

FEBRUARY 16, 2016

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 8:00 a.m.

A moment of silence was held for Councilman Don Gibbs.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Blaylock.

Present were: BLAYLOCK, FLANDERS, WADE, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Jeff Ahlers.

The following visitors were present: Dan Barton, Steven Bugg, Rick Mills, Steve Potts, Brett Slayden, Pat Gosh, Eric Parsley, Mike Duckworth, Don & Virginia Alsop, Lois Gray, Don Hatfield, Brenda Drone, Stephanie Cole, Gary Gerard, Lora Arneberg, Tom Stahl, Ryan Rapp, Connie Weinzapfel, Loretta Gerard, John DiDomizio, and Bobby Grider.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular and special meetings be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson reported Marshal McDaniel is in week three of the police academy and is doing well.

Gas/street superintendent Bobby Grider stated Vectren has completed an energy assessment on four Town properties. It is basically for lighting, and the four properties were Town Hall, sewer plant, old Fire Station, and the water shed. A portion of the installation costs is covered by Vectren, and the remainder would be recovered over time as savings on the monthly electric bill. Supt. Grider provided copies of the assessment to Council members.

Councilman Flanders reported he is aware of some maintenance issues at Maple Hill Cemetery, which will need to be prioritized once the weather breaks.

Councilman Flanders stated he had attended the February 9 Park Board meeting. He discussed some issues that were mentioned at their meeting.

Councilman Wade reported a portion of the trail has been closed due to driftwood and also at the request of a land owner who asked that carts be kept off his property.

President Blaylock announced the deficiencies at the water plant that were written up by IDEM have nearly been corrected.

President Blaylock reported WMI had recently toured the former school property, and another tour is scheduled for February 22. The feasibility study is ongoing.

President Blaylock reported a pile of concrete on South St. has been removed following his conversation with the land owner.

Stephanie Cole, with Dream Makers on Main St., requested permission to operate a hot dog stand in front of her business, as weather permits, during spring and fall, approximately two to three days a week. She presented photos of a vintage cart they are considering purchasing. Upon question from President Blaylock, Ms. Cole stated she plans to stay as close to the building as possible and to not block the entire sidewalk. She will be using electric from inside the building. President Blaylock informed Ms. Cole to make sure the electrical is up to code. Ms. Cole was asked to obtain the required permits from the health dept. etc, and provide documentation that the electrical is in compliance and submit the paper work to Council.

Rick Mills, with Mills-Wallace and Associates, spoke to Council regarding Heritage Federal Credit Union's plans for the building at 502 Main St. They plan to install an ATM on the north side of the building. They also plan to fill in some rooms on the north side of the building in the basement that extend under the sidewalk. These rooms are leaking water into the basement. In order to fill in the rooms, they will need to remove a portion of the sidewalk. They also plan to relocate the downspout from the roof gutter and extend it under the sidewalk to the curb. The sidewalk will be replaced exactly as it was prior to the work. They also plan extensive remodeling to the lobby of the building.

Eric Parsley, with Commonwealth Engineers, reported on the bid opening that occurred on February 3. Mr. Parsley recommended that the bid be awarded to the low, responsive, responsible bidder, which was PPMI Construction, with a bid of \$345,700. He does not feel any items can be stricken from the project to reduce the cost while still keeping the Town in compliance with their NPDES permit. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the low responsive and responsible bid of PPMI Construction be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Parsley stated he will

issue the notice of award to PPMI so they can begin compiling the necessary documents and prepare the contract. A pre-construction conference will be held around the second week of March. Construction is scheduled to begin by April to keep the Town in compliance with its NPDES permit.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the software maintenance agreement with Keystone be renewed at a cost of \$6,015. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders presented a proposed contract with Four Seasons Landscaping, for mowing at Maple Hill Cemetery for 2016-2017. He also suggested, after consulting with Attorney Ahlers, that four changes be made to the contract. Councilman Flanders reviewed the proposed changes to the contract, and stated he has discussed them with the owner of Four Seasons, and he has agreed to the changes. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion that the amendments to the contract be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the mowing contract as amended be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the Town Council form a committee to look into the White County Bridge to see what can be done to restore traffic to the Bridge, and that Don Hatfield, Gary Gerard, and Kenny Weinzapfel serve on the committee. Councilman Flanders asked if meetings of the committee would be subject to the open door law. Attorney Ahlers stated if the committee would be taking final action, the meetings would be subject to the open door law, but not if they are simply investigating and making recommendations to the Town Council. Councilman Flanders stated he feels there may be others in Town who would like to be involved. Councilman Watson commented the point of a three member committee is to try to get something done, and that a problem with the previous committee is that there were so many members that nothing was accomplished. All were in favor. Motion carried. No time table was set as to when the committee would make a report to the Town Council.

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the list of checks outstanding, as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer, be approved and that the checks be removed from the list of checks outstanding and be receipted back to the fund upon which they were originally drawn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock announced that John Jeffery was appointed by the Plan Commission to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Pat Gosh inquired who is patrolling the streets, alleys, and businesses on Main St. while the Town Marshal is at the academy. President Blaylock reported there have been officers patrolling at different times, as well as the Indiana State Police and the Posey Co. Sheriff's Dept. He stated the Town does not have someone on duty at all times, and that is a choice Council has made. There has not been a lot of crime in the past few months since Scott Champlin retired.

Connie Weinzapfel, with Historic New Harmony, stated she has shared some information with Council on becoming a broadband ready community. She urged Council to consider doing this as it is a fairly simple process. She offered her assistance. Councilman Flanders commented he would like the Plan Commission to become involved in this effort.

Lora Arneberg spoke on the Regional Cities Program. The purpose of the program is for brick and mortar projects and not maintenance. Four projects were approved for New Harmony, including the White County Bridge. However, the funds can be reallocated based on need and/or interest of the community. She reviewed the possible route the money would flow, assuming the funding is approved by the legislature. Ms. Arneberg stated some matching funds have been unofficially promised, but at this time it is impossible to know how much match will be needed, as the matching funds will be required on a regional basis. Ms. Arneberg mentioned setting up a community meeting to determine which projects have the most support. President Blaylock commented that in the Regional Cities documentation, it refers to the Town of New Harmony and he asked if that meant the Council. Ms. Arneberg replied she wasn't sure where the wording came from, but there is no obligation on the Town.

President Blaylock read Ordinance 2016-3 in title only. This ordinance establishes the regularly scheduled meetings of the Town Council to be on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that Ordinance 2016-3 be adopted. All were in favor except Councilman Flanders. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion that the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest: Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer