

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 public hearing at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on September 15, 2020.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

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

2021 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Diane Burton stated this is our public hearing for the 2021 budget. At the last meeting you received folders with detailed information of my recommendations. The fund budget amounts are as follows: Rainy Day \$142,000, General \$588,819 with the maximum estimated funds to be raised of \$335,471, Local Roads & Streets \$60,000, Motor Vehicle Highway \$66,213, Cumulative Capital Improvements \$25,000, Cumulative Capital Development \$96,000 with the maximum estimated funds to be raised of \$19,368, EDIT \$294,760, Riverboat 15,000, LIT Public Safety \$14,500. The total is \$1,302,292. Diane stated I did request the maximum levy. This is an increase of 4.21%. The amount of increase for the General fund is \$13,546 more than this year. The change in our General fund budget is less than 4%. Diane opened for questions from the Council and the public. No questions were asked. The budget adoption will be at the next Council meeting, on October 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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 5:35 p.m. on September 15, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 8/18/2020

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT 2020-2021

Tony Akles stated INDOT has opened up the second round for 2020. The deadline to apply is October 23. Earlier this year you were considering Aiken Street and Schafer Drive. We will put the application together for you for free. Are you wanting to move forward with that? **Clyde made a motion to proceed**

with the application. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Tony stated INDOT is now making you update your Asset Management Plan every year. It has to be updated by December 1st this year if you want to go after funds next year.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT/CONTRACT EXTENSION/PAY APPLICATION

Tony Akles stated I sent out the minutes of the progress meeting. The light poles are up. RC Electric is waiting until he gets all his stuff done before he calls Duke. Tom Poole explained the process. Tony recommended the Council consider approval of the pay application 1 in the amount of \$94,492.70. **Clyde made a motion to approve pay application 1. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Tony questioned the neighborhood watch sign on the post with the historic district sign. Tony asked if the Council wanted that to go back up on the new sign. The Council confirmed. Matt stated he will take care of taking the sign off.

Tony stated there is a sidewalk on the south side of the square that we discussed at the progress meeting. It is a trip hazard. The Poole Group's cost to fix it is \$700. Ohmer asked what caused the damage. David answered salt. **Clyde made a motion to approve the cost of \$700. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Clyde questioned subcontracting with O'Mara to put the signs up. Tony explained you have to be an INDOT certified sign contractor.

Tony presented the option of pipe pullers which can be placed on either side of the sidewalk to keep people from driving up the access drive. Tom Poole will prepare a quote of some options. David shared the inconvenience of having to put it up and down when the shelter house is rented.

Susan stated there are currently eight round planters on the square which are concrete. Susan recommended the concrete planters be painted with a concrete stain to make them all look the same. Chuck Baker, who is on the Main Street Design Committee, recommended a color which is a shade of brown. Susan showed the color to the Council. Clyde questioned why we are continuing to use the old planters (meter pits) and the cost to have them repaired and painted. Ohmer asked David to check on the cost of new meter pits. Ed asked if the troughs that currently sit on the art pads will remain. Susan stated nothing was discussed. Tom Poole stated he will get a cost on planters to match the planters that are part of the project.

Tony stated I sent you a new construction schedule. The substantial completion date requested is October 9th. Tom Poole is here tonight to share why they are requesting the extension. Tom shared their progress on the project and he explained the reasons they are not on schedule. COVID has not only caused problems with staffing but has also caused problems in getting the materials needed. Tom also explained the process with the concrete and the benefit of uniformity by keeping the same crew on the job. Ohmer asked if there was any damage to his work from an event over the weekend. Tom stated no. Tony confirmed no damage. Ed complimented the workers. Clyde asked about the informational signs. Tom stated I have been notified that they are done and ready to be picked up. Clyde asked about scheduling the ribbon cutting. Eric confirmed. Eric stated one thing I want to point out is when you look at the grant agreement, this extension deadline is well within the timeframe of the grant. **Ed made a**

motion to grant the extension to Oct 9th and to authorize Jerry to sign the change order. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

MAIN STREET UPDATES

Susan Thayer Fye gave an update on the events schedule. Susan stated Pastor Ed and Pastor Andy are here about clean-up day which is on Saturday. On Saturday the 26th the Studebaker car show is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Women's Suffrage Celebration event will be during that same timeframe. Some people in Hope are wanting to do a community yard sale. Jerry stated any event that may draw a crowd has to go through the health department for approval. Nellie asked Susan if she went through the health department for the last event. Susan stated no. Nellie questioned why. Susan answered fire me. Jerry stated I have reached out to the Council and nothing is going on inside the square except for the playground until the project is done. You will have to go through the health department and follow the guidelines. If you do not follow the guidelines, it will be shut down. Susan confirmed. Susan stated the last cruise-in is on Friday October 2nd. The movie night has been canceled. **Nellie made a motion to shut the park down except for the playground. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Matt Tallent asked the Council if they are willing to waive fees for the garage sales as they have in the past for community garage sales. **Clyde made a motion to waive permit fees as recommended. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

HOPE RISING UPDATE

Andy Kilps stated we are looking forward to the Hope Rising day this Saturday. We will have a Hope Rising service at 1:00 p.m. We are going to hold it between Willow Leaves and Swiss Maid. On behalf of the Hope Ministerial Association I want to invite our leaders to come if you can. We want to have a prayer blessing over you all as our leaders of the Town and for the whole Town as well. Included in the invitation is the Town Marshal, Clerk Treasurer and Utility Superintendent. There will be music. The service will end by 2:00. Clyde questioned five in attendance. Scott confirmed that it is acceptable. Pastor Ed provided the Council with an updated flyer. Clean-up will be from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Pastor Ed stated we will have three dumpsters at the Utility building. The county recycle trailer will be there as well. First Financial already has the containers for the shredding. Four churches are participating to cover a certain area of the Town to help with the clean-up. The food establishments will have box lunches available for purchase. Ed went over the list of items not acceptable. Donations will be accepted for food pantry and the blessing box. **Clyde made a motion to match the donations to the food bank up to \$1,000. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET REDUCTION RESOLUTION 2020-06

Diane Burton stated I mentioned this resolution at the last meeting. As you recall with the 2021 budget, I stated that some of the funds have a negative operating balance because we budgeted to use some of the funds this year and we are budgeting to use them next year. This resolution is stating that we are not going to use the funds this year. Resolution 2020-06 reads as follows: Be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following 2020 budget reductions be made: From 436001301 Rainy Day – Projects \$90,000, from 436001401 Rainy Day – Police Vehicles 9,550, from 401001411 CCI – Land \$4,607 and from 431001421 CCD – Building Town Hall \$27,700. **Ed made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-06. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

UTILITY OFFICE REOPENING

Diane Burton stated David, Debbie and I had a conversation last week. We feel it is probably time and want to get the Council's opinion on reopening just the drive-thru at the utility office. She would not have to lift the window very much which will give her somewhat of a shield. David added the window does not have to be opened very far for her to take payments and to be able to communicate. **Clyde made a motion to open the utility drive-thru tomorrow. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

UTILITY SHUT-OFFS

Diane Burton stated there was an Executive Order 20-33 that allows us to shut off utilities again. We are a non-regulated utility company so they cannot require but they are strongly recommended that we offer a six-month payment plan. We are about \$31,109.80 owed for this time period for a total of 79 households. That averages out to \$393.79. Debbie stated some people have paid some just not full payment amounts. I am requesting Council approval on that process. There was Council discussion on the process, penalties and the length of the extension. Diane stated we plan to send a letter out to the households affected in addition to their bill. David pointed out that we are about 6 months into this so their payment will be about double. Clyde questioned if they can't make a \$50 payment how do you think they are going to make a \$100 payment. David stated without shut off being in effect, some of it is just abuse. They are going to get by hoping it's going to be forgiven and not have to pay anything. I know of a few that is the case, but I know some that are really struggling. Diane added with the way it is set up other than the penalty, which is pretty minimal, it allows them to do that. So as David said some are just choosing not to pay. The Council agreed that there may be some exceptions for additional help which can be dealt with on an individual basis. Nellie brought up assistance from the trustee office. Eric Frye stated he knows of some other organizations that can provide assistance. He will email that information. **Clyde made a motion to approve a six-month repayment option with a letter subject to Council and attorney review. 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.

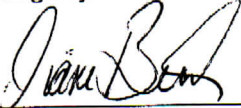
Clyde commented on the flushable wipes in David report. Ed stated at some point we need upgrade that system. David answered there is an engineer coming Friday from American Pump Repair to quote a price on an Expeller. I think the next wastewater project should include renovation of that pump station. It should be pumping straight to the lagoon.

Matt Tallent stated I put this in my report. We need to set Trick or Treat hours at the next Council Meeting. I would like to get some guidance from the Council. Ohmer stated residence need to go to safe places and suggested a trunk or treat, family member's house or individual parties.

Jerry provided handouts of picnic tables for the Council's review. Jerry stated we are doing all this beautiful work to the square and still have old, ancient picnic tables. Jerry reviewed the options shown. There was Council discussion on the tables. Ohmer asked David for his opinion. David answered either

something heavy or bolted down. Jerry also recommended updating the cameras in the shelter house. The Council asked Matt to check on the cost of cameras for the park. Matt confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Attest

