

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 November 16, 2021.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), John Walstad (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, 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 10/19/2021**

**John 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. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT 2021-02 UPDATE**

Steve Robertson stated the Town has been awarded. What involvement do you want from strand moving forward? In the past we have put together some plan sheets and some quantities. There are five curb ramps on the three streets that got selected. We can come back in December with some fees if you want us to be involved. It was a consensus of the Council for Strand to assist. Steve stated December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the road inventory asset management plan to get approved. It has not been submitted yet. Ohmer or Frank needs to get it submitted soon. Ohmer stated since Frank is not available let me move forward with that if that is the will of the Council. The Council agreed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **DENTAL/VISION INSURANCE**

Andrew Hunt, Shepherd Insurance, stated I'm here to go over dental and vision insurance for the Town. Nothing is changing in terms of pricing for both dental and vision. Andrew reviewed the policies. Andrew stated I recommend EyeMed which is one of the largest network providers for vision insurance within the country. My recommendation is to stay put with them. There are a couple of options with the dental. David stated the dental we have covers our local dentist. Andrew stated there is a reimbursement to with this plan option that will fit certain mile radius. **Clyde made a motion for the insurance plans to stay the same as recommended. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Andrew stated our insurance company can help with other lines of coverage too. In the future if you are interested in looking at other items within your benefits program such as medical and life, we would be happy to help analysis those as well.

## **MAIN STREET UPDATES/PARK REQUEST FOR 2022 EVENTS**

Matt Lee stated I want to give a quick update on what Main Street has been doing the last couple of months. When I first started, we had five or six voting members. We now have twelve. We have five nonvoting members. All of our officers are now filled. Our President is Jason Eckard, our Vice-President is Ed Cottrell, Heather Galloway is treasurer and Jenny Richards is secretary. The group is definitely taken a new look, a new feel and a lot of excitement. I think we have assembled a team of doers. We plan to do a lot of great things for the Town of Hope in 2022. The By-laws go up for a vote on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It has been sent out for a second reading. Jenny Richards had a great idea of working with our youth. We had a meeting with Hauser High School. We are coming together to make a Junior division of Main Street. That is going to help us do some events that is geared toward the youth and also get the youth involved in the Town of Hope. We had a Main Street bi-monthly meeting in October. I'm really happy to say at that meeting Main Street of Hope's updates and excitement that we have going into this next year, they were very impressed. They're very impressed with the new look that we are taking. They are impressed with what we have done the last couple of months, and we had a very powerful presence at that meeting. The Historic Walk that has been talked about for a while, will be finished sometime in the Spring. Susan will finish that project along with two of our active members, Jenny Richards and the new Yellow Trail President, Jessica Brown. I want to say publicly thanks to Town Manager, Frank and I want to say thanks to Diane. They have been a great help to me getting this going. I appreciate that. Something that I noticed when I first came on, is I love events. I love promoting events. I like to try my best to make events successful. I was told to not make a new event until the first of the year. We decided to go ahead and make a new event before the first of the year and that was the Breakfast with Santa. We are happy to say there was 180 tickets. We sold 200 so we sold out. Hopefully that success will go into 2022. In 2022 we have up to ten new events including some new events we will be doing with Hauser High School. One event that I'm really excited about is as a collaboration with two other main streets: Greensburg and Rushville. That will be a very cool event. Jason will tell you a little bit about that also. We are also working on the events that were already in place, Groundhog Day. I am really happy to be a part of Main Street. I took it on for a challenge. It's been a lot of fun. I think the people that are in place now are going to make it very successful with the main goal of bringing revenue into the town of Hope and for preserving our history.

Jason Eckart stated thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I want to talk about the cruise-ins a little bit. Last year was our most successful year. We had total donations of \$2,807 from the cruise-ins. Jason shared expenses and the amount donated to local charities which is \$1,522.50. Jason stated I am thrilled about that. We hope to be able to do this again next year starting May 6<sup>th</sup> and first Fridays. The second Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> I have scheduled for a motorcycle themed event that we will call Thunder on the Square from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. A ride will be planned, and the end of the ride will be here in Hope. The Night Owl Country will be performing and a major headliner in the country music scene will finish that out. It is a lot of money, and we are going to try to get a lot of donations to fulfill the request to get a headliner musician here. We will sell tickets to make the event happen. We will work in conjunction again this year with Yellow Trail Museum and have another terrific 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Matt was mentioning that he wants to have a concert on the square on July 16<sup>th</sup>. That is more of a Main Street activity. The Main Street Cruise-in collaboration will be with Greensburg and Rushville. It will start in Rushville for breakfast. I will design a route from Rushville to Greensburg. They will have lunch in Greensburg. They will continue on their route and end up in Hope for a concert. I think it will be a fun



event for Hope. We would like to finish off the year with another Cruise-in on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. I would like to get permission to have the dates set aside for the town square. Ohmer questioned the concert running until 10:00 p.m. There was discussion on the time for the concert. A majority of the Council was fine with the time. **Ed made a motion to approve the park requests. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Jason also requested Harrison to be entirely closed for safety concerns. The Council agreed.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**

Chad Emmitt, Fire Chief, stated I'm here to present the contract for 2022 services for Hope. The verbiage is the same as the last four years except for dates and the amount. We are asking for a two thousand dollar increase to the contract. This will attempt to try to cover a lot of the increases of cost of equipment, fuel cost, training and day to day needs and necessities to keep everything up and going. This equates to just a little over 2% increase. **Clyde made a motion to accept the contract as presented. John seconded.** Ohmer asked if the fire department was doing any fundraisers. Chad shared their fundraisers and the results of the profits. Ed Cottrell added we also do some rentals to try to raise money. We are up to 350 runs in the town just this year. **Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **2022 SALARY ORDINANCE 2021-05 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Diane Burton stated this is the second reading. The changes are in the copies that you received. The utility on call flat rate is increased 2 ½%. The animal control rate is increased \$500 which Scott figured up to be a \$.48 increase per hour. This increased the maximum to \$11.68. **Clyde made a motion to approve the second reading for Ordinance 2021-05. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS**

Clyde Compton stated we all remember about twenty months ago the pandemic invaded our world. Realizing the severity of the situation the state of Indiana virtually shut down the whole state except front-line workers. This includes all elected officials here and every single employee that we have which is utilities and the police department. **With our employees coming to work every single day without one complaint that I heard, I am going to make a motion that all elected officials and all town employees currently employed by the town with an average of twenty plus hours a week receive a \$250 one-time gratitude bonus to be paid out of Edit funds. First, I am going to make a motion to suspend the rules to hopefully pass the motion on the first reading so that there is time enough to do the paperwork so everyone can receive it before the holidays.** Diane stated if I may add, if that is the wish of the Council, that is done by amending the salary ordinance. The amendment will be this year's ordinance 2021-06. The only change is on the last page which states Christmas (Gratitude) Bonus: All employees will receive a \$250 visa gift card as a Christmas bonus this year funded from General. As Clyde said we will need to do a transfer from Edit to General. **John seconded.** Ohmer stated I'm not comfortable with the elected officials being included in this. It is my personal opinion that we be excluded from this. Clyde stated I'm not changing my motion. Any person that is on this list that feel that don't qualify for it, you do not have to take it. You can turn it down. Ed stated I feel the same way Ohmer does. I don't begrudge the workers the money, but I don't feel like we necessarily need that much money. Clyde answered then you can turn it down. **Motion 3/2. Denied suspending the rules. Motion passes 3/2 for first reading.**

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Diane Burton stated I would like to request that some funds be available for a Christmas party. We haven't planned it all out yet but our next meeting is not until December 21<sup>st</sup> so we will have had our party by that point. I would like to request a maximum of \$500. We would like to have it catered. This will come out of the Town Promotion appropriation. **Ed made a motion to approve the request not to exceed \$500. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **METAL INSERTS FOR FLOWER BOXES**

Diane Burton requested the purchase of winter themed inserts for the flower boxes. The cost is \$40 per box for a total of \$320. Stephanie stated the inserts will be done in about a week. Ohmer asked for David's input. David suggested purchasing something for Spring as well. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the purchase of both winter and spring inserts in the amount of \$640. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE**

Diane Burton stated this is not anything new. This is just to take what was approved back in September and get it into the Employee Handbook. It is when we went from days to hours and from specified vacation, sick and personal to PTO. I sent to you on Friday the changes that New Focus HR made. Nothing changed with the number of hours, it just converted days to hours. This revises the handbook which gets changed by ordinance. Scott stated this is similar to when we amended the ordinance last time. We are going to adopt the entire handbook again with that change. This is just a first reading. **Ed made a motion to approve the first reading. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **AGREEMENT WITH IHCD**

Diane Burton stated this is a request from Debbie. I sent you a copy of the letter which gives you an overview of the program as well as asking for approval for an agreement with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. This agreement allows assistance potentially with low-income households. Debbie was contacted by Human Services. Exhibit A shows that Human Services is a provider for this program. There is currently a resident who will benefit from this funding. This is ARP money for them. One time a resident can request help with their utility bill if they are at a certain stage in potentially getting disconnected. The agreement allows us to be a vendor to be able to accept the payment that they will make for our resident to the utility department. Clyde asked who determines if they qualify. Diane answered they do. We are really just the recipient. We have to have this MOA in place to receive it. **Clyde made a motion to enter the MOA with IHCD. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **METER INSTALLATION AGREEMENT**

Diane Burton stated I am requesting approval for some Meter Installation Agreements between the Town of Hope and Cedar Royale Enterprises. One is for a water tap at 1113 Washington Street in the amount of \$1,000 and the other one is for a sewer tap at 1123 Washington Street in the amount of \$750. **Clyde made a motion to approve the agreements. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**



#### QUOTE FOR UTILITY LIGHTS

David Clouse requested approval to replace overhead lights in their shop. The quote is for LED lights in the amount of \$2,450.00. **Clyde made a motion to approve the purchase. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

David Clouse requested approval for Robertson Paving to do some additional work on the square while they are here working the west side. This includes replacing a sidewalk on the southwest corner and a patch on the northeast corner. The cost of the work is \$7,200. Clyde asked which fund will pay for the work. Diane recommended Edit projects. David stated the patch can come from storm water. John asked about seeking grant funds for the sidewalk. David answered it has been needing to be done for a while and they have their equipment here. **Ed made a motion to approve the work request. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Tabled.

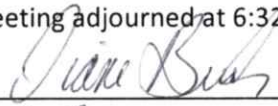
#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

\*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.

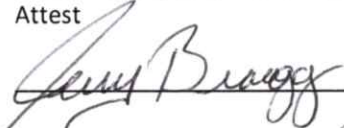
Pastor Ed Cottrell stated as Vice-President of the corporation of the Hope Fire Department I would like to invite you to our Christmas party on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the fire station. We would like to invite the Town Council members, Clerk treasurer, David Clouse and the Town Manager.


Jerry requested to schedule an Executive Session. The Council agreed on November 22 at 5:30. Clyde also requested a special meeting on that date to approve a second reading on the Christmas bonus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

  
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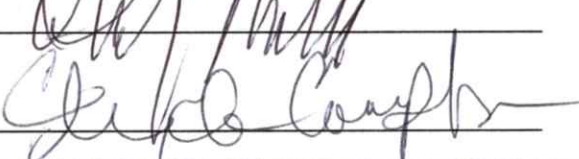
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