

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 August 18, 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 7/21/20

Ohmer 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. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT/CHANGE ORDER

Steve Robertson presented a draft copy of a change order for a three-week extension on the park project. The Poole Group is asking for four weeks. Steve explained that they have been informed if they are wanting additional time due to material delays, documentation will be required. Strand is recommending the three-week extension due to the Corona Virus. The contract does state this is a valid reason to grant an extension. Steve requested Council approval on the extension and to allow Jerry to sign the change order at a later date. **Nellie made a motion to approve the three-week extension and to allow Jerry to sign the change order. Ed seconded.** Clyde commented on the progress report from last meeting. Clyde stated only 11% of this project has been done up until last Tuesday. 56% of the time they were allowed is already up. Even if you were to take that thirty days that they ignored our calls and you narrow it down that they have been working for a month at 11% done. At that rate, it will take them eight months more to get to 99%. I don't know how these twenty-one days is going to miraculously finish this project. They did not turn in a progress work themselves. I assume they have to. Steve answered they are supposed to. There was Council discussion on the extension. The Council expressed dissatisfaction in their initial lack of communication. **Motion carries 3/2.** Steve stated I need your approval on the final sign submittal. They are ready to fabricate these signs. **Clyde made a motion to approve the signage. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Steve stated the brick pavers have been delivered. The light poles are scheduled to be delivered on August 28th. Duke Energy will be here on September 3rd. Steve explained the plan to install the lights which will be the west side first, then the north side and then the Harrison, Washington Street and inside the park. The last three are on the same circuit. Steve suggested the Council approve leaving the shelter house lights and the Bandstand lights on during the transition. David agreed. Trena stated decisions need to be made on placement of the furniture in the exterior since they will be bolted down. Once the project is completed, we will need to

have a ribbon cutting celebration. A thirty-day notice is needed to allow time for invitations. Susan referenced the map which shows the placement. Susan requested a decision on disposing of the old benches and cigarette butt containers. There was Council discussion. David Clouse reminded the Council that they approved the school to receive the old trash cans. David also suggested keeping the cigarette butt containers, painting them and using them as extra for events. David voiced concern with taking the old benches to Norman Park as suggested previously by the Council. David stated there is no place to put them up there unless you pour concrete to set them on. David stated the colors can be changed and they could be sold. Susan reminded the Council that some of them have memorials on them. The Council agreed they should have first chance to receive that bench. Ed added he feels they should also be placed on the new ones. Clyde stated we need to first declare these items as surplus prior to disposal. Clyde suggested having a free raffle for the public. Steve stated he needs to know where to move the items when the contractor is ready for them to be moved. David confirmed they can be moved to the utility department. **Nellie made a motion to declare the trash cans, cigarette butt containers and benches as surplus. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Ed made a motion to give to the benches with names on them to the person who donated the funds for the engraving. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

MAIN STREET EVENTS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Susan Thayer Fye stated we had the August 7th cruise-in. We had a big crowd. We had a lot of new people we have never seen before. We took up donations of \$250 for the food bank. The next cruise-in is September 4th. We will be taking up donations for the fire department. Nellie stated COVID is much worse. I think these events should be put on hold until it starts getting better. There was discussion on events. Susan stated on September 26th Studebaker is wanting to have a car show with about sixty vehicles. In conjunction with that, we want to have a Women's Suffrage Event which won't be a huge draw. Our last cruise-in will be on October 2nd in conjunction with the movie night provided by Student's Fund of Hope. The Museum board may move the Christmas of Yesteryear from the last Friday of November to the first Friday in December. The Homes Tour has been canceled. Jerry stated my opinion is they are already scheduled. The events do depend on COVID. Ohmer stated everybody's fundraisers have been disrupted this year. It's not just this community. It's everywhere. The safety and the welfare of the community is at risk here. When we schedule something and don't take into account the safety of our people, we're doing the people we serve an injustice. It is my opinion that all of these things need to be suspended contingent on what this virus is doing. Matt Galbraith stated any large gathering, over 250 people, has to have a COVID plan submitted to and approved by the health department prior to the event. There is a list of eight or nine items that have to be addressed. Matt will provide this information. Ed stated it depends on the Governor's orders. Scott Andrews asked if the event has already been approved. Susan confirmed. Scott stated it will take motion of this body to cancel it or suspend it. Clyde stated whenever we approve the use of the square, to me it is over for us. That is up to the organization that we either say yes or no to. Like with this car show if there were too many people, why bring it to the Council. If it's illegal it should be a police matter, or it should go to the health department. Nellie asked for Scott's opinion. Scott stated if this were the first event, and you don't know what going to happen, I would say you don't have any obligation. You already have knowledge of it being a problem. That's the issue I see. Susan stated we did not do a head count last time, but I honestly don't think there was 250 people there at the same time. Jerry stated I really feel you need to take those steps. Ohmer stated with the dynamics of the COVID and the construction project, I think we should suspend

everything until after the project is done and COVID is put to death. David Clouse reminded everyone we will be unsure of when we will not have streetlights.

Clyde stated we originally closed the Town square Monday through Friday and open it up Friday at 5:00 for the weekend. We do not have the shelter house or the band stand taped off. We do not have any signage. I think we need to tape off the shelter house Monday morning and take it down Friday night. Trena will check with Steve on the contractor's responsibility.

FENCING ORDINANCE 2020-01 (2nd Reading)

Scott Andrews presented Fencing Ordinance 2020-01 to the Council for a second reading. Scott explained that there were some amendments after some discussions with the Council that now allows chain length and metal ornamental fences to be used. **Clyde made a motion to approve ordinance 2020-01. Ed seconded.** Matt Galbraith questioned that the ordinance does not have requirements for maintaining fences. Scott will work on an amendment to include fence maintenance requirements. Nellie confirmed that current fences are grandfathered in. Scott clarified this is effective as of today and not retroactive. **Motion carries 5/0.**

HOUSING REGULATIONS – MINIMUM SQUARE FOOT ORDINANCE 2020-02 (2nd Reading)

Scott Andrews presented the Minimum Square Foot Ordinance 2020-02 to the Council for second reading. Scott stated the ordinance is the same as last meeting. No changes have been made. **Clyde made a motion to approve ordinance 2020-02. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE ORDINANCE 2020-03 (2nd Reading)

Scott Andrews presented the Employee Handbook Ordinance 2020-03 for second reading. Scott stated this ordinance has been substantially amended. It was a two-purpose ordinance last month amending the handbook for all Town employees but there are also provisions for just the Police Department. We basically separated those out. This ordinance is approving the employee handbook as written. **Ed made a motion to approve ordinance 2020-03. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL ORDINANCE 2020-04 (1st Reading)

Scott stated this is the second part of the ordinance talked about at the last meeting. This is the ordinance amending the police department procedures manual. Scott recommended considering this a first reading since it now has its own ordinance number. Scott explained this ordinance is simply approving the amendments in the draft presented. Matt Tallent reviewed what has been updated since last passed in 2006. Matt confirmed the mileage change recently passed by the Council is included as well. **Ed made a motion to suspend the rules for a first reading. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Ohmer made a motion to approve ordinance 2020-04. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

PARK REQUEST – HOPE MINISTERIAL/HOPE RIDE

Andy Kilps stated we're coming here today and a lot of this is still under review out of respect for the Council and COVID. What we are looking at for September 19th really does come under the category of nonessential. We are flexible. The general idea is the Hope Ride still happening. Andy explained the changes with the Hope Ride. The normal stops will not be available this year. They take their ride on

their own time from the 19th to the two weeks following. Andy stated there are still be a number of people that might go on the 19th. Paul approached the Hope Ministerial pastors to do something uplifting on that day. Maybe a day of Hope or Hope Rising. The decision was made to do the clean-up from 8:00 until noon. Paul has two bands that still might play. We will play some more music and we would like to have a prayer of blessing over the leaders of our community. This will be done at the property between Willow Leaves and Swiss Maid. We will also be accepting food donations for the food pantry and the blessings box. We just want to do some various things to say Hope is still rising. We are doing things together but safely.

PARK REQUEST – ARTS & ANTIQUES FESTIVAL

Donju Taylor stated the Arts & Antiques Festival is scheduled for the 30th of this month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donju shared that they have dropped the vender price to participate and have made the space smaller so vendors can be on the sidewalk. Donju stated we are going to strongly encourage people to wear masks and we will provide a hand sanitizing station. I would like to request cones to be placed on the parking places on the north and west side of the square to give the vendors and the people attending more space. There was discussion on the location requested. Ed suggested the east side instead the west due to the highway. Nellie voiced concern with people walking through the park. Ohmer suggested use of the grass area beside town hall. Donju stated visibility concerns with some of the Council suggestions. **Ed made a motion to approve the use of the north and east side parking places and sidewalks as requested. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PARK REQUEST – STUDENT'S FUND OF HOPE

Susan Thayer Fye requested use of the south side parking places for Students Fund of Hope to have their movie night. They will begin set up at 6:00. This will be on October 2nd combined with the Cruise-in to Hope. This request is pending on the Governor's orders. **Ed made a motion to approve the street closing. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/1.**

CGS TRASH CONTRACT

Jerry Bragg stated this is the third year of our three-year trash contract with CGS. Mr. Ross reached out to offer an extension which was included in the original contract. Amounts are 8.17 for year four and 8.33 for year five. There was Council discussion on the contract. Nellie stated she feels that it should be bid out. Jerry explained it is just an extension of the original contract. Pastor Ed complimented the service we receive from CGS. Clyde shared a conversation he had with a realtor that stated homes used to take a long time to sell. Now people are calling asking if there are any homes for sell in Hope. Our property values are climbing. Clyde stated back when we originally did this, 65% of the residents in this town paid for trash pick-up and they paid an average of \$25 per month. We cut the cost to 1/3 of what they were paying. 10% didn't have it because they couldn't afford it. Here we are looking at five years and we're still below \$9.50 for trash pick-up per month. **Ohmer made a motion to accept the extension for two years. Ohmer stated I feel it is to the benefit of the community. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

EDIT REQUEST

Clyde Compton presented an Edit request from Pastor Ed representing Main Street. Pastor Ed shared a change in the request. Pastor Ed stated I have been in discussions with First Financial. It has been

approved by their management to have, at the same time, bins at their facility for shredding and they will absorb the cost. It is still through Shred-it. It may possible be for a whole week. Clyde continued with the recommendation from the Edit Committee. The committee voted 3/0 to approve three containers from CGS for a total of \$1,275. The committee felt a third dumpster may be needed since a lot of people are cleaning stuff out due to being quarantined. Clyde called CGS to question if a dumpster is not used, will we still be charged. CGS answered if we do not use the third one, they will only charge us \$100 drop off and \$100 pick-up. They will also allow us to keep the third dumpster for up to a week. Clyde suggested adding TVs and computers to the flyer as items that Town will not accept. Pastor Ed confirmed. **Motion carries 5/0.** Pastor Ed stated the Ministerial Association is looking at making this a Hope Rising. The Town will be divided up into sections. The churches that participate will have volunteers who will be assisting if people need stuff picked up. They will also be picking up trash. Brush will be taken to the Lagoons. We would like to get together around 3:00 and pray over the leaders. The date is set for September 19th.

2021 BUDGET

Diane Burton stated it is time for our 2021 Budget. The meeting dates were shared. The Public Hearing will be at 5:30 on September 15th. The Budget adoption will be on October 20th at 5:30. Diane stated my purpose tonight is to get this information to you to review. I have given you folders with all the forms. These are the forms that are required by the Department of Local Government Finance. The purpose of each of the forms was shared. Diane stated I feel Form B is the most beneficial for you. It rolls the revenue and expenses together. It includes the last six months and all of next year. Diane explained that some of the funds will show a negative operating balance. This is because it is assumed that all money budgeted for this year will be spent. A budget reduction will be presented at the next meeting. Diane reviewed the changes in the budget from last year. A 3% increase has been budgeted for salaries. The savings plan for the new town hall is included. MVH has the biggest change since half of the revenue must be placed in a restricted fund which can only be used for paving. We have been able to continue since extra funds were accumulated in the fund but that is no longer an option. Utility salaries will only receive 10% of their salary from MVH instead of the current 20% and all the benefits that go along with that. The other 10% will have to be split between water and sewer. Some of the other expenses will now need to be paid from Local Roads and Streets. MVH has also paid for a lot of the electric which has been switched to Riverboat and Edit. \$30,000 has been budgeted for paving since that is the only thing the MVH Restricted can be used for. I did ask my DLGF representative if our LIT funds will be affected in 2021. He doesn't see it affecting us until 2022. I met with the DLGF on August 3rd. This budget has been approved. The General Fund is an increase of less than 4%, \$22,162, from last year. I did request the maximum levy which will give us an increase of 4.21%, \$13,546.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION 2020-05

Diane stated this is for patch work done by O'Mara. It only makes sense that we use the MVH restricted Fund since it is so limited on what it can be used for. Diane Burton presented Resolution 2020-05 which reads as follows: Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made: From 201001221 MVH Gasoline \$1,500 to 203001461 MVH Street Project \$1,500. **Nellie made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-05. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

*A Police 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.

David asked for fund approval for new seats for the swings at Normans as presented in his report. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the funding for swings in the amount of \$674. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Clyde stated I would like to thank John Walstad and his church group for painting the shelter house.

Jerry stated I think we need to look into replacing the picnic tables in the downtown park. David asked if left over park project money can be used for that. Trena stated she will check to see if that is an option since they were not in the original budget. Trena explained an option can be to use some of our local match. After grant funds are utilized based on ratio, less of our local match may be needed. David suggested our tables be concrete or permanent.

Matt Tallent requested an extension on six days of his vacation not taken due to COVID and delay in being able to hire a new officer. **Ed made a motion to approve the extension. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Ohmer Miller stated I've taken a firm stance on not using the park and the activities. It is not because I'm trying to be a mean guy. I am trying to protect the Town. We are trying to be safe. Jerry agreed but Jerry stated I do want to allow the use based on what the Governor says.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Attest










