

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021

Town Hall– 7:00 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

- Council Members Present: Barry Wood, Tom Strayer, Larry Longman, and Branden Williams at Town Hall.
- Employees: Paul Casey, Tonya Galbraith, Mark Witsman, and Ryan Crum
- Clerk-Treasurer Staci Starcher
- Town Attorney Gregg Morelock

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021. William. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the Special Council Meeting minutes of August 17, 2021. Strayer. 3-0

### **Clerk-Treasurer's Report**

- Posted online.

### **March Financial Report**

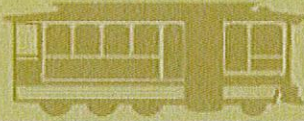
- Posted online.

### **Police Report**

- Police Activity Report posted online.
- Mr. Wood had a meeting with Dr. Parker at the Mt. Vernon Schools about the traffic problems with picking up of the students at the elementary school. The schools have already had discussions on possible fixes. They had also sent letters to parents about parking on 700.
- Chief Casey stated Officer Trejo was featured in a story in the Daily Reporter.
- Officers Case and Boxberger helped at the Vernon Township Fire Station on September 4<sup>th</sup> for their Open House and received high praise for their efforts.
- The new Administrative Assistant started last week. There was a Pension Board meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The open hiring process has 7 applicants left

### **Public Comment- Non-Agenda Item Only**

- None



### **Al Neyer Forgivable Loan Ordinance**

- Ordinance 081021A was read by title by Mr. Morelock.
- Motion by Mr. Longman to amend on second reading Ordinance 081021A to wherever it states estimated to be \$750,000 it would be followed by not to exceed \$900,000 without further approvals. Strayer. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Longman approve Ordinance 081021A. Strayer. 4-0

### **Al Neyer Addendum #1**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the amendment to Addendum # 1 to wherever it states estimated to be \$750,000 it would be followed by not to exceed \$900,000 without further approvals and to authorize Mr. Wood to sign and execute Addendum #1. Strayer. 4-0

### **Old Business**

- McCord Square Economic Development Agreement
  - Mr. Wood had already been authorized to sign

### **New Business**

- American Rescue Plan Act Planning
  - ARPA Core Team possible members. Ms. Gible from Hancock County Community Foundation, Ms. Bond from Mt. Vernon Schools, Mr. Morelock, Mr. Witsman, Ms. Starcher, Mr. Hungate from Hancock Regional Health, and Ms. Syrus from The Studio Hair Salon.

### **2022 Budget- Public Hearing**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to recess the Council meeting and convene public hearing. Strayer. 4-0
- No public comments.
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to recess the public hearing and reconvene Council meeting. Longman. 4-0

### **Salary Ordinance Amendment**

- Motion by Mr. Strayer to read Ordinance 091421 by title only. Williams. 4-0
- Ordinance 091421 was read by title by Mr. Morelock.
- Motion by Mr. Strayer approve Ordinance 091421 on first reading. Williams. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to suspend the rules. Williams. 4-0
- Ordinance 091421 was read by Mr. Morelock.
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve Ordinance 091421. Williams. 4-0

### **Rainy Day Transfer Resolution**

- Resolution 091421 was read by Mr. Morelock.
- Motion by Mr. Longman approve Resolution 091421. Strayer. 4-0





### **Trittipo Burn Request**

- Larry Trittipo filed for his annual burn permit. A property on 600 N. The Council approved it last year with three conditions.
  1. The burn would not be located within 250 feet of any road or structure.
  2. Mr. Trittipo notified the Fire Department prior to the burning.
  3. Mr. Trittipo would comply with all burn orders or advisories.
- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the burn request with the three conditions. Strayer. 4-0

### **READi Grant Update and Financial Commitment Letter**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to authorize Mr. Wood to sign the financial commitment letter for the READi grant. Williams. 4-0

### **Woodhaven Section 7B Secondary Plat**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to authorize Mr. Wood to sign Woodhaven Section 7B Secondary Plat. Strayer. 4-0

### **McCord Pointe Section 6 Plat**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to authorize Mr. Wood to sign McCord Pointe Section 6 Plat. Strayer. 4-0

### **Brand and Morelock Legal Services Agreement**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the Brand and Morelock legal services agreement for 2022. Williams. 4-0

### **Other Committee Reports**

- Redevelopment Commission: Discussed the READi Grant. Approved the Town Square economic development agreement and the Al Neyer economic development agreement. Talked about updating the Economic Development Plan. Mr. Longman wanted to open a dialogue with the new property owners where Aurora Way stops about the possibility of being annexed into Town.
- Plan Commission: Colonnade was recommended to go to the Council for approval after the traffic study was completed. Approved the Neyer plat. Informal discussion on the Jacobi Legacy Farms project.
- Architectural Review: Did not meet.
- Parks Board: Update to the Parks Master Plan. Discussed the survey which opened on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Talked about the Haven Ponds 26 acres for a park. Community Garage sale raised over \$250 for Oscar which resident Claire Strayer organized. Trunk or Treat is set for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Couple of volunteer projects for Ninestar and another volunteer to plant flowers and stain the picnic tables. Year to date over \$208,000 park impact fees. The Board approved a



recommendation for a quote for Genesis Electric to add a light and WIFI to the Old Town Park to paid from General Fund. The light was paid for by grants.

- Motion by Mr. Williams to approve the quote for Genesis Electric for \$16774.01. Longman. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Williams to approve the invoice for AG Sports for \$6880.00 for the work on the tennis court resurfacing and net. Strayer. 4-0
- Public Works Committee: Discussed the interim intersection improvements for the 2021 Fall Call for grants. Improvement projects include improvements at Mt. Comfort Road from 800 N to 750 N, Mt. Comfort Road and Broadway, and a roundabout at Mt. Comfort Road and 600 N.
  - Motion by Mr. Longman to allow staff to continue with the 3 projects presented for interim intersection improvements for the Fall Grant call out. Strayer. 4-0

Held discussion on the WWTP Construction deadline, change orders, and extending contracts.

- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve Walsh Construction change order for \$25513.52 to be paid from the WWTP Construction contingency. Williams. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve Fluid Waste 3 separate invoices for total of \$24998.75 to be paid out of WWOP. Longman. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve Aero Mod invoice for remaining equipment not to exceed for \$9000 to be paid from the WWTP Construction contingency. Williams. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve new office furniture quote for \$8249.00 to be paid from the WWTP Construction contingency. Longman. 4-0
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to approve Whitaker's contract extension not to exceed for \$42250.00. Williams. 3-1
  - Barry Wood- Aye
  - Tom Strayer- Aye
  - Branden Williams- Aye
  - Larry Longman- Nay
- Motion by Mr. Strayer to extend the WWTP expansion substantial completion date to October 15 and the final completion date to October 29; if the blower or Aero Mod startups are delayed by scheduled issues with the owner supplied vendors S & K or Aero Mod then the completion date would be extended without liquidated damages. Williams. 3-1
  - Barry Wood- Aye
  - Tom Strayer- Aye
  - Branden Williams- Aye
  - Larry Longman- Nay

Worthless Property Resolution- donation of old generator to Ferris State College

- Resolution 091421A was read by Mr. Morelock.
- Motion by Mr. Strayer approve Resolution 091421A. Longman. 4-0
- Vernon Township Fire Committee: None.





#### **Town Manager's Report**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve modification to Pandemic Leave Policy as presented. Williams. 4-0

#### **Public Works Commissioner's Report**

- None.

#### **Planning and Building Director's Report**

- Mr. Crum gave an update on the Drummond property filing with the courts.

#### **Public Comments**

- Dr. Bryan Burney stated Indiana has a sales disclosure form State Form 46021 pursuant to IC 6-1.1-5.5. He gave the Councilmen a few sales disclosure forms showing properties value around Champion Lakes made available to the public.

#### **Voucher Approval**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to approve the vouchers. Strayer. 4-0.

#### **Adjournment**

- Motion by Mr. Longman to adjourn. Strayer. 4-0. 9:38 pm

#### **Minutes Approval**

These minutes approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

  
Barry A. Wood, Council President

Attest:   
Staci A. Starcher, Clerk-Treasurer