

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 budget adoption meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on October 20, 2020.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

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

2021 BUDGET ADOPTION

Diane Burton stated we are ready for the last piece of our budget process which is the budget adoption. We adopt our budget by ordinance. This is ordinance 2020-05. The amounts are the same as what was presented in August and at the public hearing in September. They are as follows: Rainy Day \$142,000, General fund \$588,819 with the adopted tax levy of \$335,471, Local Roads and Streets \$60,000, Motor Vehicle Highway \$66,213, Cumulative Capital Improvements \$25,000, Cumulative Capital Development \$96,000 with an adopted tax levy of \$19,368, Economic Development Income Tax \$294,760, Riverboat \$15,000 and LIT Public Safety \$14,500. Diane opened it up for questions from the Council and from the public. There were no questions. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the budget adoption, Ordinance 2020-05. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 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 5:33 p.m. on October 20, 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 9/15

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING

Susan Thayer Fye reminded the Council that the ribbon cutting is tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. on the west side of the shelter house. A prayer was added to the agenda to be given by Pastor Ed Cottrell. Susan stated the Main Street committee talked about doing a plaque for the shelter house to honor those who contributed to the project. Quotes on the plaque are \$800 to \$2500. Susan discussed options for the

plaque. Nellie suggested tabling this until the next meeting and for documentation to be sent to the Council to review. There was Council discussion on the plaque and if a plaque is desired. It was a consensus of the Council to not have a plaque.

Susan stated the American Legion Post are requesting to add a secondary flag of POWMIA to their flagpole. There was Council discussion. It was a consensus of the Council to approve the secondary POWMIA flag.

Susan stated the cigarette butt holders have been removed. Susan asked the Council what they want to do with the eight round concrete planters. It was a consensus of the Council to get rid of the round concrete planters. David will break them up and haul them off. Susan asked about the troughs on the art pads. Susan shared some thoughts that the Main Street board had on some other options for the art pads.

MAIN STREET UPDATES

Susan Thayer Fye stated we do have a Sunday Social on November 1st from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Yellow Trail Museum. Veteran's Day will be highlighted. Deck the Town will be done during December. Night at the museum is this coming Friday. Small Business Saturday will be on November 28th. Student's Fund of Hope is doing a craft bazaar on the 28th and 29th. We are going to advertise that as a shopping destination.

FENCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Matt Galbraith stated I would like to see a provision on the fence ordinance that requires people to maintain their fences. If they don't maintain them, some sort of enforcement action is needed that the Town can take. There was Council discussion. Scott will amend the ordinance adding a paragraph of the maintenance requirements and enforcement by the next meeting.

YELLOW/BROWN BENCHES

There was Council discussion on what to charge for the yellow and brown benches. The benches have already been declared surplus. David questioned if it would have to be advertised for the highest bid. Scott answered I think there is a threshold of the amount. Scott looked up the statute which indicates if it is one item with an estimated value of less than \$1,000 or total items of a value less than \$5,000 it may be sold at a public or private sale. **Ohmer made a motion to give David the latitude to sell the benches at a price he determines. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

PARK REQUEST – GROUNDHOGS DAY

Susan Thayer Fye requested use of the park for Groundhogs Day on Tuesday, February 2nd from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 am. This would include use of the bandstand for the High School Band to perform. Susan stated we can keep it outside the square and block off four or five angle parking close to the bandstand. Some of the angle parking will be for the media. Susan announced that Grubby has a backup this year. Her name is Hope. There was Council discussion. The Council has concerns due to the pandemic. It was a consensus of the Council to wait until the January meeting to decide.

PARK REQUEST – CHRISTMAS OF YESTERYEAR

Jessica Brown stated we are trying to plan for a Christmas of Yesteryear on December 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's going to look a little different this year with the Coronavirus. We are not going to have our traditional cookie decorating at the museum. We are going to move Santa Claus outside. We will not have carriage rides to visit the characters. We are asking to put our characters on Harrison Street so we would like to close down Harrison Street. We will put Santa at one end of the block and our characters at the other end of the block. We will have chairs that are distanced apart. The businesses so far are for it. They are excited that we are going to be doing it. Student's Fund of Hope would like to set up a booth. Willow Leaves will have a special dinner for it. **Nellie made a motion to allow use of Harrison Street for Christmas of Yesteryear. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0. 1 abstain.**

FIRE TRUCK APPROVAL LETTER

Chad Emmitt stated there were hoops that we had to jump through in order to obtain a tax-exempt interest rate on our loan. The IRS requires us to prove that we contract in the service area, therefore, a Council signature is needed. Scott Andrews clarified the statute states that a governmental entity that they contract with has to approve it. I don't have a problem with it being signed. It clearly states on the form that the Town is not obligated to repay anything. It is just an approval to allow them to get this type of financing. Nellie questioned if it obligates the Town to continue to contract with them. Scott answered no. **Ed made a motion to authorize Jerry as President of the Council to sign the form. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM AT STONE'S TRAILER PARK

Ernie Stone stated I own the trailer park on Aiken Street since 1979. In April this year I guess I took a jump ahead your current attempts to enforce the fencing regulations because I had a fence on the north side of my property that was becoming lapidated and falling down. Pictures were shown. Ernie stated I decided to replace the fence. I heard about a drain ditch on the east side of my property. I have been paying tens of thousands of dollars since 1979 for a drainage ditch not knowing what it was. It never did work. I installed a French drain to try to eliminate my water problems. That eliminated the water problems at that time. We constructed a new fence. The ground was so wet that the concrete would not harden. The fence started leaning again because the water table was so high in that area. In discussions with Mr. Clouse, he took a ditch witch and marked the property where he thought the Town's drain was going. He instructed us to dig there. I dug seven feet deep and we could not cut the line. My problem now is I need to know where that line is or does it exist. It's not operating. There is a tree that is in my opinion eighteen to twenty-four inches in circumference. It has three branches. I don't think the Town has done any maintenance on the ditch drain since it was constructed. I would like to know when it was constructed and the cost back then. I wouldn't have a problem paying a drainage tax for a number of years until it was paid off, but this seems like a continual fund raiser for your utility fund. David stated there is no ditch or tile to my knowledge. I have no records of any in that area. The ditch tax you are referring to, everyone who owns a lot in town pays a storm water assessment fee. The fee is to maintain the Town's storm water system and to pay for improvements. I understand you have a problem up there. The next storm water project, I would be in favor of something up on that end. As far as the fence, you built a seven-foot fence with eight-foot posts. Whether there was water there or not, I don't think you would have much luck keeping it up with the wind. You are going to have to have a ten-foot post to keep a seven-foot fence up. David explained the situation. Tony Philyaw explained further the

steps they have taken. Tony asked what can we do next? The Council discussed the situation. Jerry asked what is our best solution. David suggested it be involved with our next storm water project. Ed suggested we take it under advisement and see what we can do. Ernie stated I will take my fence down. I will store it until you guys decide where you want to solve the problem. Jerry stated we will get with Trena and see what we can come up with.

NEPTUNE 360 SYSTEM

David Clouse stated the Neptune 360 is required to have with the new meter reading system. It starts after the first of the year. We have the hardware. This is the software that goes with it. It's a \$3,500 recurring fee for the 360 system and a one-time fee of \$500 to set up with the Keystone billing system. It will work with other things we are going to be having to do in the future with water audits. David shared some benefits of the system including that it interacts with personal devices like a cell phone to go out and do the downloads of the customer's meter, system monitoring and identifying potential leaks. Nellie stated that is one of the things people talk about around town is the costs of our water and sewer. Is there anything at all that we can do about it. David answered probably not. David stated our cost is directly from Eastern Bartholomew. They built a new plant unfortunately after we replaced three miles of main in our system. The cost was studied to develop a well field of our own about ten years ago. At that point we were getting too good of a deal from Eastern. Maybe you want to revisit that and see what it would cost now to do that compared to what we are purchasing for the long term. Strand could give you a ballpark number. **Ed made a motion to approve the purchase of the Neptune 360 system. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WASTEWATER PUMP IMPELLERS FOR GOSHEN MEADOWS LIFT STATION

David Clouse presented a quote from American Pump Repair in the amount of \$2,705 each. Two is needed. The total will be \$5,410. David stated we been having a lot of problems with the pumps at Goshen Meadows clogging. There are upgraded impellers called an Xpeller that will grind the flushable wipes. We've had the most trouble there out of three lift stations. It comes with a sixty-day money back guarantee. If it does not solve problem, we can send back. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the purchase of the two impellers. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

2021 SALARY ORDINANCE

Diane Burton presented the 2021 salary ordinance with options of a 2% and a 3% increase. Diane explained the salary ordinance needs to be passed this year. You can choose to make a decision tonight if you like or you can wait and have the first reading in November and the second reading in December. The ordinance also reflects the change for utility workers to be paid 10% from Motor Vehicle Highway, 45% from water and 45% from sewer as discussed during the budget process. The Council discussed current rates being given in other areas. Clyde stated concern with the pay of the Utility Clerk. Clyde feels a part-time Deputy Clerk and a part-time Dispatch Supervisor should not make more per hour than our Utility Clerk. We have a utility clerk at this point in time that has been here for many years and was even voted the best utility clerk in the state of Indiana. I think she should be brought up to that wage. Nellie stated I brought that up last year. Diane clarified it doesn't necessarily mean they are making more than her. Their range is higher than hers. As I stated last year all of this came from a market analysis that we paid for back in 2016. **Clyde made a motion to approve a first reading for a 2%**

increase and to change the range for the Utility Clerk to be the same as the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and the Dispatch Supervisor. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

EDIT REQUEST

Clyde Compton presented an Edit request from HSJ Online. The request is for: Weekly Town Updates \$300, Business Profiles Restarting \$75, Town event Facebook Boosts \$250 for a total of \$625. The Edit Committee recommended 5/0 for the full amount. Ohmer voiced concern funding HSJ Online since they are a business. Nellie corrected that they are actually a nonprofit. Clyde stated the items they are asking for are for the Town. We are actually paying for articles about Town events. Clyde confirmed they are nonprofit. Clyde stated they have procured other donations. Last year they requested over \$2,000. This year it is \$625. **Motion carries 4/1.**

BARB JOHNSON MEMORIAL

Matt Tallent stated shortly after Barb's passing, I started asking around about possibly doing a memorial for Barb. My first thought was to rename the road after Barb that we just annexed, 775 East, which runs behind Hauser High School. Barb was very important to this community. She was very important to the kids that went to school, including me. If it wasn't for Barb, a lot of people wouldn't know the history of this Town. I know it would be hard to rename the road but maybe we can do some kind of memorial sign on each end of the road. That road does lead to the one room schoolhouse. Nellie stated Matt and I had talked about this after Barb passed away. This is something we've wanted to do. Barb worked as a teacher in this town for over forty years. She was involved in everything that went on in this Town. She didn't get paid for these events. She went above and beyond what most people do. The sign would state something like "This road is dedicated to the memory of Barb Johnson". Clyde asked what happened to money that was given as a memorial for Greg Sweet. Susan answered it is going toward this project. It will be used for a bench to be in front of the chiropractic office. It is still in the Main Street account until they figure out the final flow. Ohmer stated I would like to see some information and cost on signage for Barb Johnson. Jerry stated we've had a lot people who have went on that have invested into this Town who don't have a plaque or anything. I would like to see us get something, maybe a plaque on the shelter house for them.

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 asked Matt about the signs for no skateboarding that he had in his report requesting a decision on two options. Matt stated I've got twelve signs for each side of the square that's getting put up after the ribbon cutting tomorrow. **Clyde made a motion to approve the first sign. Ed seconded. Motion 5/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Attest

Amory
C. De Sery
O. J. Smith
Nellie Webb
William E. Johnson