

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 public hearing at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on November 15, 2022.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Bragg.

PUBLIC HEARING ARP FUNDS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION (Ordinance 2022-7)

Diane Burton stated the purpose of tonight's public hearing is to appropriate ARP funds used this year. As you recall ARP funds was included in the 2023 budget that we just completed. When we planned the 2022 budget, we had not received the ARP funds yet. This is kind of a formality. We have already used some of the ARP funds, however, it is just a process that we have to do since it wasn't appropriated at that time. The process is called additional appropriation which is done by ordinance. This is ordinance 2022-07 which reads: Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget, now therefore be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Bartholomew County, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same: Capital Outlays – ARP Equipment Projects \$40,000 for a total of \$40,000. Diane opened it up for questions. There were no questions or comments. **Ohmer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-07. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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 5:33 p.m. on November 15, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 8/25/2022 and 9/20/2022

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (Christmas Bonus-1st reading) 2022-08

Diane Burton stated this was prepared as a request from Clyde. This will amend this year's ordinance if approved. This will be ordinance 2022-08. This is to include a Christmas bonus for employees this year. The only thing that has been changed in this ordinance is on the last page and it says: Christmas (Gratitude) Bonus: All full-time employees, part-time employees who average 20 hours per week and

elected officials will receive a \$250 visa gift card as a Christmas bonus this year. Funded from the General Fund – Town Promotion Appropriation. **Ohmer made a motion to suspend the rules. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-08. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

2023 SALARY ORDINANCE 2022-09 (1st reading)

Diane Burton stated it was requested last month to change the percentage. I am presenting 2022-09 as a first reading. The minimum amount stayed the same. The maximum amount increased 4%. As mentioned last month and approved in the October meeting, the HSA went from \$1425 to \$1925. **Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WASTEWATER PROJECT UPDATE

Victoria Bechert stated OCRA is doing a site visit with the Town this Friday at 4:00. It will be virtual, but I plan to come here, and we'll get feedback on the proposal. This will allow us to tweak the application for full application submission which is December 22nd. Previously the Town committed the \$141,450 in local matching funds. We may have some cost increase before the application goes in. I'm not sure how you want to handle that in terms of committing your local match. If you're able to request the max of \$600,000, your local match will go up to \$150,000. I'll work with Tony over the next week or so to get a definite amount. You may want to hold a special meeting, or you can approve up to a certain amount. Diane asked for the initially approved amount. Victoria answered the initial request is for \$565,800 in CDBG funds and a local match portion of \$141,450 which is 20%. Ohmer questioned the reason for the increase. Tony answered cost of materials. Victoria stated the issue will be we'll be holding the 2nd public hearing at your December meeting. I will have to advertise for that on December 8th. Around the first of December I'll have to put in the paper what your actual commitment will be. It was a consensus of the Council to hold a special meeting on November 29 at 5:30.

Victoria stated I'm working with Tony; it appears part of the project may be in a little portion of the hundred-year flood plan. If we do determine that, I may have to do some extra steps as far as a couple of advertisements in the paper and working with Tony to get some alternatives in writing to get that process through. Also, right now we will be working with the Town to obtain the needed easements for the grant. We hope to get all that resolved before application submission. Tony reviewed the map with the Council which shows the location of the easements. Tony explained there are three easements but only two property owners, Dodd and Reed. I had my surveyor look at it and we can come out survey and get the easement descriptions written and the drawings done. We would like to ask for a not to exceed amount of \$5,500 to do that. If the owners sign off on it, the easement transfers to the Town. Jason will get ahold of Dodd and Reed to see if they are willing to donate the easements. Tony reviewed the situation and the process. Tony explained if the property owners decide they want compensation for the easement, it will have to go through an appraisal process. Appraisal firms are sixty to a hundred twenty days out which means we won't make it by December 22. Two appraisals are required. Jason added that will suspend the grant for this round. Victoria stated which will be March proposal and May for application for next year. Victoria adds \$5,500 can be counted as part of local your local match. **Clyde made a motion to approve the amount of up to \$5,500. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

T-MOBILE GRANT IDEAS/SIDEWALK UPDATE

Jason Eckart stated last month I spoke to you about the T-Mobile grant possibilities. I'm looking for some ideas. The grant amount is \$50,000 and becomes unavailable as of January 1st. Jason reviewed some shared ideas including lighted solar power signage to replace the existing signs along State Road 9, a circular walking path around Norman Park, repainting the mural on the side of Gold Nugget Pawn Shop, sidewalk repair or replacement. Jason shared I think the program is looking for something more visible than a sidewalk repair or replacement. An idea that I came up with is a clear garage type folding doors that are on a track for the shelter house. This can be utilized for events throughout the year like Christmas of Yesteryear. Another idea for the open space next to the basketball court near the Utility Office, is shuffleboard or pickleball. Pickleball is an upcoming fun sport for all ages. There was Council discussion on the ideas. Clyde brought up that our comprehensive plan states the need of walking paths numerous times. I think this needs to be priced out. Jason stated if this is the project the Council decides on, I will proceed with getting estimates and start the grant process. It was a consensus of the Council to get prices on the walking path, the repainting of the mural, and the cost of new town entry signs. Jason voiced concern with getting the quotes and the grant submitted within the timetable. There was more Council discussion. The quotes will be presented at the November 29th Special meeting.

SIDEWALK UPDATE

Jason stated the sidewalks along Washington Street are now officially done. I think they look great. There is one edge that cracked a little bit on the alley way. They are going to come back in the spring and repair that crack. Jason explained the major temperature change last week caused the crack. Jason stated I had a pretty overwhelming response about the sidewalks, a lot of thankful people. Residents have asked which other sidewalks we are going to do. Jason stated he would like to continue on Washington Street all the way to Aiken to have a safe walk all the way from Aiken to the square.

Clyde asked for an update on the replacement lights for Goshen Meadows. Jason answered I have not heard from Duke Energy on an estimate yet. I will let you know by the November 29th meeting. The approved lights should begin to be replaced in February and completed by March.

PARK REQUEST – EMERGE WRESTLING EVENT

Matt Lee stated we did a merge wrestling event last month. The event itself went very well. It was very well received. We had around two to three hundred people. It was on a Friday. Next year we had the date set for October 6 which is a Friday. We would like to move that to October 7. There was a communication error and they started setting up the ring early, at 2:30. Some of the businesses were upset that they started early. Most of the businesses on Harrison Street are not open on Saturday. We would like to use the square from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ohmer questioned coordinating with Willow Leaves to see if they have an event due to parking. Matthew stated we were able to use the church parking lot also. Our events are a lot different because they are very successful. Diane questioned the time that spots were blocked off for Willow Leaves. Jason answered that was for Goodies, Goblins and Ghost Stories. Diane clarified there were two events that night too. Jason confirmed. Matt stated the events that we are doing are designed to bring more people into Hope and maybe people that have never been to Hope before. We are doing larger style events. Jerry suggested blocking off spots for Willow Leaves if needed for their business. Clyde brought up the fact that these events are probably increasing Willow Leaves' revenue. **Clyde made a motion to approve the park request change to the**

7th. **John seconded.** Jason recommended moving the wrestling ring to the south side of the square to prevent the rest of the businesses being disturbed. **Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

CHRISTMAS OF YESTERYEAR

Jessica Brown stated I am here to ask permission to use the square for Christmas of Yesteryear to be held on Friday, December 2nd. We will have carolers, historic character sketches on the bandstand and a live nativity in the shelter house. Ed asked about coordinating with the Christmas Market. Jessica confirmed. Jessica stated I'm excited to have them. I think it will bring a little extra to the event. **Clyde made a motion to approve the park request. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

DENTAL/VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL

Shepard Insurance-Andrew Hunt (called in) stated there are no changes to the policy this renewal. Paramount Dental (HRI) will still be the dental provider and EyeMed Vision will still be the vision provider. Rates are staying the same. Ohmer asked for a reason for not being able to come to the Council meeting in person. Andrew answered it is a busy time of year right now with the 4th quarter and eighty percent of most companies, municipalities, and School systems renewing around this timeframe, December and January. I apologize for not in attendance. Clyde asked David if he has had any complaints or issues from his employees. David stated no issues. John requested Andrew to attend the meeting in person next year. Andrew confirmed. **Clyde made a motion to approve the renewal. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

STREET SWEEPER SURPLUS

David Clouse stated our 1982 Pelican street sweeper swept its last street a little over a year ago. I would like for you to declare it surplus so we can drive it to Kroots instead of having to hire a wrecker to haul it. It needs a lot of repairs and it's not worth it. **Ed made a motion to declare it surplus. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Ohmer asked if there are any options for replacement. Jason answered I've been looking. I was hoping we could get an EV sweeper and apply for an EV grant, but I haven't seen any grants for electric street sweepers. Victoria stated USDA will provide 35% of the cost up to \$50,000. Jason will look into some pricing. Clyde asked about sweeping SR9 which is under contract. David stated we contracted with a company out of Indy to sweep after Heritage Days and used our bobcat to prepare for Heritage Days. There was discussion on the cost to contract versus purchasing a sweeper. The cost to contract with the rental company was \$210 per hour. They only charged one way for travel. Ed asked Jason to continue to check on purchasing a street sweeper.

CHRISTMAS PARTY/GIFT CARDS

Diane Burton stated I would like to request some funds be available for a Christmas party. We don't have all the details planned out yet, but our next meeting is not until December 20th. We will confirm the date, but we are possibly looking at December 13 for our party. We would like to have it catered like last year. I would like to request a maximum of \$500 be spent on a Christmas party for the employees. This will come out of the Town Promotion appropriation. **Clyde made a motion to approve \$500 to be spent on the Christmas party. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Diane stated last year you also gave me permission to use visa rewards to have gift cards at the Christmas party for door prizes. This will be no cost to the town and a nice way to give prizes. Right now, we have \$25,000 reward points. **Ed made a**

motion to approve the redemption of the rewards for the gift cards. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Chad Emmitt stated basically the verbiage in the contract stayed the same. We are asking for an additional \$2,500 in the contract amount. At the bottom of the spreadsheet, every year I try to break it down and even up the amounts as best I can for the Town and Township contract amounts. Chad included some year-end totals comparison from last and this year. Chad reviewed some of the expenses and areas of increase. One area of increase is on training. Chad stated several of the volunteers are trying to increase their level of certification to better themselves so we can better the department and better our service to the community. Ohmer asked how many runs were made this year. Chad answered as of today, I believe it is 360 runs. On average its around 400 per year. Ohmer asked how many were medical versus fire. Chad started I can probably get you those numbers. Typically, about 60/40 or 70/30 split. We do a lot more EMS calls than fire related. Ohmer asked for the number of medically trained people that they have on staff? Chad answered we have two new EMTs this year. We have two more in class right now. We do have some trained to a level of a paramedic. We have around ten EMTs. There is close to thirty members on the roaster. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the contract. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Ohmer requested reports to be given at the meeting. Chad stated I sent in a quarterly update. Council agreed to continue receiving the quarterly report.

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.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason stated you have a town of Hope map in your packet. That is what I have been working on for the last couple of weeks is doing the LTap inventory. That map with the different colored streets is the 2022 Pacer ratings broken down per street. I know not all of Hope is in that map, but the streets are legible that are there. If I try to break that map down anymore, the street names cannot appear on the map. That is most of Hope and those are the latest pacer ratings that are now in the LTap inventory. Clyde asked about the CCMG award. Tony stated the announcements have been moved to sometime in November.

Scott Moore, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, stated our church is planning our Christmas events and things. One of our events we hope to do is a caroling event on the 22nd of December at 6:00 p.m. We plan in the housing addition behind the church, Goshen Meadows and Liberty Place, to go through with a trailer and do a caroling event. We contacted the Police Department, and their concern was proper lighting on the trailer. Fred Murphy, a member, spoke to one of the Council members and the suggestion was to come and ask for permission at the Council meeting. Clyde asked how loud? Scott answered we will not be using microphones. It will just be the level of our voices. The Council approved the request.

Jerry wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and to be thankful for what we have. We are very blessed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Attest









