

MARCH 20, 2014

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: STRAW, GIBBS, WARRUM, WALKER, and WILSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Adam Farrar.

The following visitors were present: Betty Gibbs, Alvin & Jennifer Blaylock, Sarah Oberle, Patricia Gosh, Virginia Alsop, Dan, Amy, Riley & Walker Vonder Haar, Leslie Freeman, Valerie Werkmeister, David Flanders, Lora Arneberg, Catherine Cotrupi, Amanda Bryden, Ken & Sue Krozel, Brenda Drone, John Dailey, David Campbell, Scott Champlin, and Todd & Jacob Wiley.

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

Councilman Warrum reported the Garden Club has asked the Town to remove three trees at Red Bud Park. The Town removed several trees from the Park in 2013 in support of the Garden Club's Bicentennial project. The State of Indiana, who owns the property, has agreed to bring in a truck to remove some of the larger limbs, and also provide some labor. Councilman Warrum commented the Town is currently without summer help which will be needed to complete the project. Councilman Gibbs commented the Town cannot go on private property with its equipment and employees. Councilman Wilson and Walker spoke in favor of the project as long as the Town has the employees to do it. Councilman Warrum made and Walker seconded a motion that the Town remove the three additional trees at Red Bud Park, with a goal of having it completed in April. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wilson reported 25% of the Town's anticipated gas needs for next winter have been locked in. He is still working on setting up a meeting with Vectren.

Councilman Wilson announced Mackenzie Atkins had worked eight hours at Maple Hill Cemetery as part of a community service project. Also, fourteen students worked on compiling a map of all veterans' graves.

Councilman Wilson reported he is working with Councilman Warrum on scheduling some volunteer clean-up days at the cemetery, and a contract has been signed with a mowing contractor. Some stone preservation work is to begin soon.

Councilman Wilson urged everyone to follow the cemetery guidelines.

Councilman Walker announced the wastewater treatment plant condition assessment project is moving ahead. A site visit with the engineer is scheduled for April 7. The new phosphorous regulations implemented by IDEM will be a part of the assessment.

Councilman Walker stated she has looked at the revenue vs. expense for the wastewater dept. over the last twelve months. The Town is averaging approximately \$4,000. a month in expenses over revenues. She recommended that a rate increase study be initiated. She commented there will be additional expenses involved under the new phosphorous regulations.

Town Marshal Scott Champlin reminded everyone that golf cart registrations need to be completed. He plans to schedule two dates per week.

President Straw reported the exterior lights on the Fire Station have been repaired. He also announced that INDOT will be installing two posts and a stop sign at the intersection of Old Fairground Rd. and Church St.

Councilman Wilson made and Walker seconded a motion that the horse drawn carriage permit application from Apple Blossom Carriage Co. be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sarah Oberle requested permission to discharge fireworks over the lake at the Conference Center on June 28 at her daughter's wedding. They would like to do the fireworks around 9 p.m. for approximately 15-20 minutes. They will be using residential fireworks that can be purchased by any member of the public. The Red Geranium has given permission for the display as the property owner. President Straw asked that the Town be provided a letter from the Red Geranium stating their approval. Ms. Oberle was told to contact the State Fire Marshal's office also. Councilman Wilson made and Walker seconded a motion that the fireworks request be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wilson made and Warrum seconded a motion that the maintenance agreement on the Town's meter reading hardware be renewed at a cost of \$1256.50. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clerk-Treasurer Atkins informed Council that the meter reading equipment will not be guaranteed

service after February, 2015 due to age. No decision was made regarding obtaining quotes on new equipment.

Councilman Warrum made and Wilson seconded a motion that Sue Krozel be appointed to the Park Board to replace Barb McConnell who recently resigned. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker made and Gibbs seconded a motion that the restroom cleaning contract for the Ribeyre Gym be executed. The restrooms will be cleaned April 7 thru September 21 for a total cost of \$1200. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker made and Gibbs seconded a motion the street closure request for April 7 submitted by Ray McConnell be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins announced spring clean-up day will be May 2.

President Straw reported the boilers at the school property have been turned off. The electricity will remain on at this time. North Posey plans to have their items removed by the last week of April. He will follow up with them as the date approaches.

David Flanders reported on some events coming up in Town. Councilman Wilson thanked him for his frequent updates.

Councilman Wilson reported he received one response to the request for proposals for the Tree of Life property. He is currently waiting on the second appraisal to be submitted.

Town Marshal Champlin reported the indemnity and hold harmless agreement for the employment of Beth La Vey as a deputy marshal has been approved by the Posey Co. Commissioners. However, the agreement as submitted contained some spelling errors, which are being corrected. Once this is done, the agreement will be provided to the Town. Councilman Walker made and Warrum seconded a motion the indemnity and hold harmless agreement be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Walker announced the Maple Hill Road clean-up will be held April 2 from 4:30 to 6:00. East Church St. will also be cleaned this year.

Councilman Wilson reported he had the privilege of representing the Town at the State House for the reading of the Bicentennial resolution. He commented it would be nice if one of the Bicentennial Co-chairs would attend the Council meetings to give a more detailed report since the Bicentennial is quickly approaching.

Councilman Walker stated the new website "visit New Harmony" is really wonderful and she encouraged everyone to check it out.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins announced the Town has been reimbursed in full for the grant for phase two of the trail. The temporary loan that was made to the trail fund from the gas utility to cover the construction expenses has been repaid in full.

President Straw reported the new section of the trail that connects to Third St. will be closed indefinitely. He stated about 60 feet of the land has fallen off into Gresham Creek, leaving it within two feet of the trail. DNR will be contacted to see what they suggest. The section of the trail south of South St. will be open once the weather breaks.

President Straw said he hopes to be ready to advertise for bids for the storm water project in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Joe Straw, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer