you have an issue with it. Susan asked the



Council if they have any new requirements due to the coronavirus like hand sanitizer stations being available at the events, use of masks, etc. I've also had conversations with two other people about adding an additional car show event this fall. There is another possible event that some of the business people are supporting, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Unit. There are some people wanting to get together and do an event probably in October on the square and utilizing the bandstand for a while. Everything on the square should be done by then. These are all public events. I just want to get a feel if you want us to do anything different if we proceed in August. Ohmer stated the events that you are talking about and I understand the value and the importance of them but these are not Town events. I don't know if it is our responsibility to provide the sanitation and the things you are talking about. I think that is the responsibility of the event organizers to provide that. Nellie said there is no way really that any of us can sit here and say come August this is going to be and this is going to be because you simply don't know. Susan stated by August right now all of the State mandates are going to be lifted. Susan shared that the Arts & Antiques Festival is still planning to have their event which is scheduled for the end of August. Some of the other events have not been determined. Ohmer asked if they are still going to have Heritage Days. Clyde answered they are meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to decide. David brought up that public restrooms have not been opened up this year due to the coronavirus. David asked the Council if they are comfortable opening the restrooms. There was Council discussion on the restrooms or potentially having organizations purchase their own port-a-lets. Scott asked if the Council has a policy that can be revised. Diane answered we have park guidelines. Trena asked if the Town could potentially be reimbursed through the IFA program for the hand sanitizing stations, etc. Susan will check on grant opportunities. It was a consensus of the Council for the organization or event organizers to provide the hand sanitizer, port-a-lets and other protection items needed. They are okay with the park being open for the events. Trena stated the Town has received an allocation of funds for various items to prepare for COVID-19 through IFA.

Clyde stated there has been some confusion that we are going to close the playground down during construction. I just want the public to know that the very first thing that gets done is three sides of the playground will be fenced off. It will be open on the Harrison side for the entire construction. I do want to warn parents that if their children are not watched and they are going over into the construction zone that is subject to change. The square itself will be closed from Monday at 6:00 a.m. until Friday 6:00 p.m. It will be open for the weekend.

#### **NORMAN PARK EQUIPMENT**

Clyde stated Norman Park is still closed because there is a slide there that needs to be taken out upon recommendation from an insurance audit. We discussed getting a slide last winter. We put it off until spring. David has checked and got prices on the current cost of the slide which is \$4,760.00. The color needs to be chosen. The merry go round is red, white and blue. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the purchase of the slide and that the colors of the slide be red, white and blue.** Ed questioned a recommendation on the swing. David confirmed it has to be shortened four feet. Clyde questioned choosing which parts will be which colors. David stated the salesman will give guidance on which parts will be best in the colors selected. **Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Clyde stated I think either Ed or Ohmer brought up at the last meeting the need to make the parking longer. Dave was going to look into moving the fence and the stone back. Some of the fencing will be

able to be used again. Clyde asked David if he will be able to do that. David confirmed. David stated before we do that, there are some other things that need done in the park including mulch around the equipment, timbers and edging. Clyde stated I would like to see you get it on the schedule when you can do it. There is no rush. Diane asked if the cost will be minimal. David stated it depends on if Hope Hardware donates the wood or if we have to buy it. Yeah, it's going to be manual labor.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **PARK REQUEST – BENEFIT RIDE FOR LEUKEMIA**

Request tabled. Ashley Purdue was not in attendance.

#### **FENCING ORDINANCE**

Clyde Compton stated we basically have zero fencing requirements in the town. We have come across numerous issues to whereas this needs to be done. Clyde suggested using the ordinance Bartholomew County/City of Columbus has in place. Clyde reviewed some of the guidelines listed in the ordinance. The Council discussed the ordinance. It was a consensus of the Council to have Scott to prepare an ordinance to be considered at the next Council meeting.

#### **HOUSING REGULATIONS ORDINANCE**

Jerry Bragg stated we would like to amend this ordinance because it doesn't have a set minimum size. Clyde reviewed our current ordinance and recommended a minimum square footage of \$1,000 be added to the ordinance for R1, R2 and R3. There was Council discussion on the minimum. Nellie stated I also think while we are doing this we need to add that nothing can be on an empty lot until there is a structure on the property. This includes sheds. Clyde stated I was going to recommend that as well. Clyde read the 6.1 ordinance for the City of Columbus which states no accessory use or structure shall be permitted to be located, placed, or established on any lot prior to the establishment of a primary use or structure. There was Council discussion. Scott will draft an ordinance amendment.

#### **NEW DEPUTY MARSHAL**

Matt Tallent introduced Joseph Gordon who has been selected as the new Deputy Town Marshal for the Town of Hope. He accepted the offer this morning. The Council welcomed Joseph. Matt stated Joseph is a 2019 graduate of the Law Enforcement ILEA Academy. He graduated 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class. He was the Town Marshal in Elizabethtown. He has been a police reserve for the Town of Hope for a couple of months.

#### **POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Matt Tallent stated I was contacted yesterday by the Brown County EMA. They have a 2017 Ford Interceptor Police Package for sale. It already has all the lights and sirens installed in it. They are asking a very good price of \$10,000. It has 52,000 miles. If we purchase it, I will sell the Caprice. The Caprice is worth between \$5,000 and \$7,000. **Clyde made a motion that the vehicle can be purchased if decided by Matt. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **BEST WAY RECYCLE DUMPSTER**

David stated the recycle dumpster was lasting seventeen days which ended up costing about \$23 per day. It is now up to \$53 per day. It is only lasting eight days. Before long you are going to have to find some supplementary funding. Diane stated we did have some extra built up in that fund. David and I




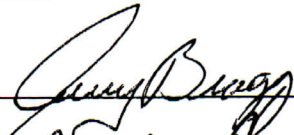
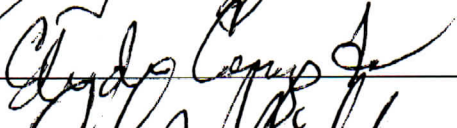
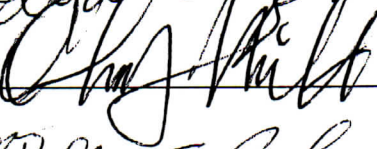

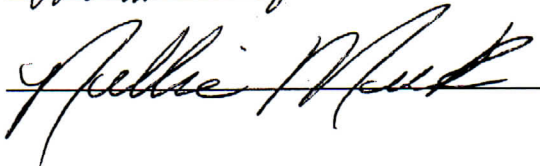
spoke a little bit about this. The good side of this is that people are obviously loving it and are using it. An option to think about is splitting it between sewer and EDIT. To me you hate to take away something that the Town is really utilizing but it is more than we originally thought it was going to be. Ed asked if it was getting used by people outside the Town of Hope. David stated it is getting used by some at Schaefer's Lake. Ed asked if items were getting placed in the bin that shouldn't be. David answered normally it all appears to be recyclables.

#### 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.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

  
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Attest

  
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