

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 March 15, 2022.

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. Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton was also present. Jerry Bragg (President) was absent.

The prayer was given by Ohmer Miller.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ohmer Miller.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 2/7, 2/15, 2/16, 2/17, 3/7/2022

Ed made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Clyde made a motion for the approval of the claims. Ed seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW TOWN MANAGER

John stated I would like to introduce our new Town Manager, Jason Eckart. Jason stated I'm the new Town Manager of Hope. I start on April 4th. I have lived in the community for about five years. I'm passionate about this community. I'm excited to be in this position and to be able to try to improve this Town however I may be of service. I welcome everybody to come by my office and let me know ideas that you feel we need to work on as a community. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to getting to work.

UTILITY PLANNING GRANT

Victoria Bechert stated just to give everybody an update, OCRA released their calendar early this year on when they will be accepting planning grants. They did not accept a quarter one planning grant. It looks like quarter two might be too tight of a schedule. What we will be looking at is quarter three. That opens June 15th with applications being due August 12th. We will need to hold a public hearing at your July meeting and pass the resolution. This will be for a \$60,000 grant through OCRA for a Two Utility Planning Study. There is a ten percent match requirement. You are able to receive up to seventy-five points extra if you put in up to seventy-five percent match. Sometime between now and your June meeting we will need to determine how much the Town is wanting to put in for local match.

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

Steve Robertson stated the contract, the notice to proceed and all the information with Globe Asphalt has been given to INDOT signed by Jerry. Notice to Proceed was given March 1st. They get one hundred and eighty days for substantial completion which makes it August 28th. Final completion is two hundred

and ten days which makes it September 27th. Mark Koors will give us the schedule once the bidding season is over. This will be for mill and overlay for Grand, Locust and High Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACEC AWARD

Steve Robertson stated the Town of Hope was awarded a Quality Base Selection Award. We applied for an award for the Town Park. The park project was a bronze medal winner but then that qualified for the Quality Base Award which the Town received. There is a luncheon on April 28th. Tony will attend because he is a ACEC member and there is room for a representative of the Town to attend with him. Strand will cover transportation and lunch. The Town representative needs to share a few words about Quality Base Selection. The Council decided Jason will represent the Town.

SIDEWALK PROPOSAL

Steve Robertson stated you should have received a letter of proposal for engineering services for the Town of Hope sidewalk inventory assessment. We would use a PASOR rating system similar to what we use for the town streets. We will give you an inventory. We are not proposing to evaluate curb ramps other than if they are there or not because that is a lot more involved. Clyde asked if our Town Manager can be trained to do the assessment. Steve confirmed. This would save the town approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500. The quote from Strand to do the assessment is \$16,400. There was discussion on the size of sidewalks and compliance requirements. Steve stated we don't usually like to go smaller than four feet wide. The rating system will be one through ten. Clyde shared past struggles with having funding to pave streets since grants were not available. Our situation of sidewalks is similar since grants for sidewalks are very few. Clyde stressed the importance of allocating money and starting the process even if we have to do a block at a time. Clyde emphasized that sidewalks are a part of transportation. David Clouse added Community Crossing can do sidewalks if you are paving that road. Steve stated Tony can have the agreement to present at the next meeting. Clyde shared a previous grant for sidewalks that was applied for, Safe Routes to School, which might be reviewed. Steve explained the process of the evaluation. Steve reminded the Council that anything on Main Street doesn't belong to the Town. It belongs to INDOT and will not be a part of the evaluation process. The next step will be to put the contract together and have Scott review it. Tony set this up to be forty-five days from notice to proceed. The only thing we need from the Town is a list from David of anything that has been fixed in the last five years. Ed asked how long the rating is good for. Steve stated it is good for a long as you want it to be good for. Your funding agency will have an impact. **Clyde made a motion to proceed with the contract not to exceed \$16,400. Ed seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

2022 BOARDS & COMMITTEES

John stated the boards and committees are all set. **Clyde made a motion to accept the boards and committees as presented. Ed seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

AMEND VIOLATIONS ORDINANCE

Clyde stated a group was formed to strengthen these ordinances along with a few new ones, Matt Galbraith, Matt Tallent, the Town Manager and Scott Andrews. There were either gripes about certain things or some was not working out well because they didn't have enough teeth behind them. Scott

drew up a preliminary. Last Wednesday Ed Johnson, Matt Tallent, Matt Galbraith and I went over them and made changes and then we forwarded those to Scott. Those were received yesterday. I personally don't think that has given the Council enough time to make a decision. I would like to put off the vote until next meeting. Scott added none of them are urgent. I want to make sure everyone has a chance to look at them and understand them. If you have any questions, you can certainly reach out to me. Penalties have been increased and they haven't been touched for many years.

AMEND WEED ORDINANCE

Tabled.

NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE

Tabled.

VEHICLE PARKING ORDINANCE

Tabled.

MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES ORDINANCE

Tabled.

EDIT REQUESTS

Clyde Compton stated we had two Edit requests last Wednesday from Main Street. One is for \$10,460 for the following: Director's salary \$9,600, copy paper \$120, conference attendance \$740 (which is required). Clyde explained the National Main Street opens opportunities for larger grants. This is the only additional request from last year. The Edit Committee voted 4/0 in favor of the request. **Motion carries 4/0.** Clyde stated the other request is for the planting of the flowers and gardener that we have done for many years in the amount of \$7,500 for the following: Gardener \$5,000 and Flowers & Maintenance \$2,500. The Edit Committee voted 4/0 in favor of the request. **Motion carries 4/0.**

WATER/SEWER BUDGET 2022

Diane Burton stated I did talk to David, and he said he doesn't really have any large purchase requests for this year's budget. I'm requesting less than a one percent increase. The reason the increase is so low is because the meter replacement has dropped off. David, I think, was pretty excited that ended last year and so am I. That was \$12,500 for both water and sewer so that kind of offset a lot of the increases. Diane presented the Council with a handout and reviewed the changes. Diane stated I have listed on the handout the budget for 2021 versus the budget for 2022 so you can see the increase for water is just \$6,374 and the increase for sewer is \$3,874. You also received a summary sheet. Diane explained the first part is expenses which is broken down by category as well. The total expenses for water is \$669,870. The estimated revenue is \$587,991. Including the current operating balance and if everything is spent, leaves a balance of \$221,286. Sewer total expenses is \$334,870. The estimated revenue is \$252,854. The balance after expenses if you include the current operating balance is \$308,794. On the first sheet that I reviewed with you, I included at the bottom our utilities beginning and ending balance last year. Water ended up ahead about \$50,000. Sewer ended up in the hole \$10,000. We did talk about that at the last meeting. You guys made a motion to approve a transfer from our ARP funds of \$10,000 to our sewer so that will offset the loss but there is still a concern there with sewer. I know David has

mentioned in the past having a sewer rate study done. I think we probably need to do that. Both of our utilities need to be gaining. We are going to have projects and we are going to have needs. They need to be able to save for that. I think the cost is about 5,000 for the rate study. If we move forward with the sewer project, it would probably be a good time to do that study as well. That is my recommendation. This budget is not something we are required to do. It is something I felt like we should do so you can pass it tonight or you can wait until next month. It's really just for the Town and to help us plan. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the water and sewer budget as presented. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

Matt Tallent stated I gave you a handout basically going over a new program I'm starting for elderly people and shut-ins in the Town. We're starting a contact list for anyone who wants to sign up a relative, loved one or themselves. We can contact them at least once a week to check on them. We are especially wanting to build the list for cases such as natural disaster. This will be posted both on the Police Department and the Town's Facebook page. Ed suggested added people who are on oxygen. Matt confirmed. Clyde stated this is a tremendous idea. Should we have a small allotment for if they need to get something to these people to help them? Matt stated in the past when we have run into those situations, we have contacted the Red Cross. Steve Robertson also shared the Ministerial Association, Trustee and Student's Fund of Hope as good sources.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



Attest







