

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 17, 2021.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: John Walstad (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, Ohmer Miller and Ed Johnson. Jerry Bragg (President) attended virtually. Town Manager Frank Owens and Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton was also present.

The prayer was given by John Walstad.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by John Walstad.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 6/15/2021

Ed made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Clyde 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. Diane stated I do have an additional claim that wasn't included in your claim packet for Andrews Law Office. The invoice is split up three ways; \$360 from General, \$120 from Water and \$120 from Sewer for a total of \$600. **John made a motion to pay the Andrews Law Office invoice. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

CCMG 2020-2021 PAVING UPDATE

Tony Akles stated Robertson Paving finished up on Saturday. Everything looks pretty good. We are waiting on the final tickets for the tonnage of the asphalt. Then we will get that to Frank so he can submit it to INDOT and close out the project. It looks like they are going to be right on the numbers. We'll see when it come in. Clyde stated it looks really good.

CCMG 2021-2022 PAVING UPDATE

Tony stated no word on the 2021-2022 yet.

SWIF FUNDS – GOSHEN MEADOWS PUMP STATION & AIKEN STREET STORM DRAIN PROJECT

Tony Akles stated SRF has pushed that back to August 27th. They have three hundred plus applications, so it is going to take them awhile to go through them.

NEW BUSINESS:

OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM

Victoria Bechert stated as you know the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has opened up the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab program for application. The applications are due next Friday, August 27th. The Town of Hope is going in for that. We held a public hearing last Wednesday. We had good attendance. We've already received seven applications. As a part of the application to the State, the Town is required to pass a resolution authorizing Jerry as the signatory person for the grant and

submission and also that the Town is committing the minimum local match requirement of the \$25,0000. **Clyde made a motion to pass the resolution. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WATER UTILITIES PLANNING GRANT

Victory stated we talked last month about doing the income survey in anticipation of the water projects. The first step of that is having the Council President sign off on a letter to request from OCRA that we move forward with that. I have a letter that I'll leave here for Jerry to sign to get that process started.

PARK REQUEST – RACE FIVE RC DRAG RACING

Joe Chambers stated we got the race coming up this Sunday on the square at 11:00. We'll start activities at 12:00 and racing at 1:00. We've had a lot of positive feedback about the event and they're requesting more dates. I would like to request use the east side of the square on September 19th and October 3rd. **Clyde made a motion to approve use of the square on both of those dates. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PARK REQUEST – MOVIE NIGHT 9/10/2021

Whitney Budd stated I'm here to request the park for our third annual movie night for Student's fund of Hope. We are showing Disney's Cocoa. Activities start at 6:00 p.m. The movie starts at dusk. We have traditional Mexican Folklore Dancers coming at 7:30. We are serving tacos in a bag. The entire event is free will donations. We're expecting a few hundred people. David Clouse asked if any parking needs blocked. Whitney answered for the past two years we have not. We requested the bandstand from Michael Dean. Matt usually has additional officers helping with patrol and security. Our board meets next week. We may vote on a porta potty. **Clyde made a motion to approve the park request. Ed Johnson. Motion carries 5/0.**

2022 TOWN BUDGET

Diane Burton stated the public hearing will be at 5:30 on September 21st. The budget adoption will be on October 19th at 5:30. My purpose tonight, you have received folders, is to get this information to you to review. You're welcome to ask questions now. Once the Notice to Taxpayers is posted, the budget can go down, but it cannot go up. The forms that are in the folders are the forms required by the Department of Local Government Finance. Diane reviewed the forms. Diane stated I feel Form 4-B is the most helpful. It rolls the revenue and expenses together. It includes the last six months and all of next year. A couple of the funds on this form shows a negative operating balance. That is because it assumes that all money budgeted for this year will be spent. A budget reduction will be presented at the next meeting. Diane reviewed the budget recommendations. Diane stated there are not a lot of changes this year. The recommendations include a three percent increase in salaries. The savings plan for the new town hall is in here so we are continuing that. This affects the General Fund, EDIT and CCD. In the General Fund you will see that \$70,000 was put in the New Town Hall appropriation. That is the money we received last year as part of the IFA Cares Act. This does not mean it has to be used for the new town hall but if you make the decision to use that, it will be available next year. We can do a resolution to move it rather than having to go through the whole process with the DLGF. \$40,000 was budgeted for paving in the MVH Restricted Fund. I met with the DLGF on August 9th. This budget has been approved with the reduction in the three funds that I mentioned. The General Fund is an increase of 4% if you take out the \$70,000 COVID funds received. We are requesting the maximum levy. Diane opened it up for

questions. Clyde asked about the increase in the park's salary. Diane answered we started taking some of the park's salary out of Edit a couple of years ago. I am giving a little more room there to be fair to the utilities since we had the change last year with the MVH Fund. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to call or stop by town hall and ask me.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

REQUEST FOR APPRIATION FOR CHRISTMAS TREE AND GARLAND FOR BANDSTAND

Frank Owens stated I have a request for appropriation for a Christmas tree and garland for the bandstand this year. I gave you a summary sheet. I talked to this company in Georgia that specializes in Christmas decorations. They are giving us a wholesale discount. The quality of the merchandise is there. The quote is for a 7 ½' full Olympia Pine tree with 1,250 LED Lights. The same with the Olympia Pine garland which is about 9' long and 14" around to go around the bandstand. I filed all the forms for our tax exemption. It will be around \$1,550.30 plus shipping. John asked about free shipping. Frank answered I can ask. Ohmer asked if this is going to be in addition to the light display. Frank confirmed. Ohmer asked where the tree will be placed. Frank answered in the bandstand. Clyde expressed concern about it being a prelit tree and placed outdoors. Clyde also expressed concern about how the tree will be anchored. Frank stated I understand your concern. I did do some checking. If one light goes out, the rest do not. It's different now than it used to be. There is a ten-year warranty on the tree and the garland. There is a three-year warranty on all the lights so if we did have a problem like that, they would replace them for us. LEDs have come a long way compared to what they were at one time. No motion was granted.

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION FOR EV CHARGING STATION

Frank Owens stated I have some information on the charging station to put on our town square. Frank shared information on the research he did on the different types of EV stations. Frank stated Clipper Creek is the 2nd largest charging station outside of Tesla. Frank presented a quote from Clipper Creek for a dual pedestal extension kit in the amount of \$4,476 + \$180 shipping cost. The package includes a ChargeGuard EX which will allow a charging option in the future if decided upon. There was Council discussion. Frank shared the charging time which is thirty miles per hour on the battery. Frank stated this is a low-cost unit compared to others. John asked about the warranty. Frank answered a five-year warranty. Clyde shared an article he read which stated that any town that doesn't get a charger right now is going to lose out on Economic Development. Frank stated two electricians have looked at the electrical box to confirm sixty amps are available. The total cost including concrete, and installation is \$5,756 for the project. Ohmer stated some of the businesses should be participating in this since it is for their benefit as well. Have you talked to the businesses? Frank answered I haven't talked to anybody about helping out financially. Ed stated I think if we put a card reader on there, it should support itself. Frank stated the units that charge are used less often. I think we should start out free and if it gets used a lot, then we start charging. **Clyde made a motion to approve the purchase of the EV Station as presented. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

REQUEST FOR DOOR REPLACEMENT AND FRAMING REPAIR / REPLACE TOWN HALL-UPDATE

Frank Owens stated I want to give you an update on the door replacement and framing repair. At the last meeting I asked the Council to approve the lowest bid if they started within thirty days. This last week I was notified by that person that he cannot complete it within the thirty days. I am requesting

that we go with the next lowest bid which is Andy Brunner in the amount of \$1,998.79. **Ed made a motion to approve Andy Brunner's quote. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

CAMERA SECURITY REQUEST FOR UTILITY OFFICE DROPBOX

Frank Owens stated if you want to put item d) aside for camera security request. I am going to hold off until I get another estimate on some more cameras for Norman Park.

DUMPSTERS FOR TOWN CLEAN UP DAY

Frank Owens stated in September, with the help of Matt and Tabatha, we are going to do a Hope Town cleanup. Frank checked prices for dumpsters. Frank recommended Best Way, which is \$225 per dumpster, \$39 per ton with no fuel surcharge. There was discussion on whether to have a thirty or forty yard. Kroots have offered a dumpster for scrap metal with no charge. David asked about tires. Frank will check on a source for tire pickup. **Clyde made a motion for three 40s and one 30 through Best Way. Ed 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 Compton asked the picnic table that was damaged. David answered I think it was from it getting moved around. Matt stated I couldn't find on video where anyone intentionally damaged it. Clyde asked the status of the picnic tables that were ordered. David stated last I heard they are waiting on one of the metals. The steel price has gone up so much since that was approved. Brian told me the other day he thinks they have all the materials. Frank will follow up. David stated the metal inserts for the flower boxes look excellent.

Ed Johnson stated Norman Park is looking good. Jerry agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Attest





