

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 October 18, 2022.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

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

2023 BUDGET ADOPTION ORDINANCE 2022-06

Diane Burton stated this is the last part of our budget process, the budget adoption. As Jerry said we do adopt our budget by ordinance. This is ordinance 2022-06. The amounts are the same as they were at the public hearing last month. The amounts are as follows: Rainy Day \$222,000, General Fund \$712,617 with an adopted tax levy of \$367,391, Local Roads and Streets \$65,000, Motor Vehicle Highway \$103,433, Cumulative Capital Improvements \$25,000, Cumulative Capital Development \$140,000 with an adopted tax levy of \$20,533, Economic Development Income Tax \$351,054, for a total of \$1,619,104. Our Home-Ruled Funds are Riverboat \$20,000, LIT Public Safety \$20,000, ARP Grant fund \$460,000 for a total of \$500,000. It was opened for questions from Council and public. There were no questions. **Clyde made a motion to pass ordinance 2022-06. Ed 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 public hearing at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:33 p.m. on October 18, 2022.

WASTEWATER/STORMWATER PROJECT

Victoria Bechert stated this public hearing is for the Town's wastewater application that will be going in this Friday. On and about October 21, 2022, the Town of Hope intends to apply to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant proposal from the State Community Block Grant Wastewater Drinking Water program. Final applications are due December 22 of this year. This program is funded by Title One of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: Upgrades to the wastewater grinder at the wastewater treatment plant and installing a new force main that routes directly from the Goshen Meadows lift station to the wastewater treatment plant facility. This will alleviate capacity issues at the Moravian Lift Station. In addition to these improvements, the force main that serves Millers Merry Manor is to be rerouted to discharge into the gravity sewer system in the Goshen Meadows lift station service area. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$565,800. The amount of CDBG proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low to moderate income persons is approximately \$335,287.42. The applicant also proposes to expend an estimated \$141,450 in non CDBG. These will be derived from the Town of Hope's ARP funds. The purpose of this public hearing is to provide the interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded project. It was opened up for questions or comments. There were not comments or questions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 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 5:36 p.m. on October 18, 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

Minutes 8/15/2022 & 8/16/2022

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:

NORMAN PARK/UTILITY BUILDING

Jason Eckart stated the utility building has been painted. We are still waiting on the roof. Matt showed the security cameras on the screen. Jason stated there is a new volleyball net. I do not plan to install the tetherball net since it is getting cold. I would like to personally thank David and his crew for all the work that they did back there. They painted the volleyball net pole and the tetherball pole. They redid the basketball goal. The park looks amazing. In the Spring I plan to get with the High School and see if we can have a cookout on our new BBQ there. Ohmer asked how much the park is being used. Matt answered there are a lot of kids that play at that park after school. Ohmer asked for the status of the merry go round. David answered it is supposed to arrive tomorrow. Jason stated thank you for allowing me to do that project.

DUKE ENERGY STREETLAMPS

Jason Eckart stated Duke Energy will be driving around and determine the total number of lights in town to be replaced. Last time they checked it was one hundred and one. They will be installing LED Cobra style lamps hopefully by the end of February. Clyde asked me to reach out to Duke Energy about Goshen Meadows. I enclosed an email in your packets that I received from Steve Lee, Products and Services Manager for Duke Energy in the Midwest. He is saying that it will be approximately \$255 per month if the poles are okay. They are not sure the LED lights will fit on the current poles. If they have to replace the thirty poles, we are looking at a cost of \$455 per month. He is not sure the current cost of the streetlights yet. I think the \$455 per month to put streetlights up in Goshen Meadows that will make it brighter and safer for the kids and anyone who lives there will be well worth it. We will have to wait to hear the number of poles that will need to be replaced. Diane asked if there is a grant option for Goshen Meadows as well. Jason answered no because they are considered decorative poles. That's what they will reinstall in Goshen Meadows is decorative poles.

T-MOBILE GRANT

Jason stated Tony Akles brought a T-Mobile Grant to my attention. It was added to your packet. T-Mobile is a cell phone company. They are offering grant availabilities for up to \$50,000 for any sort of

town project that helps the community. A list of the 2022 recipients was given to the Council for ideas. Jason reviewed some of the previous uses. T-Mobile wants to see the communities thrive and better the communities. Jason requested the Council review the document and discuss their ideas at next month's meeting. The Council agreed with pursuing the grant opportunity.

BRICK SIDEWALK ON WASHINGTON STREET

Jason stated the brick sidewalk will be replaced. I got a good quote from JB Concrete out of Elizabethtown. They will start replacing the brick portion of the sidewalks the first week of November. I was able to speak to the Indiana Department of Transportation about sidewalk developments along SR 9. Ohmer asked if the Indiana Department of Corrections will be used this month. Jason confirmed. Jason stated a crew of ten will be here tomorrow and Thursday to clean up the rest of the sidewalks so hopefully we can get all the grass removed from the sidewalks in town. In November I was going to reach out to David Close to see what we can have them do for a town project starting the month of November. Indiana Department of Corrections wants to bring a crew out at least once a month for one or two days.

OCRA AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Victoria Bechert stated this resolution is for the Owner-Occupied Rehab grant that is due next Friday to OCRA. The Town is applying for \$250,000, which is the maximum amount, to assist at least fifteen homes. This resolution allows the Town Council President to sign any grant related documents as well as commits the local match of \$27,778 from the Town's Edit funds. **Clyde made a motion to approve the resolution. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH STREET CLOSURE

Mike Ketron, Hope Moravian Church, stated again this year we are having our annual turkey supper. As we did last year, we are doing drive-through only. We hope to get back to the traditional inhouse sitting next year. The turkey supper is going to be on November 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We are requesting from the Council permission to close Locust Street from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Clyde made a motion to approve the street closure. John seconded. Motion carries 4/0. 1 abstention.** Jason shared that he read this turkey supper is the longest tradition in Hope's history.

PARK REQUEST - CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dan Fleming, Community Center, stated we would like to start a new tradition in Hope. The Community Center is always looking for new and good ideas for fund raising. My wife and I have a son who lives in Berlin. We visited him during Christmas a couple of years ago. He took us through countless Kringle/Christmas markets. I kept thinking, this could work in hope. We have a charming location with the square – lit with Christmas music going on. What we are asking for is use of the square over two weekends, December 2nd and 3rd & December 9th and 10th. We will be open on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and noon to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. We are requesting to close the square for six to seven 8 X 12 buildings that are converted yard barns that we have purchased for vendors. This will keep them covered from the elements. We will use electricity for the lights in the buildings. I have been in contact with several local artisans that are anything from jewelry makers to wood working and things that will make unique Christmas gifts. We would like to place our buildings on the street, so they are open to the

sidewalk. He requested use of the north, south and east side. We would probably only need to use the north and east side. We would be serving and selling food at the shelter house. We want this to be a heritage kind of event for Hope with hanging our hats on our German heritage. Ohmer asked if they are requesting for the buildings to set there the whole time or are they planning to move them between events. Dan answered we can if you need us to. Dan explained how the buildings are set up and built. Diane asked if they will be coordinating with Christmas of Yesteryear. Dan confirmed. We will either let the vendors work on consignment or they can come in and man the booth. Matt asked if one lane can be left open going around. Dan confirmed. Ohmer stated I applaud your desire to do a fundraiser for the community and I respect that you want to bring that to Hope. I do have a concern about leaving the buildings there for the whole week because we have other businesses that rely on that space. They need to be moved on Sunday and brought back on Friday after lunch. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the request as discussed (moving buildings) and but conditional on the 2nd of the willingness of Christmas of Yesteryear's to coordinate with them. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

PARK REQUEST – MAIN STREET OF HOPE

Matt Lee requested approval on Main Street event dates for 2023. Matt stated the reason I am coming in early is because Main Street of Hope is hoping to do a postcard that we will send out so the people here in Hope will know what is going on for the year. Matt went through the events which are as follows:

Groundhog Day – Thursday, February 2nd 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (no closure)

Cruise-in to Hope – Friday, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th and September 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (three sides of the square closed)

Battle of Bands – Friday, July 15th 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (half of Harrison Street closed)

Jeep Cruise/Ride – Saturday, August 26th 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Jackson and Harrison closed)

Wrestling Mayhem – Friday, October 6th 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Three sides closed)

Thunder on the Square was approved last month for June 10th.

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

METER INSTALLATION AGREEMENT

Diane Burton stated we have two Meter Installation Agreements between the Town of Hope and Guernsey Construction. One is for 189 Schaefer Drive with a water tap in the amount of \$1,000 and a sewer tap in the amount of \$750. The other one is for 191 Schaefer Drive with a water tap in the amount of \$1,000 and a sewer tap in the amount of \$750. **Ed made a motion to approve the Meter Installation Agreement. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

2022 BUDGET REDUCTION RESOLUTION 2022-01

Diane Burton stated this is something we have to do every year, Resolution 2022-01. We are doing some reductions on this year's budget because we have budgeted to use the funds next year. The resolution reads: Be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following 2022 budget reductions be made: From 436001301 Rainy Day – Projects \$160,000, from 436001401 Rainy Day – Police Vehicle \$19,550, and from 431001421 CCD – Building Town Hall \$70,889. Clyde clarified that this means we will not be able to use the funds this year. Diane confirmed and explained the process. Diane clarified that if

we end up needing to use the funds this year, we will just have to make that adjustment and then will not be able to use the funds next year. **Ed made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

2023 SALARY ORDINANCE

Diane Burton stated as I have done in the past, I drafted an example of what a 2% increase will look like and what a 3% increase will look like. I can do any amount you have in mind. The only change in the ordinance other than the percentage is the HSA has been changed from \$1,425 to \$1,925 which you approved last month by motion. We can also include a Christmas Gratitude Bonus like you have in the last two years. Clyde stated I'm not sure 3% is enough with the inflation rate we have right now. The main thing I keep thing about is we raise the minimum and the maximum. If it ever comes to a point in time that the inflation turns into a recession, we could possibly get to the point that your minimum is so high that you are not going to be able to afford to hire anybody. I'm going to suggest for one year we freeze all the minimums for the purpose of negotiation. I would like to see a 4% increase in the maximum. I would also like to see the bonuses. Diane stated there is time if you want to think about this. We just need to have it passed by December. Diane will draft the scenario that Clyde suggested to be presented as a potential first reading at the November meeting. Clyde added we give our employees a very good package in addition to salary and those expenses are going up also. We are a very, very lucky to have the quality employees that we have, and we need to take care of them.

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.

Ed Johnson stated concern for new posters that have been put on the poles all over around town. Clyde added we passed an ordinance that signs had to be down within forty-eight hours. Anybody that we can find that has an address on the sign, they need to be made to take the signs down.

Matt Galbraith stated I have been contacted by a company who does short term rentals like Airbnbs. Are there any restrictions in the town on Airbnbs? Do we collect an Innkeeper's tax? This is such a new thing that our ordinances really don't cover. I want to bring that to your attention.

Ed asked about the Billy Davis property. Matt stated we are going to court on 31st. Ed asked for an update on the Wentworth property. Scott answered we went to court. We received a judgement for \$24,725 against them. Ed also stated the house on the corner of Seminary and Market needs to be cleaned up as well. It's at a standstill.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Attest

Andy Bazz
William E. Johnson
Clyde Conner
Clyde Mill