

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 November 17, 2020.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), Clyde Compton (Vice-President), Nellie Meek (Remote) and Ed Johnson. Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton was also present. Ohmer Miller was absent.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 10/14

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

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT 2019-2020 PAY APPLICATION

Tony Akles stated the first thing on the list is for the 2019-2020 Community Crossings Matching Grant. This will be closing out this season's paving project. I have the final pay application from O'Mara. It is for the retainage in the amount of \$11,352.00. I do recommend approval of the final pay application. **Ed made a motion to pay the retainage. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 3/1.**

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT 2020-2021 APPLICATION

Tony Akles stated we submitted all of the information to INDOT. They did come back and said everything looks complete. Awards will be given sometime in December.

PASER (ASPHALT) ASSESSMENT AND 5-YEAR PLAN

Tony Akles stated the PASER assessment, which is now an annual assessment that has to be done, has been turned in to LTAP. I gave the list to David to review. David is fine with it. The list is for the next five years of the roads we are looking at, showing the shape they are in to qualify for the Community Crossing Matching Grant. It has to be submitted by December 1st. We will submit it tomorrow. 775 East needs to get switched to the Town's inventory. I have the paperwork which I will give to Diane. There is some other documentation like meeting minutes that have to go with it. Our thought is it will just go in as 775 East. I know you guys are thinking about changing the name of the road. That doesn't have to occur right now. It does have to be changed in the inventory by the end of this year.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT/CHANGE ORDER

Tony Akles presented change order #2 for the project. The change order is a deduct in the amount of \$27,620.00. The deduct is for the light pole base that they didn't have to do around the outside of the

square. Included as additions in the change order is a curb extension, sign brackets and sidewalk replacement. Tony stated the Poole Group has already signed off on it. I do want to extend their final completion as stated in the change order to November 27th due of the sign brackets. **Ed made a motion to approve the change order presented. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.** Tony presented Poole Group's pay application #2 for approval in the amount of \$207,088.60. **Clyde made a motion to approve pay application #2. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

MAIN STREET UPDATES/DR SWEET DONATION UPDATE

Tabled.

FENCE AMENDMENT (ORDINANCE 2020-07)

Tabled.

2021 SALARY ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE 2020-06)

Diane Burton stated this is Ordinance 2020-06. You had the first reading last month for 2% with the change of the Utility Clerk's range to be the same as the Dispatch Supervisor and the Deputy Clerk Treasurer. The ordinance has been amended to show that change. **Ed made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-06. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Tom Barrett stated you should have a copy of the proposed new budget for the Fire Department as well as the new contract. We're asking for a small increase in the budget. We're in the process of trying to replace outdated gear as well as the apparatus that we just purchased. We have not been able to do the fund raisers that we normally have to be able to get the money that we need to keep the fire department running. We are asking for \$86,000. This is an increase of a little over 2%. **Clyde made a motion to approve the Fire Department Contract. Ed seconded.** Clyde stated withing the last two years, there has been a dramatic increase of the workability between the Town and the Fire Department. I truly appreciate that. I've noticed a lot of the things you have done to help improve the safety of the people in this town. You guys have come leaps and bounds in the last few years. I want to compliment you on it. Jerry confirmed. Tom stated thank you. We appreciate that. We hope to continue and do nothing but better things. **Motion carries 4/0.**

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (RESOLUTION 2020-07)

Diane Burton stated this resolution is just to move funds for some equipment needed for the Ford Interceptor. The purchase of the equipment, requested by Matt, has already been approved. Resolution 2020-07 reads as follows: Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made: From 101002221 General Gasoline Police \$1,000 to 101002361 General Police Maintenance \$1,000. Diane stated that is for lights and a radio for the vehicle. **Ed made a motion to approved Resolution 2020-07. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Diane Burton stated since I put this on the agenda, things have changed. I have had discussions with members of the fire department as well as the police department and the obvious is really it's better to

just cancel the employee Christmas party this year. In conversation with Clyde, he wanted to discuss the Christmas party as well. Clyde stated we have quite a few visa rewards points that have accumulated. I requested Diane to check with the State Board of Accounts to see what we can do. This has been an awful dismal year. I hate to go out of the year that way. Originally, I was going to suggest that we give every town employee, including this Council a \$50 gift card, utilizing visa rewards first. All the State requires is an amendment to our salary ordinance stating this will be given. In conversation later this afternoon with Ohmer, he suggested a \$100 gift card per employee. Diane added visa does not offer a visa or Mastercard gift card but what they can do is transfer the cash toward the visa card and that can be used to purchase the visa cards. At the \$50, that will cover about half of the cards. The other half can come from the Town Promotions appropriation. This can be done by using the appropriation that is already in place and making this amendment to the salary ordinance if that is what the Council decides. If the Council decides on the \$100 gift card, I will need to transfer funds from the Professional Conferences appropriation. This can be done without a resolution since they are in the same category. There was Council discussion. Ed asked how many employees will receive the gift card. Diane answered about twenty. Diane stated if the Council wants to approve the gift card, the 2020 Salary Ordinance will need to be amended. The ordinance amendment is 2020-08. I will need a motion for approval. **Nellie made a motion to approve a first reading for the salary ordinance amendment with a gift card for \$100. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

TOWN PARK RULES AMENDMENT – METAL DETECTING

Clyde Compton stated we have an individual who called in and is asking when they can come here with a metal detector and go through the square and dig holes which is absolutely insane after we have spent all that money getting it landscaped. There is a sign that states not metal detecting in the park, but it is not in the ordinance. We need to amend the ordinance to include no metal detectors allowed in the parks. **Ed made a motion to approve the ordinance with the amendments presented. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

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.

NEW METERS

David Clouse requested approval on a quote for the final pallet of water meters. This will be the eighth year of this project which will finish up the whole town to have radio reading meters. Its paid half water and half sewer. **Ed made a motion to approve the purchase of the meters. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

Clyde asked David for clarification on his report that states thirty-seven customers were shut off for non-payment over a two-day period last month. To date twenty-nine of the eighty-three have paid in full. Five are still off with the balance making the agreed payments. Clyde clarified we shut thirty-seven customers off. David confirmed. David also confirmed that twenty-nine who were given the option of a payment plan chose to pay in full. David stated five evidently moved out of town. Diane added I did receive an update from Debbie on that this afternoon which is really close. She said actually thirty have paid it off now. Seven are gone with no notice. Two are turned off due to no response. The rest are in

payment plans. There are a few of them that she did an extension for longer than six months because of their situation.

Ed asked David if the Hope Community Church had been connected to the new line. David confirmed. David explained the situation.

Matt Tallent asked if the Council is going to continue to keep the park closed down. Jerry confirmed. David asked with COVID spiking do you want to keep the playground open. Clyde stated I heard on the news that one out of nine getting COVID right now are children. It was consensus of the Council to shut the playground down for the rest of the year and as long as they feel is appropriate. Ed asked Matt to have this communicated on HSJ Online and the Republic.

Nellie stated I just want to thank Ed. I know he went out about every day and helped to keep a check on the park project. Ed stated David's crew has went over and above what is expected on the park, spending hours blowing leaves. Jerry added you definitely take pride in your work and it shows. Ed asked David about the slide at Norman Park. David stated it has been received. The swing has been put back up but there is no mulch available so there's not a big rush. It will spring before we can complete it.

Meeting adjourned at 6.12 p.m.

Attest
