

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 December 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.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 10/20, 11/17

Ohmer 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. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT – PARK SIGNS & PAY APPLICATION 3

Tony Akles stated I have pay application 3 for the Poole Group. This pay application is for everything but retainage. The amount is \$87,804.70. The amount of retainage is \$20,494. Trena Carter stated there are several bits of paperwork that I requested on November 23rd. I have not received it yet. I am requesting that the approval be contingent upon us receiving the paperwork that is needed. Tony Akles stated we are waiting on some paperwork too. We are waiting on the final lien waivers and the Consent to Surety to final payment. **Clyde made a motion to pay application 3 upon receipt of all documents requested by ARa and Strand. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 4/1.**

Tony Akles explained a communication error between the Poole Group and Indiana Custom Fabrication in putting the sign brackets together. Tony stated I requested the Poole Group to take the sign over to be on the safe side. They never did. The slot that Indiana Custom Fabrics put in there is too small. The cost for the additional material is about \$320 to \$350 to redo the brackets. This will be for material only. No cost for the labor. **Ed made a motion for the Town to pay the additional cost to Indiana Custom Fabrics. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 4/1.**

MAIN STREET UPDATES

Susan Thayer Fye stated Dec the Town is still going on. Deadline for decorations is tomorrow night. The finalist which there are normally eighteen to twenty will be posted on the Facebook website by 10:00. Voting will start until Sunday night. Then we will award the winner and they will get the leg lamp for a year.

Doc Sweet when he died had some funeral donations. \$700 was given to the Town to reimburse for the bench, included in this project, which is placed in front of his old office. The remaining money that was collected will be used to replace twelve Christmas wreaths that are in bad condition and twelve strands of twinkle lights. If there are enough funds left, new garland will also be purchased for the bandstand.

Susan stated Groundhog Day is on February 2nd. Right now, with the State laws we can't do that. In the past we've had about one hundred seventy-five people. I've been in contact with Kathy Hershey with Utopia. She is planning a live stream.

Susan stated the State Main Street organization is changing. The two documents that were sent from the State was provided to the Council. Susan stated I get the impression that because of COVID everybody is well aware that small businesses in rural communities in their Main Street districts are all hurting. I know that there are two businesses on our square that have not been hurt badly. The rest would love to do a whole lot better. The Main Street organization, I think, wants to somehow partner with the local Main Street organizations to provide as much support to keep businesses from having to shut their doors in the next twelve months. This contract is for twelve months. They are wanting a commitment from us. We have to do certain things like using their logo on our marketing, so it helps advertise for them. We are required to attend more meetings and trainings. We have to attend community exchanges. We are required once a year to attend the Great Lakes Main Street conference. They are going to look at the Town Council to do what you can to provide some financial incentives for the historic district and preservation which could include bringing back the façade program. In exchange, there will be more training or opportunities for businesses, more support and also more grant opportunities. Ed stated I think we need to support our square. There was Council discussion. Clyde said this is something we need to think about and see what our options are. We have other businesses in the Town besides just the square. Susan said I would personally like to see some kind of economic development plan for the entire town.

FENCE AMENDMENT (Ordinance 2020-07)

Scott Andrews stated if you recall at the last meeting there was some discussions. Mr. Galbraith suggested making an amendment to the fence ordinance that was previously past earlier in the year specifically regarding maintenance of fences and enforcement. Scott read the changes adding section F Maintenance which states the following: Fences and walls shall be continuously maintained in sound structural condition as a whole at all times and removed, repaired or replaced when necessary according to the direction of the town's Building and Zoning Administrator. Fences shall be maintained, including those existing prior to the adoption of this Ordinance, at all times in a state of good repair, safe and secure condition, with all braces, bolts, nails, supporting frame and fastenings free from deterioration, termite infestation, rot, rust or loosening, and able to withstand at all times the wind pressure for which they were designed. Scott also read Section G Enforcement which states the following: The Town's Building and Zoning Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make external inspections of any and all fences within the Town of Hope. The building and Zoning Administrator shall make a determination of the condition and needed maintenance, repair or removal, as well as compliance with this Section, of all fences located within the Town of Hope in order to safeguard the health and safety of all occupants and the general public. In addition to any other remedy contained herein, any and all violations of this Ordinance shall also be subject to the provisions as set forth under 10-31, 10-32 and

10-33 of the Town Code. Scott stated those sections are related to penalties regarding violations. Those are the two sections that were added to the fence ordinance and is before you today as Ordinance 2020-07 as a first reading. **Ohmer made a motion to accept this amendment Ordinance 2020-07. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

TOWN PARK RULES AMENDMENT – METAL DETECTING (2nd Reading Ordinance 2020-09)

Scott Andrews stated this is the amendment to the Ordinance regarding parks. If you recall at the last meeting it was discussed adding a prohibition of metal detectors in the park. An amended ordinance has been drafted. It's basically identical to the original ordinance regarding Parks and Recreation, Chapter 5 Article 3-1 Town Park Regulations. We added number 14 metal detectors as a prohibited use within Town parks. This is the second reading of that ordinance. **Clyde made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-09. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS (2nd Reading Ordinance 2020-08)

Diane Burton stated this the second reading. The only amendment in this ordinance is adding, on the last page, the Christmas bonus. It's stating for 2020, just this one time, all employees will receive a \$100 visa gift card as a Christmas bonus this year. **Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-08. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PICNIC TABLE AND BENCHES FOR THE PARK

Jerry Bragg stated since we've had all of this work done, our square is awesome! It is very beautiful to look at. I have some quotes to replace the benches, picnic tables and the wooden platforms between the pillars. That way all of it is fresh and new. Stephanie Long stated this is something that we can fabricate for you, save you some money and provide a better long-term solution for it. Stephanie shared their ideas and pricing for metal powder coated benches in the shelter house, benches that set throughout the park with a solid metal backing to allow for a unique fact about the town to be placed on it and picnic tables. She presented two different types of picnic tables: a rectangular and octangular. The Town will be responsible for installing them. Stephanie also shared an idea for the flower boxes. Stephanie stated a couple of the business owners around the square brought to my attention the unattractive concrete planters around the square. We threw in this bonus design that would basically be a sleeve that would fit over the concrete planters. It matches the new trash cans. The plate in the front is made to be interchangeable. It can be changed out for seasons, holidays, etc. The price is \$446.69 each. Additional signs are \$40 each. This quote is good for thirty days. If we need to extend it a little bit, we can. They can also provide maintenance on the products. Diane asked about sizing for picnic tables to be placed on the art pads. Stephanie answered we can customize them to the size that you want. Stephanie also recommended a couple of kid picnic tables. There was Council discussion. Ed asked how durable they are. Stephanie answered they holdup really well. We will do two coats for an extra layer of protection. Ohmer asked about the turnaround time. Stephanie answered four weeks. Turnaround time for damaged products is a day. David questioned the placement of handicap accessible picnic tables stating they would need to be by a sidewalk. He also questioned the quantity. We currently have five and the proposal is for six. There was more Council discussion. Ed questioned options for the west side sidewalks in front of the businesses due to the slope. There was discussion of options. **Ohmer made a motion to move forward with shelter house benches, the park benches, six rectangular picnic tables, planter sleeves for a total \$18,568.01. Clyde seconded.** Jerry asked Diane about funding. Diane

answered it can come out of Edit projects. Jerry questioned the number that would be handicapped tables. Ohmer answered all of them. David asked them to hold off on tables until the next meeting to allow time to ensure placement. **Ohmer stated his motion is contingent upon David's approval.** Clyde reminded that extra benches can be placed in the other park. Stephanie requested thirteen facts to go on the benches. We'll also need a decision on what you want the interchangeable plaques to be. **Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

PLAN COMMISSION – LIBERTY PLACE 2ND REPLAT

Matt Galbraith stated last evening the Plan Commission met in regular session. The only agenda item we had was AS201412 called Liberty Place 2nd replat. It was petitioned by Shelby Coleman and Ryland Fluhr to combine lots 31 & 32 in Liberty Place as one lot to be known as 31A. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Fluhr own the two lots. They have a house on one lot. They want a bigger yard. They just removed the lot line between lots 31 & 32. A drawing was provided. Matt stated there were no public comments. The Plan Commission voted 5/0 to bring this to the Council with a favorable recommendation. **Ed made a motion to approve the replat. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

HOPE FOOD BANK

Nellie Meek stated I sent you an email on this. I am asking that we give \$1,000 a month for 2021 to the Hope Food Bank. Everybody knows how bad it is. A lot of people have lost their jobs. More people are losing their jobs every day. I talked to the food bank. They said they are already having more people coming. We definitely need it. We do have the money. We can afford to do it. I don't want to see anybody to have to go hungry. This is something that I hope we can do for our community. **Nellie made a motion to give \$1,000 a month to the Hope Food Bank starting in January through December of 2021.** Ed asked if that would come out of Edit Funds. Nellie confirmed. Clyde stated I'm not sure we can legally do it for a year since it was not put in the budget to make twelve payments. I talked to Chelsea and I looked up a lot of information on this too. She is stating, between her and the other food bank wizards, they have determined that the month of January, February and March will probably see a 30% increase. People are going to be getting their shots. They cannot look any further than that. I'm not totally against what Nellie is saying. I'm just against us doing it for the year. We do not want to become the bank for the food bank. We don't want to be relied upon for nonprofit all the time. I know the need is there. I know the concern that Nellie has is real but my suggestion, not knowing what is going to happen in the future, is to fund them for those three months. At first of the year, I think the Council needs to appoint a liaison to the food bank so that we know exactly what is going on. That person can come back and explain to us whether it is needed or not. Then after the end of three months if it's needed again, we do it for another three months. The Hope Food Bank has a limit of what they can buy. I talked to Chelsea. She is amazing in what she knows. She has a handle on that. Nellie withdrew her motion. **Clyde made a motion to fund the Hope Food Bank \$1,000 each for the months of January, February and March and at the first of the year we assign a liaison. Ed seconded.** Ohmer questioned if the food bank is tied unto the Community Center. Ohmer stated if it's a combined operation, all we are doing is supporting the Community Center. Scott stated you can amend the motion to make the payment be required to be spent on food. **Motion carries 5/0. Ohmer made a motion to amend the motion to allow the funds to only to be spent on food. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

RAINY DAY TRANSFER OF FUNDS (Resolution 2020-08)

Diane Burton stated this is our annual transfer to move some money from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. The Rainy Day Fund can be used for any lawful purchase. It is our way of trying to build an emergency fund. Resolution 2020-08 reads as follows:

Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made: From 101001122 General Health Insurance \$15,000, from 101001123 General Workers Compensation \$5,000, from 101001341 General Liability Insurance \$10,000, from 101002114 General Police Salaries \$5,000, from 101002221 General Gasoline – Police \$5,000, to 436001301 Rainy Day Projects \$40,000.

Ohmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-08. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

B & Z ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT RENEWAL

Nellie made a motion to renew the contract with Matt Galbraith with a 2% increase. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

TRASH CONTRACT RENEWAL

Ohmer made a motion to renew the contract with Jeff Yarnell. Clyde 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.

Ed Johnson asked for an update on the Billy Davis property. Scott answered he cannot get a response from him. Scott stated I sent him several letters certified mail. **Clyde made a motion to move forward with court proceeding. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Ohmer Miller voiced concern about the C & A Radiator shop running an illegal business. Matt Galbraith answered there is a cease order in your mailbox. He has been given until the end of the month to get everything out and stop operating business. If he doesn't, I'll give it to Mr. Andrews.

Nellie Meek asked for an update on the new home. Matt stated I talked to Mr. Peachtree and his sister. They are building a house on the corner of Elm and Seminary. I have reviewed their house plans, their site plan and have given them the go ahead. They are planning to break ground in January.

Trena Carter stated I think Nellie emailed everybody on the COVID-19 Response Program Phase Three. I just want to bring it up tonight as the Town would qualify. The amount you can apply for is \$350,000. You can do a multitude of different things including supporting food banks and giving grants to local businesses. The application is due the end of January. It is a Community Block Grant Program. We would need to determine what you would want to do. ARa will need to be paid. There is a maximum amount that is allowed under this program. This is a pretty time intensive type program with public services and economic development. We are willing to do it. We just need some guidance to what activities you're wanting to have undertaken with this program. You may want to have a committee. The proposal is due January 29th. The full application is due February 26th. This gives us very little time to pull everything

together. Trena left information about a webinar that is available and a fact sheet. Trena expanded more of the program and a recommendation on how to go proceed to determine interest. Clyde asked for the amount of fee ARa charges. Trena answered 2.5% of the grant amount. Clyde asked Susan to find out how much interest the business owners have in something like this. Susan confirmed.

Jerry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Attest


