

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 April 19, 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 3/1/2022

Ed made a motion for the approval of the minutes. John 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:

K9 RENEWAL – DUKE EVERROAD

Matt Tallent requested Council approval to renew the annual contract for K9 Duke. Matt stated he was recertified by Guardian K-9 to the North American Police and Working Dog Standards for drug searches.

Clyde made a motion to approve the contract. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

Clyde asked for an update on the cameras. Matt answered they were supposed to come last Tuesday, and they got rained out. They should be here this week to install the one at the utility building and to drop the box off for Norman Park to be installed. We have to get with Duke Energy to have power ran to it. Ed asked if there is already service there. David answered it's just an unmetered security light right now. You'll have to have a meter put in.

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

Tony Akles stated I haven't heard from Globe on their schedule yet. The plants just opened end of March. They did give us their final bid of insurance. We're waiting on endorsements. They have until the end of August to get it done. It will probably only take them a week, maybe two at the most.

Tony stated the second round of CCMG this year is around August. If we approve the sidewalk assessment, we'll have the sidewalks and the roads to go hand in hand. If you do the mill and overlay, now with CCMG, you can do the sidewalks that are adjacent to the road. Every two years you have to reassess your streets. Tony recommended they train Jason to do the street assessment while they are training him to do the sidewalk assessment. The street assessment needs to go to LTAP. He requested an additional \$1,500 for additional paperwork on the last CCMG due to the previous town manager's absence. Ohmer asked about putting a sidewalk on State Road 9. Tony answered that cannot be done by

the Town because it is an INDOT right-of-way. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the request from Strand for \$1,500. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Jason asked how long the training for the sidewalk assessment will take and when they plan to begin the training. Tony answered a whole day. He briefly explained the process. They estimate it will take Jason about three days to complete the assessment. Tony stated the Town has about eleven miles of streets. In theory you have twenty-two miles of sidewalk, but you don't have sidewalk in a lot of places. John asked if sidewalks can be added to the current CCMG. Tony stated no since it wasn't included in the original grant amount. Sidewalks have not been allowed in the past. Tony added that ARP money can be used for sidewalks though. We can get some quotes if it is kept under \$150,000.

SIDEWALK ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT

Tony Akles stated I have two agreements. The first one is the for the sidewalk assessment not to exceed \$16,000. The second one is updating the master agreement extending it two years to expire in 2024.

Clyde made a motion for to approve the 2-year extension master agreement. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Clyde made a motion to accept the sidewalk assessment not to exceed \$16,000. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

AMEND VIOLATIONS ORDINANCE

Scott Andrews stated we have five potential new amendments to the ordinances. There was a group formed to review the ordinances and make recommended changes. The amendment to the Violations Ordinance raised the penalties from \$25 to \$100 to put more teeth in it. **Ed made a motion to approve a first reading to amend the Violations Ordinance. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE

Scott stated this is a newly created ordinance that is somewhat modeled off of a Noise Ordinance for Columbus. **John made a motion to approve a first reading on the Noise Control Ordinance. Clyde seconded.** Ohmer voiced concern for dogs that bark excessively. He questioned how it is defined. Scott answered it's very difficult to do that. You leave it up to the Police Department or the Judge if it ends up in court. I have seen places put decimal limits on ordinances. **Motion carries 5/0.**

MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES ORDINANCE

Scott stated this is new ordinance to allow someone to have a food truck in the town with a permit. Special events are excluded. **Clyde made a motion to approve a first reading on the Mobile Food Vehicles Ordinance. John seconded.** Ohmer asked how much the permit cost. Scott answered \$150 for an annual permit. **Motion carries 5/0.**

AMEND WEED CONTROL ORDINANCE

Scott stated again this is an amendment to put more teeth into the ordinance. We increased the fine. If we remove vegetation, the first time it's actual cost. The second time within a year it's \$100 plus actual cost. The third time it's \$200 plus actual costs. David clarified that they will only have to be notified once during the season. Scott confirmed. **Clyde made a motion to approve a first reading on the amendment for the Weed Control Ordinance. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

VEHICLE PARKING ORDINANCE

Scott stated this is a new ordinance for vehicle storage specifically recreational vehicles within the town limits. **Ed made a motion to approve the first reading of the Vehicle Parking Ordinance.** Ohmer requested clarification of what type of vehicles this covers. Scott answered recreational vehicles, motor homes, semis, commercial vehicles, etc. Ohmer asked if it will affect Hope Hardwoods. Scott answered possibly. Other businesses that this ordinance will affect were brought up as well. Scott stated the ordinance reads one vehicle for each piece of property. The Council decided the ordinance needs revised. Clyde stated he feels several things need to be revised. He feels like it is penalizing the people that are doing the right thing and that are keeping their places clean. It is not doing anything to take care of the junk stuff. Scott suggested that he looks at some other examples to bring before the Council. **Motion dies.** Jason added I think there are other ordinances that we can boost up a little bit to make those public eyesores go away. Clyde asked Matt Galbraith to look at the Nuisance Ordinance 6.115 to see if it can be incorporated within that ordinance also.

BUILDING & ZONING UPDATE – WALNUT STREET PROPERTY

Matt Galbraith gave an update on 211 Walnut Street property. Scott Andrews stated we just need the date of when the Council wants to have the public hearing. Scott prepared the letter that will be sent to the resident of 211 Walnut Street. The Council decided to hold the public hearing on May 18th at 5:30. Matt Galbraith went over the order for actions stated on the notice. They are as follows: Demolish house, remove all the demolition and debris, remove all the junk, trash and miscellaneous debris off of the site and maintain the property in compliance with the town's statute. There was Council discussion on the property. They also discussed the properties on South Street, two on Seminary Street, Depot Street and Hitchcock Court. Scott stated Hitchcock has an order from court to clean it up by the 10th. They did not do that. We have a further hearing on the 29th. If they don't appear, I would be shocked if the judge doesn't at some point issue a body attachment. The damages that we have estimated are \$19,000. We discussed with the judge that we really just want them to clean it up. I will give a further status after that 29th date.

NEW BUSINESS:

PARK REQUEST – THUNDER ON THE SQUARE

Pastor Ed Cottrell, Main Street, requested use of the park on June 18th for Thunder on the Square. Pastor Ed stated this is a new event. This will be a cruise-in for motorcycles. We would like to close off all the square minus Main Street. We are hoping to raise quite a bite of funding for that. We have applied for a grant from Columbus to help fund it as well. Jason added I have heard there will be a lot of motorcycles showing up. A nationally traveling band, Jessie Keith Whitley Junior will be playing that evening. Pastor Ed shared that there will be food vendors and they plan to coordinate with the restaurants that are on the square. There will also be port-a-lets. **Clyde made a motion to approve the park request. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Ohmer requested a working plan for the Council stating security, restrooms, trash removal, etc.

REQUEST FOR BANNERS

Diane Burton stated as you are aware the Veteran's banners went over very well last year. The residents loved them. We have a waiting list because we have maxed the number of banner arms that we had purchased. David figured up the number of poles that we can add arms to. We can add fourteen sets of

arms. I am requesting fourteen sets of arms for a total cost of \$4,812.50 plus shipping. I am also requesting then that we purchase additional floral, patriotic and fall banners to put on the new arms & the arms purchased last year. The following banners were requested:

25 Spring (Floral)
25 Patriotic
14 Fall

Diane stated that comes to 64 banners, which gives us a better pricing, for a total cost of \$5,892. The cost of both the banners and banner arms is \$10,704.50 plus shipping. David commented on the quality of the banners and the fact that they should last a long time. Diane added David made crates to keep the banners nice. There was discussion on the banners. **Clyde made a motion to approve the purchases as recommended. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW TRAILER FOR THE TOWN UTILITIES

Jason Eckart stated on my second day I went over and met with David and looked at his equipment and his trailer. Last Christmas he had to temporarily repair the trailer to move Christmas decorations back to the storage facility. It's no longer usable. I submitted three different quotes which are anywhere from a twenty-two to a twenty-foot trailer. They have special ramps to where they can be used as a flatbed but also you could drive the skid steerer up on the trailer if David needed it for a water or sewer emergency. It can carry our Christmas decorations, pipe, etc. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the quote from Mayes trailer Sales. Ed second. Motion carries 5/0.** David requested to declare the old trailer as surplus. **Ohmer made a motion to declare the old trailer as surplus. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WATER EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE

David Clouse asked if there were any questions on the update to the Water Emergency Contingency Plan. John complimented David on keeping it updated. **Ed made a motion to approve the Water Emergency Contingency Plan updates as recommended. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Copies were signed.

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 stated I want to compliment the Town Manager. That is one of the best reports I have seen from a Town Manager. Clyde stated I concur with Ed. My discussion with Jason has been very positive. He's getting his feet wet and he's going in the right direction. Jerry agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Jane But
Attest

[Signature]

[Signature]

William E. Johnson

Cyde C. [Signature]

[Signature]