

COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Present were council members President William Lopez, Vice President David Phillips, Greg Stinson and Erik Wagner and, Attorney Gregg Sobkowski, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Jay Craig, Park Director Brian Bugajski and Building Commissioner Michael Barry. Council member Brian Finley was absent.

Public Hearing- 2021 Budget

Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:01pm

Jennifer Klug, stated that she looked at the town's 2021 budget on Gateway and said that the town's budget is \$4,406,558 and wants to know the effect of COVID. Eric Wright of Baker Tilly said that income tax is paid in arrears so there should be little impact for that, gas tax should be about 5-10% lower and property tax should be caught up by December. She also asked if the town can borrow from within instead of paying interest, Stinson commented that the town has been very conservative the past years and we should be fine. Lopez closed the public hearing at 7:07pm

Public Hearing – Additional Appropriations –

Lopez opened the public hearing at 7:07pm and no one responded. Lopez closed the meeting at 7:10pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phillips made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Stinson made a motion to accept the claims as presented and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jennifer Klug asked clarification if political signs can be placed 60 days before the election. Stinson responded that the town follows state code of 60 days.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy received a refund check from Progressive Insurance Company in the amount of \$247.00 for the police sign that was damaged. Pomeroy asked the council to approve placing this check in appropriation 101-002-361 Police repair to equipment, Phillips made the motion to approve the amount of \$247.00 to 101-002-361 Police Repair to Equipment and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Chief Spanier reported that Porter Beach was manageable last weekend due to weather conditions. He also asked the street department to pick up signs on Highway 49 and on Highway 12.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Craig asked the council permission to go to Westchester Township Trustee to ask them to buy a battery operated positive pressure ventilation fan for \$5,160 plus shipping from Alexis Fire & Equipment and to also pay for repair and maintenance for the three ATV's from Cycle Sports in Hobart not to exceed \$5,000. The council agreed by consensus to give permission to go to Westchester Township Trustee.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

None

PARK DEPARTMENT

Park Director Bugajski announced that the Shirley Heinz river grant at Hawthorne Park will expire January 1, 2021 and he would like to extend it to expire January 1, 2022. Phillips made a motion to extend the Shirley Heinz river grant to expire January 1, 2022 and Stinson made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Bugajski announced that the Park Department was awarded 30 native trees this past Spring through NIRPC's Communitree Grant Program, but that the program delayed distribution of the trees until this Fall due to COVID. The Park will received 30 native trees in early October and he will plant them at Hawthorne Park, Porter Cove Park, and Indian Springs Park.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER REPORT

Building Commissioner Barry requested the council to approve 5 new contractors, Wagner made the motion to approve the 5 new contractors and Stinson made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

Barry also asked the council to purchase a Freightliner 2020 demo dump truck for \$149,900, the purchase price of a new truck is \$162,000. Barry noted that IC code 5-22-10-5 Special Purchasing methods saves the town money and we did this in 2017 to purchase a dump truck. The town can do an additional appropriation and the money would come from MVH. Stinson made a motion to approve purchasing the 2020 Freightliner under IC code for special purchasing and to apply for an additional appropriation not to exceed \$150,000 and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed. Barry said he would have a public hearing at the September 22 meeting.

Barry also gave an update on contacting Carl Dahlin regarding Johnson's Inn that he has not responded to his 3rd certified letter. The Attorney suggested that he hand deliver the letter to him.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2020-11 – 2021 Budget

Eric Walsh of Baker Tilly our financial advisor did a zoom meeting regarding the budget. The council had a handout of the cash flows for the town that he reviewed. He noted that the General

Fund and Motor Vehicle Highway fund would end up in the negative IF they spent the entire 2020 budget. He said that they typically do not do this and that is why he is not concerned about the negative balance. Walsh noted that the budget is in good shape. Lopez did 1st reading of Ordinance 2020-11 and asked Pomeroy to place the 2021 budget on the next agenda.

Ordinance 2020-10 – Additional appropriation

Lopez read Ordinance 2020-10 by title only and asked for a motion to suspend the rules to have second reading and adoption. Stinson made a motion to suspend the rules and have second reading of Ordinance 2020-10 and Wagner made the second, vote 4-0 motion passed. Lopez did second reading by title only Ordinance 2020-10 and asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-10, Wagner made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-10 and Stinson made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stinson said he wanted to set the record straight why he approved suspending the rules for Ordinance 2020-10, which he normally doesn't do, is because we had a public hearing and the residents had a chance to speak for or against it.

Wagner made a motion to adjourn and Phillips made the second, vote 4-0, motion passed.

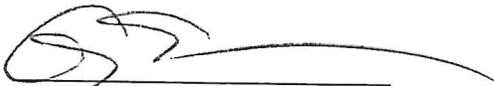
Dated this 22nd day of September, 2020.



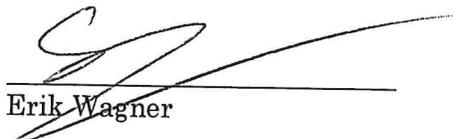
William Lopez, President



David Phillips, Vice-President



Greg Stinson



Erik Wagner

ATTEST:



Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer