

OCTOBER 18, 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.

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

The following visitors were present: Jerry Walden, Dan Barton, Don Hatfield, Don Alsop, Donald Neaveill, Tom Stahl, Jennifer Holstein, Caroline Williams, Peter Nowotny, Marc Chevalier, Ryan Rapp, Bobby Grider, and Caleb McDaniel.

Councilman Flanders 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 October 11, 2016 special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Flanders reported the Park Board has received a grant from the Blaffer Foundation. He also reported on Arbor Day, which was held October 15.

Councilman Flanders stated that Maple Hill Cemetery is close to its \$10,000 fundraising goal for the year and he thanked those who contributed.

Councilman Alsop reported mosquito spraying is scheduled for one night in the next week.

President Blaylock stated he has contacted Johnson Controls about shutting down the air conditioner and starting up the furnace at the former school building.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins announced fall clean-up day will be held October 28.

President Blaylock opened the public hearing on the Local Public Safety Tax. He explained that the tax would have expired on 12-31-16 as previously adopted which necessitated the process being repeated. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the Local Public Safety Tax be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried. President Blaylock closed the public hearing. President Blaylock read Ordinance 2016-11 in full. This ordinance authorizes the continuance of the Local Public Safety Tax on 1-1-17. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Ordinance 2016-11 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins reported the Town's software vendor, Keystone, is converting all of its Key-Budget users to a new program called Key-Fund. The cost of purchasing Key-Fund is \$5,750. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that the Key-Fund program be purchased for \$5,750. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock reported he has received some complaints on the directional signs that are on stop signs, etc. Some feel the signs are starting to look worn. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion the directional signs be removed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Blaylock requested approval to replace three fire hydrants. Estimates have been received, but the exact cost will not be known until it is determined where shut-off valves are located, etc. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that three fire hydrants be replaced. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Watson made and Alsop seconded a motion the 2017 budget be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Town Marshal Caleb McDaniel submitted his resignation effective immediately. Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the resignation submitted by Town Marshal McDaniel be accepted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Jennifer Holstein asked the status of the gas line relocation project and if the Town still intends to take out a sizable loan to fund the project. President Blaylock commented this is being looked at, but at this time, there are no definite plans to move forward. The Town has not yet applied for a loan.

Caroline Williams asked about the large number of trees that have been removed and others that appear dead. President Blaylock reported those that have been removed were either dead or causing problems with utility lines. Councilman Flanders pointed out only street trees are the Town's responsibility, and others that have been removed are on private property.

President Blaylock reported TriValence has chosen to locate their business in Evansville instead of New Harmony. He stated he is unsure if the rebellion in Town had an impact on the decision made by TriValence or not.

Councilman Flanders commented he was disappointed with the failure to proceed with the TriValence proposal, in part because those in attendance at the prior meeting were not allowed to ask questions of Jason Hoehn. He continued it would have been nice to know what the stumbling blocks were and if there were any lessons learned from the experience.

Councilman Flanders pointed out the ground lease between the Town and Harmony Warehousing has not been recorded. Also, there is a provision in the lease for a rental increase which should have kicked in after 20 years. Councilman Flanders stated Hoehn Plastics has claimed to own the warehouse, but he, however, can find no proof of the claim. The ground lease is between the Town and Harmony Warehousing. Councilman Flanders stated that in April, 2016, Harmony Warehousing was dissolved. He believes that as a result, the lease between Harmony Warehousing and the Town has been terminated. He feels this is an opportunity for the Town to develop and market the property. Councilman Flanders stated the Town should notify its insurance carrier that the lease has been terminated effective in April, and the building should come under the Town's insurance policy. He also feels Hoehn Plastics should be notified that they are now a month to month tenant. President Blaylock will work with Attorney Clowers on how to proceed.

President Blaylock gave an update on the Joe Kissel property which was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Kissel has made some improvements to the property, and the vehicle that was questioned is under a carport and has current registration and plates. President Blaylock stated Council will continue to work with Mr. Kissel and monitor the situation.

Attorney Clowers explained that off-road vehicles are not permitted on public roads. Violators are guilty of a class "c" infraction. Any law enforcement officer can enforce the law. The Town can adopt an ordinance to regulate or permit use of off-road vehicles if it chooses.

At the request of Jennifer Holstein, Clerk-Treasurer Atkins gave a brief description of the Local Public Safety Tax.

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

Councilman Watson made and Wade seconded a motion that the Town Marshal position be advertised. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Alvin Blaylock, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer