

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 May 17, 2022.

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. Town Manager Jason Eckart and Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton were 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 3/15/2022

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

AMEND VIOLATIONS ORDINANCE #2022-01 (2nd Reading)

Scott Andrews stated if you remember we were here last month for first reading. We had five proposed ordinances. We scrapped one of them to take it back to the drawing board, the Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance. You did vote on a first reading on four different ordinances. The first one, Ordinance 2022-01, is amending the penalty provisions, raising fines from \$25 to \$100. **Clyde made motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE #2022-02 (2nd Reading)

Scott stated the second ordinance 2022-02 is a proposed noise ordinance. **John made a motion to approve ordinance 2022-02. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

AMEND WEED CONTROL ORDINANCE #2022-03 (2nd Reading)

Scott stated we have Ordinance 2022-03 which is the Amended Weed Control Ordinance. It raises the fines. It is \$100 then it's \$200 if it happens more than twice. We are just trying to put more bite in some of these ordinances. The fines have been \$25 for a long time. Apparently \$25.00 is not enough to get peoples attention or get people to comply. **Clyde a motion to approve ordinance 2022-03. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES ORDINANCE #2022-04 (2nd Reading)

Scott stated the last one is a new ordinance regarding mobile food vehicles in town. It allows permits to be obtained for food trucks if you want them in town. **John made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-04. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Scott stated I'm starting to compile some research on some other Vehicle Storage Ordinances that other towns have had.

THUNDER ON THE SQUARE UPDATE

Jason gave an update on the event, Thunder on the Square. Main Street did receive a Columbus Visitor's Center grant in the amount of \$8,000 to events organized by Main Street of Hope. The event will be held Saturday, June 18th from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The Night Owls will be performing at 7:00. Jessie Keith Whitley will be performing at 8:00 p.m. At the end of the show, they want to do throttle up on the bikes to sound like thunder on the square. Ohmer asked how long will it last. Jason answered twenty seconds. The event is presented by Main Street of Hope, Abate of Indiana, Corn Country Radio, Jeff's Lawn Care, and Columbus Visitor's Center. Jason also shared the food vendors that will be at the event. There will be six port-a-lets and hand washing stations. Matt stated he has four officers that will be working the event that evening. Jason stated there has been talk of some Bartholomew County off duty sheriff officers as well being paid for by Main Street. Main Street is looking forward to the event and there are a lot of bikers that are looking forward to it as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

OCRA WASTEWATER APPLICATION FOR ROUND 2

Victoria Bechert stated I wanted to provide an update. The Town's original intent was to apply for a planning grant this year in order to really access your wastewater, stormwater systems. I met with Jason, David and Tony (Strand). It sounds like you actually have a project that is really ready to go in Goshen Meadows. I have some maps and cost estimates from Strand already. We talked about moving forward with a round two construction grant this year. It will actually help speed things up. Victoria reviewed the timeline. Victoria stated we would be looking at round two which opens up September 1st. We would need to look at doing your public hearing at your September meeting. Your proposal would be due September 30th. The Full application is due November 18th. Hopefully we'll have award announcements in January of next year. This program has a twenty percent match. The Town can apply for anyway between \$550,000 – \$700,000. That is determined based on your user rates and the project cost. As we get closer, I'll get confirmed project cost from Tony so we can determine what the dollar amount will be. In the meantime, if any residents are having any issues especially in that project area, I would encourage them to submit a letter to the town. Photos of their issue will be helpful to. There was discussion on our match. Jason emphasized the savings by going directly to the construction grant. Ohmer voiced concern in skipping the planning grant. Victoria explained there will still be project planning. The Planning grant just identifies your project. You already have your project identified. Jason added this way David can see the project through before he retires. Diane reminded the Council that this will be a good use of ARP Funds.

TOWN ORDINANCES

Jason Eckart stated since I've been Town Manager of Hope, I've read all of our Town ordinances. I've been trying to help Matt Galbraith with finding some Town ordinances that we might be able to use to get this Town cleaned up some and keep it clean. I found this nuisance ordinance which is included in your packets. The only problem with it is the penalties. They make very little sense. I would like to request that we amend the corrective action of this nuisance ordinance to put more teeth into it like the weed ordinance. Jason requested permission from the Council to work with Scott Andrews on the

ordinance amendment. Jason reviewed parts of the ordinance he feels needs to be changed. Scott stated I think it's a good starting point. I've been an advocate for a while for having basically an ordinance committee. The ordinance will then be presented to the Council to be voted on at the Council meeting. Scott suggested the committee meet once a month. **Ed made a motion to form an Ordinance Committee with the members consisting of the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Town Marshall, Building & Zoning, and two Council members. John seconded.** Jason stated I would like to try to get it enacted by the next Town Council meeting so Matt Galbraith can use this. Scott stated he feels the current ordinance can still be used but agrees it needs to be amended. There was some discussion on concerns with the current ordinance. **Motion carries 5/0.**

METER INSTALLATION AGREEMENT

Diane Burton stated I have a Meter Installation Agreement between the Town of Hope and Evan Kleinhenz for a sewer tap at 519 High Street in the amount of \$750. **Clyde made a motion to approve the Meter Installation Agreement. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

EDIT REQUESTS

Clyde Compton stated the Edit Committee met. The Edit request is from the Yellow Trail Museum. They are requesting an additional \$1500 for fireworks for the Old-Fashioned Independence Day event. Clyde stated the committee voted unanimously to grant the \$1500. We would also like the Council to make their yearly allotment \$6,500 permanently. **Motion carries 4/0. 1 abstain.**

WINDROSE SIGNAGE

Matt Galbraith stated we had a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting last night concerning Windrose Health Clinic's sign. The committee has some concerns because it is a double-sided lighted sign that is a 10 X 6. We had two neighbors attend who had concerns about light issues. We are going to look into that and meet again on the 31st at 7:00. This will give board members an opportunity to look at another sign Windrose has in Trafalgar so the brightness of the sign can be determined. The committee also recommended to Windrose that the sign have a timer, so it won't affect properties around it. We are going to see what they come back with and what we come up with in our further investigation. Clyde voiced concern with the property being zoned residential. Matt stated he is not requesting the property be rezoned. He is only requesting a variance for the sign. Clyde stated that is a buildable lot. David corrected it is not as buildable as it appears. There are utilities running through it. There was some discussion on the size of the sign. Ed voiced that he feels like it is a good idea to help the facility advertise their business, but Clyde does not like the idea of another neon sign down SR 9. Matt stated the Board of Zoning Appeals is going to require some landscaping around base of the sign.

STONE MOBILE HOME PARK

Matt Galbraith stated I've been working closely with Mr. Eckart, and it's been a pleasure. Beth Bolen is the mobile home inspector for our county. I met Beth at the Stone Mobile Home Park, and we got some pictures of what Beth saw that were in violation of mobile home park rules and our local ordinances. Pictures of Stone Mobile Home Park were given to the Council. Matt stated I'm requesting to be able to send a letter to the Bartholomew County Code Enforcement asking them not to issue any more electrical permits for new mobile homes until they meet compliance. The notification gave Mr. Stone until June 1st to be in compliance. Clyde stated there are a lot of problems up there besides that. Jason

added there are a lot of wiring issues going on there. Looking at our town ordinances, I believe there is a town ordinance that states that any mobile home unit coming into the Town of Hope requires a permit issued by the Town of Hope. Matt read the requirements which stated the permit has to be issued by the Town Council. Beth is going to recommend to her superior that the mobile home park's license be revoked. Matt explained the process. Jason stated it's a safety concern for the citizens that live in that trailer park. Matt will be using our ordinances to try to get that mobile home in compliance. It was a consensus of the Council to allow Matt to send the letter to the county asking them to not issue any more electrical permits to connect mobile homes to. There was also discussion on the South Street Mobile Home Park.

Matt gave an update on the property on the corner of Market and Seminary. Matt stated I have been told that Brandon Fletcher, owner, has sold the property to another individual. The purchase has not gone through yet. That property is extremely dangerous. I would like permission to have Mr. Andrews take some action on that. **Ed made a motion to move forward with taking action on the property. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Matt also gave an update of Pam Darnell's property located at 166 Schaefer Court South. Her fence has fallen in the back and must be taken down. I would like permission to give that one to Mr. Andrews as well. Clyde stated Cummins has asked about projects. Clyde asked Jason to see if Cummins will be willing to take the fence down for her. Jason confirmed.

Clyde asked about a mattress at Hitchcock Drive. Matt answered I have a letter out to him. Clyde stated right next to my house is a lounge chair.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

*A Town Manager, 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 for an update on the status of the new generators. Matt stated I haven't spoken to him since we ordered it. I will reach out to him tomorrow. Clyde also asked for an update on the cameras. Matt answered we ran into a small snag with the power on Aiken Street. We are trying to get that worked out with Duke Energy. A new pole will need to be set so we can run a power box on it so we can power the cameras. Hoosier Security is waiting until we have power on Aiken Street so they can do both projects on the same day to save on travel expense. Jason shared some additional information about the progress with Duke Energy at Norman Park. Jason stated we may get a highly discounted rate on the pole or maybe zero. Duke is stating it will be six weeks out. It was a consensus of the Council for Hoosier Security to wait until both projects can be completed on the same day.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Jane But

Attest

Jeff Bump

Q

William E. Johnson

My Dearest

My Wife