

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 July 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 6/21/2022

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

Jason Eckart stated I just want to give you a quick update on Norman Park. Sand was put down in the volleyball court. We are currently waiting on pricing for a volleyball net. Payment has been sent to Duke Energy for a new pole and new electrical routing. Once the check is received, they will schedule the work which will be done in less than two weeks. I think we are on track for the grand opening at the end of August. Jim Powell, JP Electric, did get the meter and the security camera box installed. Josh Kroot, Kroot Corporation, donated a tetherball pole. John Walstad is donating a tetherball and a cord. The new sidewalk looks great. Jerry complimented Jason and stated the park looks good and is coming along. Ed suggested putting a border fence on the south side. Jason agreed. Jason stated I am going to get in touch with Shawn Price from the school to see if he can get some kids over there to help me paint some free throw markers on the new basketball court. I think it would be really cool to put a Hauser Jet logo in the middle of the free throw circle.

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT/GLOBE UPDATE

Steve Robertson stated we have two projects. The first one, Globe Asphalt has completed the 2021-02 project which was Grand Street, High Street and Locust Street. Jason and David compiled a punch list. Those items have been complete. I have the original pay application. It was sent to you to review. It came in under the quoted amount. Unfortunately, you will have to return some money to INDOT, but you won't have to spend any additional out of pocket. The final amount is \$93,260.66. **Clyde made a motion to approve the pay application. John seconded.** Ohmer stated I only looked at Grand Street, but they exceeded my expectations. Ohmer expanded on their work. Ohmer stated I think they went above and beyond. **Motion carries 5/0.** Steve stated I think they are a good contractor to keep in mind for future projects.

Steve stated for the next project the application window is open for 2022-02 Community Crossings Grant. I know different areas were talked about. You were given information for our estimates with and without sidewalks. It's time to move forward. There will be some paperwork that Jason and Diane will need to complete. You will need to make a decision on which streets to go after, so we have time to get all that paperwork completed. Jason stated my recommendation is that we do all of Union Street and all of Hauser Drive. I think we should wait until round one of the CCMG to do West Street. In error Jackson Street is not listed on INDOT's program. I would hate for us to spend the money doing West Street then have to chop up part of West Street while we are doing Jackson Street with the next round. Steve reminded the Council that West Drive is just the portion from Jackson to Washington. Jason is correct that when you are doing two streets that T together like that, it's much better to do them together. Steve explained why. Steve stated Tony and I talked about that. That's just our engineering opinion. There was discussion on the portion of West Drive that is an alley. Steve stated we have a new INDOT contact. We are kind of feeling our way on response time. We want the opportunity if we need to make corrections. Jerry stated I'm fine with Jason's recommendation. Ed agreed. Clyde disagreed. **Clyde made a motion to apply for Union Street, Hauser Drive and West Drive excluding any sidewalks. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

WENTWORTH PROPERTY

Jason Eckart gave an update on the Wentworth property informing the Council that some effort has been made in getting it cleaned up. Jason recommended giving them a chance and following up before the August Town Council meeting. The Council can then see if they feel the Town needs to get involved in cleaning up the property. Clyde asked if the vehicles have been tagged. Matt Tallent confirmed. Matt stated since it is a Court order against them, they only have seven days before they are toed.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Jason Eckart stated I spent some time amending the nuisance ordinance mainly because I felt there was a need for Matt Galbraith to have more punch behind this ordinance. It has clear definitions of fines and a way to procure the fines. Jason requested the Council pass a first reading tonight. Clyde stated I think it is written very well. Clyde questioned that it doesn't state an amount of the fine. Clyde also questioned the wording of the and/or throughout the ordinance and feels it makes it unclear of who's responsible. Clyde stated in my opinion it's both of them. Jason stated I feel like that is what I have written in here. It does say there will be fines to the landlord and/or the tenant. Clyde stated he feels it should only state "and". Ohmer agreed and feels the "/or" makes it selective or gray. There was more discussion on rentals. Jason added our town attorney, Scott Andrews, did read and approve this ordinance. He rewrote it to look like our town ordinance format. Jason reviewed the fine stated in the ordinance. The fine occurs when the town has to step in and clean up the property and increases with repeat occurrences. Clyde stated we cannot ask our utility department to go in and clean up these places over and over again. We will need to hire a company to do it. Jason stated the intention is to hire an outside company to clean them up. I will be happy to rewrite the ordinance. **Clyde made a motion to approve a first reading of the ordinance with the corrections stated. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

TOWN SQUARE EVENTS

Matt Lee, Main Street, stated I was going to step down in June, but I have decided to stay with Main Street until January 1st. The events are starting to take shape. I may stay even longer than that. I am excited about some events that could happen in 2023. All of the events this year that Main Street has been a part of, to me, have been a success. Matt gave an update on the Thunder on the Square. I will be back at the meeting in August, and I will be bringing Abate with me. We have an opportunity with Thunder on the Square that may be very large. Matt explained the collaboration event scheduled for August 20th has been cancelled and he would like to change it to a Jeep Cruise-in event. Matt requested approval to still use the square. Matt stated we will have a hand full of vendors. We will need the north, south and east sides of the square closed. The event will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We ask that the square be closed at 11:00. There will be a band. Possibly Oddz R. Insurance is covered under Heritage of Hope. There will be a can and food drive. We will be taking donations in exchange for a rubber duck which is a big thing for jeeps. The hope is that this will become an annual event to bring people to Hope Indiana. David voiced concern about closing the north side on a Saturday. It was decided to leave the north side open. Clyde suggested the town lot or the Baptist church parking lot for overflow. Matt Galbraith volunteered to ask permission from the board to use Baptist Church parking lot if needed. **Clyde made motion to approve use of the park for the event. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Matt Lee requested use of the park for a wrestling event on Friday, October 21st. This will be ran by Immerge wrestling. The first bell time will be at 6:30. The East side of square will need to be closed at 4:00 for the ring set up and some vendors. Matt explained the setup of the event. It will be a free event and will be open to the public. Local businesses will be notified. Immerge Wrestling has insurance. Donnie Idle shared some information about Immerge Wrestling. They have had events in Columbus. They are wanting to bring it to Hope. They have done events for Red Cross and DARE as well as monthly events. Donnie stated we usually have around 300 fans. We are family friendly. Ed asked about security. Donnie answered we have about four or five security workers which will be located on each corner of the ring. Ed asked if the ring requires posts to be driven in the ground. Donnie answered no. Donnie explained how the ring is set up. Clyde stated I think it's exciting and something new. Diane stated I did contact our insurance company. They recommended a waiver. They provided an example to have reviewed by our attorney. **Ed made a motion to approve the use of the park for the event. John seconded.** Jason asked about rain location. Matt stated we are talking to the fire department for that. Matt suggested HSB for bleachers. **Motion carries 5/0.**

ONLINE UTILITY SERVICE/INVOICE CLOUD

Gretchen Schmidt, Account Executive for Invoice Cloud, stated thank you for inviting me to your Council meeting this evening. It's an honor to be here. Invoice Cloud has over 116 integrations with Boyce Utility software in the beautiful state of Indiana. If you love everything that you hear today, we can get you up and running live in cloud form in about three months. We are more than a payment platform. We are an engagement platform as well as a communication platform. Gretchen explained the background of Invoice Cloud. Gretchen stated we make it really easy; we make it really fast and secure for your payees to pay you electronically through any channel that your payor prefers. Gretchen explained the payment process and options. The payees can enroll in paperless invoicing which reduces personnel costs. Auto pay and pay by text are a couple of options available. The software is branded with our logo. Gretchen explained the cost. There is no charge for implementation. Our agreement is a three-year agreement

with a ninety-day notice of cancellation. The monthly access fee is, year one \$375, year two \$275 and year three \$125. The help desk and marketing are no charge. OBD is an optional service. The paperless billing fee is waived indefinitely. The utility convenience fee for MC/Visa is 4% fee with \$2.95 minimum. E-Check is a flat fee is \$2.95. Pay by phone fee is \$1.50. Diane stated Debbie and I went to New Whiteland. They have used Invoice Cloud for five years. They love it and ensure Debbie that she is going to love it. This is the software that is compatible with our software which will make it easy for Debbie to use. I feel this is the best software for us to go with for Debbie and for our residents as well. David asked if trash service will be paying a portion of the monthly fees. Diane stated I can look and see what trash can afford. I feel it can be justified though. **Clyde made a motion to approve moving forward with implementing Invoice Cloud. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

STORMWATER/SIDEWALK PROJECT

Jason Eckart stated there needs to be a key travel way for the children to connect Hauser High School and Hope Elementary School to the town. After a lot of research and studying, I think the best, safest route for children to get from Hope Elementary and Hauser High School back into town is to go right in front of David's shop on Maple Street, all the way to South Street, across South Street, over to Floline, then between Floline and Joes Auto Repair to the school property. It puts the sidewalk right in middle of Town, so it is a very assessable sidewalk for both the Community Center and Hauser High School. There are a lot of other things that have to go along with that sidewalk project. Stormwater drainage needs to be redone along Maple Street before we can even attempt to put a sidewalk in there. There are a lot of utilities that need to be moved. It's a major process but it's the main heart between the school and the Community of Hope that we need to make happen. I am getting some pricing from Strand. I will update you in the near future on the cost of the project. Ed asked Jason if he has had a conversation with Shawn Price. Jason confirmed. Jason stated he agrees that this would be a terrific location for the sidewalk. Ed stated I feel it should be the school's responsibility to finish it up at their property line. There will need to be lighting along there to. Jason stated this is just preliminary. I have not had that discussion with him yet. Ed agreed that it is a good location.

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.

Matt Galbraith stated the Plan Commission met. We talked to the petitioner, Josh Warriner. He lives at 606 Jackson Street. He owns lots 67 & 68 the Moravian Church First Addition in Town of Hope. He is wanting to remove an interior lot line and create one lot and it is going to be known as lot 68A. The Plan Commission came up with a unanimously vote to submit this to the Council with a positive vote. We are asking the Council take this under consider and approve this proposed administrative subdivision. The intent is to build a garage on the property. **Clyde made a motion to approve the request. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Diane Bush
Attest
Quyle Compst
For Bush
William E Johnson
Quyle
Quyle