

MARCH 15, 2016

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Blaylock.

President Blaylock introduced the new Town Attorney, Thomas Clowers.

Attorney Clowers stated that Councilman Alsop is his wife's grandmother. He stated he has reviewed the Indiana statutes regarding nepotism and he does not see an issue. He does not have a conflict since he will not be representing the Council members individually. However, he stated the decision is ultimately up to Council, but he is happy to serve.

Present were: BLAYLOCK, ALSOP, FLANDERS, WADE, and WATSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Thomas Clowers.

The following visitors were present: Patricia Gosh, Dan Barton, Ann Rains, Barb McConnell, Gary Gerard, Don Hatfield, Don Alsop, Tom Stahl, Paul Allison, Linda Warrum, Brett Slayden, Sue Krozel, Lois Gray, and Ryan Rapp.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the minutes of the 2-19-16 special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion the minutes of the 3-8-16 special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop reported she would be attending the Posey Co. Solid Waste Board meeting following the Council meeting.

Councilman Flanders reported some debris that needs removed at the cemetery will be done once the weather breaks. He has also been made aware of some drainage and erosion issues that he hopes to address. The mowing contractor plans to begin mowing once weather permits.

Councilman Flanders stated the Park Board should be submitting a planting plan to Council in the next couple of months. The Park Board is also looking into some needed repairs at Murphy Park. He also commented the Park Board is concerned about dog owners who do not clean up after their pets and what action can be taken.

Councilman Wade reported a pre-construction meeting was held for the phosphorus removal project at the wastewater treatment plant. He also stated the trail is still closed since the weather has not permitted the debris to be removed.

President Blaylock reported the feasibility study the WMI is having prepared on the former school property is still ongoing.

President Blaylock announced golf cart registration fees need to be paid by April 30. Town Marshal McDaniel will then take care of the inspections once he is finished with the Academy.

Councilman Flanders pointed out a mischaracterization in the press over the weekend about whether or not traffic laws apply to golf carts, which they do. He reminded guests and residents to obey traffic laws when operating golf carts.

Councilman Wade made and Flanders seconded a motion that the Ribeyre Gym Restroom agreement be approved as presented. This agreement is for the period 4-18-16 thru 10-16-16. Councilman Flanders asked that Council explore the possibility of keeping the restrooms open during the months the Atheneum is closed. President Blaylock acknowledged this was a good idea, but he would like to see the Business Associates and/or Historic New Harmony step forward with some monetary assistance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported Historic New Harmony has requested permission to close North St. between West and Arthur Sts. from April 20-22 for Heritage Week. Councilman Watson made and Flanders seconded a motion the street closure request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock stated Councilman Alsop will be taking over the departments previously chaired by Councilman Gibbs, streets and solid waste.

President Blaylock reported the Town was contacted about a one-hundred anniversary celebration for the Indy 500. An event has been tentatively set for April 22 at the WMI. Final details are still being worked out.

Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Gas/Street Superintendent Bobby Grider be given approval to travel to French Lick to obtain his required annual water license credit hours. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported Council is looking into installing a sound system in the Council meeting room. One quote has been obtained, and another should be received soon.

Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion that the monthly fund report be added to the Town website. The Town's website administrator, Kathy Sale, has agreed to add the report at no additional cost. Councilman Flanders will take care of sending the report to Ms. Sale. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Barb McConnell, representing the Blaffer Buildings and Grounds Committee, is seeking approval to replant some landscaping at the southwest corner of Granary and Main Sts. Councilman Flanders made and Wade seconded a motion the landscape proposal be approved as presented for the area adjacent to the Mother Superior House on Granary St. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Pat Gosh stated she has given a letter to Councilman Alsop requesting that the alley be paved to the north of their home. President Blaylock stated the request will be taken under advisement.

Linda Warrum reported a letter was received several years ago from the state saying they would pave the boat ramp, which was never done. She asked that this be looked into.

Councilman Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion that the request to operate a hot dog stand on Main St. as requested at the previous meeting be denied. Councilman Flanders asked if the adjacent business owners had been asked their view. President Blaylock stated he has spoken to one business, and they were upset that Council was considering approving the request, as they had made a similar request several years ago and were denied. He continued that the sidewalks can get really congested, and some are already basically one way. Pat Gosh suggested that the hot dog stand applicant be made aware that she may be able to get a permit to operate at one or more of the Town festivals. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Alsop made and Watson seconded a motion that April 8-9 be declared town clean-up days. This will be clean-up of the parks and streets, but is not the Town spring clean-up where furniture and appliances are picked up.

President Blaylock reported the golf cart pedestrian bridge near the Old Mill Mart is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.

Councilman Flanders reported on receiving complaints on the condition of the property owned by Michelle Evans at 629 South St. He asked that this be looked into over the next couple of weeks to see what can be done.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop 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 8:37 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer