

JUNE 19, 2014

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

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

The following visitors were present: John Dailey, Jerry Walden, Alvin Blaylock, Jonah, Joseph, Jolie & Jenifer Blevins, Danner, Cade & Leigh Ann Latshaw, Brenda Drone, Tim Wiley, Amanda Bryden, Valerie Werkmeister, David Flanders, Don & Virginia Alsop, Connie Weinzapfel, Jon Winne, David & Carlene VanLaningham, Scott Champlin, and Bobby Grider.

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

Gas/street supt. Bobby Grider reported mosquito spraying has not yet begun.

Water/wastewater supt. John Dailey reported he is working on incorporating some of the items that Commonwealth has recommended be addressed at the wastewater treatment plant into the rate study conducted by Pat Callahan. He also discussed the new phosphorus regulations that IDEM is mandating, and reviewed the timeline of what needs to be done when. Supt. Dailey has solicited a quote from Commonwealth Engineers to assist the Town with meeting the new phosphorus limits. Their cost to do this is \$18,790. President Straw stated Council members will review the information and either make a decision at the next regular meeting, or call a special meeting.

Connie Weinzapfel, with Historic New Harmony, asked for a special permit for a tram they own and plan to use to transport tourists. It will transport between 18 and 24 people. She offered the tram for use at Kunstfest and other special events in town to transport people from the old school parking lot to the downtown. President Straw suggested that the tram follow the guidelines for horse drawn carriages, including providing a certificate of insurance and route of travel.

Ms. Weinzapfel provided a calendar of events for the Bicentennial Capstone Week. She reported on some advertising and promotional activities that have been and will be done. Ms. Weinzapfel asked for assistance from the Town with set-up and clean-up for some of the activities. Ms. Weinzapfel asked for assistance with the \$3,400. total cost of renting lights and sound for Murphy Auditorium for two nights. There was discussion about what remains of the original \$10,000. that the Town provided. President Straw suggested tabling a decision until the entire Council is present. Ms. Weinzapfel also inquired about having a ribbon cutting for the new entry sign. She would like to get this scheduled and have it added to the calendar.

Cade Latshaw, with Boy Scout Troop 386, spoke to Council about his proposal for an Eagle Scout Project. He would like to build a bridge across Mill Ditch, adjacent to Church St., between the Old Mill Mart and Wilson's property. He plans to construct the bridge on the state highway easement. Council members expressed support for the project, but permission will need to be sought from INDOT.

Joseph Blevins, with Boy Scout Troop 386, requested permission to install two bat boxes in Murphy Park as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He plans to build and deploy a total of 13 of the boxes, but only two will be placed on Town property. Council approved the placing of the two bat boxes in Murphy Park.

Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion that three sets of aluminum bleachers from the old school property be sold to the Posey Co. 4-H Fair Association for \$1,500. All were in favor. Motion carried.

President Straw presented Ordinance 2014-3, which establishes new salaries and wages effective July 1, 2014. The new rates are as follows: Town marshal - \$2,969.20/month; deputy marshal - \$15./hr.; wastewater/water operator - \$21.25/hr.; utility laborer - \$13.90/hr.; gas/street supt. - \$21.50/hr.; office employee - \$13.39/hr. All other rates will remain as previously set. President Straw read Ordinance 2014-3 in title only. Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion that Ordinance 2014-3 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Warrum stated George and Peggy Rapp have been working for several years to get benches for the downtown. Funding for the project came from residents, local businesses, groups, and organizations as well as the Rapp family. Thirty-eight benches have been ordered and will be delivered in July. Discussion on whether or not to bolt the benches down ensued. No decision was made.

Councilman Warrum made and Gibbs seconded a motion that Don Parker be sent a letter regarding his lots east of South St. that are in violation of the Town's nuisance ordinance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion that JoAnn Russell be sent a letter regarding her property at 624 Frederick St. being in violation of the Town's nuisance ordinance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Warrum made and Gibbs seconded a motion that Jason Woods be sent a letter regarding his property at 1112 Lynnwood Ave. being in violation of the Town's nuisance ordinance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Town Marshal Scott Champlin reported the resident at 618 South St. has been cited for the condition of his property and has a June 23 court date.

There was discussion on the Shafer property at 610 South St. There was a complaint that the property owner is operating a business and has a lot of equipment parked around. Attorney Farrar suggested that Council table the discussion until he can discuss it with them further.

President Straw stated Council had sent out a request for proposals for grant administration services for the storm water project. The only firm to respond with a proposal was the Economic Development Coalition. Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion the contract for grant administration services with the Economic Development Coalition be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Atkins thanked those that donated and also those that collected the donations for Maple Hill Cemetery. A total of \$1,526.51 was collected at the Cemetery, \$275. has been donated for the stair rail project, and \$5,665 in donations have been made for general maintenance.

Posey Co. Commissioner Jerry Walden asked for support from the Town for Mt. Vernon's application for a stellar grant.

David Flanders, on behalf of the New Harmony Business Associates, thanked everyone who helped make their recent Antique Show a success.

Mr. Flanders reported the Posey Co. Council has adopted an innkeeper's tax, which requires those establishments with short-term accommodations to charge a five percent tax beginning July 1. These funds will be collected and spent by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, which will be established on January 1. This will be a seven-member board, with one member to be appointed by the Town Council. He asked that Council consider the appointment of a nominee that the Business Associates might recommend.

Mr. Flanders reported the Business Associates had previously approved that a letter be sent to President Straw requesting that a public meeting be held with the appropriate individuals regarding the new flood plain map.

Carlene VanLaningham, on behalf of the Hoosier Salon Gallery, thanked the Town Council for allowing them to use the Murphy Park shelter house for their art day camp

Virginia Alsop informed Council that she had recently rented the Murphy Park Shelter house and that it was filthy. President Straw stated she should have contacted the Town at the time, and he apologized for the condition it was in. President Straw announced that in the future, such problems need to be reported right away and a refund will be given if the renter is dissatisfied.

Carlene VanLaningham reported passing by Maple Hill Cemetery and thinking it looked better than it has ever looked.

Jim Winne, the new property manager at Harmonie State Park, introduced himself.

Councilman Gibbs made and Warrum seconded a motion 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 6:05 p.m.

Joe Straw, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer