

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD JUNE 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President, Penny Anderson at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge was led by Council member, Walter Abbott.

Present were; Council President, Penny Anderson., Council member, Walter Abbott, Council member, Courtney Allen, Council member, Terry Poindexter, and Council member, Vern Snyder.

Also, present were; Town Attorney, Lee Robbins, Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, Becky Rose and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh.

Resident, John Gatton spoke to the Council about various issues he felt were being neglected in the Town and needed addressed by the Council. John Gatton's main concern was the street in front of his home, Hoosier Street that needed cold patched due to various water break repairs and left over debris that needs to be swept and cleaned up from Hoosier Street. John called Jesse Jones with the DPW because Jeff Downey was off work at that time and Jesse swept the street but the debris went into another neighbor's yard. Another person, Dylan Miller was sent down to sweep up the street. Then 3 or 4 weeks later the DPW showed up and patched the hole. The patch job blew out creating a deeper hole. John Gatton said there were excavator tracks in his yard, along with mud, pieces of pipe and chunks of pavement. Council member, Vern Snyder explained the DPW is under a major transition as Jeff Downey has resigned. John said he figured the DPW workers did what they were told to do. Council member, Vern Snyder explained the Council thought they were doing what they were supposed to be doing but found out this was not the case. Right now the Council is working to set some structure in that department. Council member, Courtney Allen said the Council would welcome comments from residents about concerns they have and items they feel should be addressed. Mr. Gatton spoke about his position as Director of Operations at the city of Franklin and the various requirements involved in his position. He spoke about safety of the Town streets, tall grass, and debris in yards and on Town streets. He mentioned also, street signs were crooked and the stop signs needed replaced with up to date reflective signs. The streets are dusty with gravel in the streets. Attorney, Lee Robbins said that Mr. Gatton has made the Council even more aware how bad things have gotten in the last 4 or 5 years and those things need to change.

John Gatton wanted to discuss Code Enforcement with the Council. He didn't think that neighbors should be forced to turn in other neighbors because when neighbors are fighting it just causes other issues. In Franklin the resident is sent a letter and if the infraction happens

again then Franklin takes care of the issue. They do not get a second letter. Franklin charges \$200.00 for the department workers to mow the grass. Council President, Penny Anderson said she is talking to Bob Downey to help with Code Enforcement.

John Gatton asked what could be done about dead trees on other peoples' properties that could fall onto someone else's property. There is no liability until the tree falls.

Public comment

Jeremey Farris comment was to stay away from the buddy system do not hire friends.

Randy Hodge would like the Town to get the alley fixed behind his garage as it has holes in the alley. It may not be a Town maintained alley. The Town Attorney said he needed to review the Town Plat before moving forward.

Steve Schoolcraft said he made some big statement about suing the town but it sounds like the Town is making big steps to move forward.

Council member, Vern Snyder made a motion to renew the Commercial Package with Trident, along with the Disability for the Police and the Worker's Compensation. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Council member, Vern Snyder to pay all outstanding invoices to Wyatt Rose for mowing neglected properties in Town and the Council instructed the Clerk Treasurer to pay the invoices as submitted. The invoices for Wyatt would be listed on the Claims Docket for the following month. The motion was seconded by Council President, Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

The Clerk Treasurer asked Council member, Courtney Allen to send her a copy of the correct and up to date revised Park Agreement. This year the incorrect Park Agreement was signed in error. The season is nearly over now but the Clerk would like to be better prepared for next year's season.

There was discussion about hiring Bobby Downey to be the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town to help out the Town Marshal. Bobby is on vacation and when he gets back he will get with Ryan Swank, to see how much time he believes it will take each week. Bobby Downey is the full time Compliance Officer for New Whiteland. There was continued discussion on this issue. Town Marshal, Ryan Swank explained his procedures in addressing non-compliance issue. The Marshal has to work on these issues a few at a time because of his other responsibilities. Ryan does go to the resident and talk to them about the non-compliance issue. He has also asked John Bise and Jeff Connors to talk to residents that are home in the evenings when they are on duty. Ryan spoke about the Auction Building at 338 State Road 135 which

Tim Guyer; the Town's Unsafe Building Enforcer needs to take a look at this property. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins said he will talk with Tim Guyer about inspecting the building.

Council member, Vern Snyder explained he believes in paying a person where they need to be. Vern felt Town Marshal, Ryan Swank and Utility Clerk, Becky Rose needed an increase in their hourly wage. He proposed giving Ryan a \$5.00 an hour increase because of the job he is doing. The other officer's increases need to be discussed with Ryan during the 2022 Budget preparation. Lee Robbins explained when the Town gives a raise in the middle of the budget year the Town has to have the money in the budget for the increase, or the money must be appropriated and available to spend. Council member, Courtney Allen felt the Town should stay around a \$2.00 increase and then revisit when working on the 2022 Budget. Lee Robbins felt the Town could give a bonus at the end of the year to reward employees. There was continued discussion about raises. Council member, Vern Snyder made a motion to increase the Town Marshal position and the Utility Clerk by 10% beginning the next pay period. Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed. Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to pay Becky Rose for 6 days of vacation time for 6 hours a day beginning pay period June 13th. Council member, Vern Snyder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

With the house now down at the Grant Street property some Council members voiced disapproval of a large area which has turned into a gravel parking lot. Council member, Courtney Allen wanted to know why the entire area is graveled. She has been asked by people if the Town is making a parking lot with the removal of the house and she has told people the Town is not making a big parking lot and that is exactly what has happened. Courtney wanted the company to stop work on the parking lot. There is hardly any grassy area left.

Concerning the removal of two trees, Brown's Tree Removal estimate was \$6,500.00 with the requirement that the fence be removed around one of the trees at the Ball Park. Tri-County Tree Service will take down the dead Ash at the Ball Park and take down the Maple on Mulberry Street for \$3,200.00 and remove all debris. Council member, Courtney, Allen made a motion to accept Tri-County Tree Service proposal for \$3,200.00. Council member, Vern Snyder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Application for Payment number one, for Lykins Contracting, LLC for the construction of the Waste Water Collection System and Lagoon Improvement project was submitted to the Council for approval. The total value of work completed and stored materials for Partial Payment number one is \$205,785.00. The total partial payment due and payable is \$195,495.75. The amount of \$10,289.25 will be held in retainage. Council President, Penny Anderson made a

motion to approve Lykins invoice for \$195,495.75. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 10, 2021. Council President, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve Claims date June 14, 2021. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Council members reviewed the binder containing the bank statements for April 2021 and signed the balances sheet for April 2021.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the May 2021 payroll. Council President, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

The current financial reports were given to the Council for review. The Clerk Treasurer explained at mid-point of this year's budget cycle most appropriated balances were at 50% or higher.

Council members need to be thinking about what they would like to see added to the Budget for 2022 as far as large expenditures.

Council member, Courtney Allen wanted to know if Bowyer Construction could be contacted to asked them to stop working on the parking lot at the Park. Council member, Vern Snyder will contact DPW, Jessie Jones. The invoice stated the parking lot size would be 75x 160 and was signed by President, Penny Anderson. Council members, Courtney Allen and Vern Snyder will meet at the site and review the area. The Council said this was not about the Ball Park and it looks like the DPW went ahead and did what they wanted instead of what the Council wanted for the area.

Lee Robbins said this meeting has shown a pretty bright light on the inadequacy of the Public Works Department for some time.

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank reported the Town has a 2015 Explorer the department is not doing much with and Brooklyn maybe interested in buying the vehicle. The vehicle has around 100,000.00 miles on it and the vehicle has been wrecked 3 different times. The value of the vehicle might be around \$5,000.00. There is a police radio that would be removed and not sold with the vehicle.

Officer Jeff Conners is going to go on Medicare in July 2021. He will be dropping off of the Town's insurance which will be a huge savings to the Town. Marshal Swank asked the Council if they would be willing to pay Jeff Conners Medicare at 100 percent. The total would be \$445.50 each quarter. Jeff Conners plans on retiring in January 1 of 2023 and he has given the Town 25 years of service. Council member, Vern Snyder made a motion to pay Jeff Conners Medicare at \$445.50 each quarter. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Council member; Courtney Allen to approve the amended Salary Ordinance to include Seasonal Workers. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve and suspend the rules on second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Council member, Vern Snyder. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Council member, Vern Snyder made a motion to amend and adopt Resolution 2021-3 which would increase the cell phone stipend from \$35.00 each month to \$45.00. The amendment would also include paying the Council President and Utility Clerk the cell phone stipend. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

There was discussion about the property that Jeff Downey wanted the Town to purchase next to the water tower. Lee Robbins explained that property was a small section of a large parcel that ran to 135. President, Penny Anderson said Jeff wanted to build a pole barn there with an office and storage for equipment. There is already enough ground there to build a pole barn.

There was discussion about the cell phone stipend and what Jeff Downey should receive since he has resigned his position with the Town. Lee Robbins said he should receive a prorated amount at the lesser rate.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by the President.

Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021 signed July 12, 2021

ATTEST:

Sharon McIntosh

CLERK TREASURER, SHARON MCINTOSH

7/12/21

Dated

Penny Anderson

Town Council President, Penny Anderson

Walter Abbott

Council Member, Walter Abbott

Courtney Allen

Council Member, Courtney Allen

Vern Snyder

Council Member, Vern Snyder

Terry Poindexter

Council Member, Terry Poindexter