

Battle Ground Town Council

Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2020

Attending, Councilors Matt Coppock, Steve Hahn, Greg Jones, James Miller, Mary Jo Totten. Clerk Treasurer Georgia Jones, Attorney Eric Burns, Town Supervisor Ron Holladay, Town Marshal Jerry Burk. Guests: Colin Sullivan, Dave Buck, Carol Watson, Bill Jones, Ben Wegleitner, Scott Robinson, Dan Gemmecke, Steve Egly.

Eric Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members Matt Coppock, Greg Jones and James Miller took the oath of office for 2020-2023 term.

Burns opened the floor for nominations for Council President. James Miller was nominated for office by Mary Jo Totten, with second of Steve Hahn. Hearing no other nominations, a voice vote was taken. Miller was elected President for 2020, 5 Aye, 0 Nay. Miller continued with the regular meeting agenda.

Contracted Services and Guests

Colin Sullivan of Beutler, Fairman and Seufert (BFS) gave each council member a USB drive with digital files of the Sewage Master Plan, Storm Water plan and Tomahawk Lane drainage study. These will be useful when discussing projects at future meetings.

Attorney Eric Burns reviewed the unsafe building project for the new council members and commented that we would know soon if the owner would repay the demolition loan or go to sheriff sale.

Minutes

Motion by Greg Jones to approve the December 9 minutes. Second of Matt Coppock, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

Clerk-Treasurer

Motion by Mary Jo Totten to approve the Register of Claims Dec 10 to January 13. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

It is time to re-establish the cum Fire Equipment fund to pay the town's share of fire department expenses. Bill Jones reviewed the fire territory concept and illustrated the value of Battle Ground Town participation in the Northeast Tippecanoe Fire Territory compared to paying for a fire contract from the General Fund. The ordinance to re-establish the cum fund rate must be passed with two readings following a public hearing.

Motion by Mary Jo Totten to open the public hearing. Matt Coppock offered a second, and the motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

James Miller asked if there were any comments regarding re-establishing the cumulative fund. Steve Egly asked Bill Jones if people in Battle Ground pay the tax rate twice, once in the township rate and once in the town rate. Bill said they do not, that Battle Ground town as a participant in the territory has only one rate.

Motion by Mary Jo Totten to adopt Ordinance 2020-582 Fire Territory Equipment Fund, with second of Steve Hahn. Motion carried, 5 Aye, 0 Nay. **Motion** by Mary Jo Totten to suspend the rules and hear the ordinance on second reading. Second of Matt Coppock, motion carried by unanimous vote. 5 Aye, 0 Nay. **Motion** by Mary Jo Totten to approve Ordinance 2020-582 on second reading. Second of Matt Coppock, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

James Miller closed the public hearing.

Clerk-Treasurer Georgia Jones read the fund report and requested approval to pay for educational program expenses for her state-called training January 21 and the councilor's regional training held last December. **Motion** to approve these expenses by Mary Jo Totten, with second of Steve Hahn. Motion carried, 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

Corrections to the 2020 salary ordinance were discussed. **Motion** by Greg Jones to approve the revisions and adopt Ordinance 20-583. Second of Matt Coppock, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay

Police Department

A template for a golf cart ordinance is under review and will be discussed in February.

Utilities and Street Department

Heavy rains caused lift stations at Woods Edge and Hawks Nest to run 5 times their normal minutes per day. The Main lift station and River Bluff have rising maintenance costs caused by "flushable" wipes. Ron requests the Council consider an ordinance to recover costs when a customer is found to cause extra costs to clear blockages in the system. Eric Burns mentioned the importance of using the correct language in the ordinance. James Miller thought an education effort would be important.

Substantial repair is needed on the leaf vac to replace the lower bearing and clutch.

Motion by Greg Jones to approve maintenance expense approx. \$2500 on the leaf vac. Second of Steve Hahn, motion carried. 5 Aye 0 Nay

Discussion of the merits to install a package lift station at the Main lift. Price quoted for a 6' x 6' above-ground unit is estimated to be \$55,153 plus minor site preparation and pipe expenses. Matt Coppock asked if the utility owns a retrieval system and air quality monitor for underground work. There is a meter to detect gases but no retrieval system. Greg Jones suggests the new council members schedule a tour of the waste treatment facilities. Eric Burns verified that site visits do not need to be posted.

Area Plan

The committee is still working on a solar ordinance for smaller installations.

The MS4 Coordinator will be Ron Holladay and an alternate from the council for backup when he can't go to a meeting. **Motion** by Mary Jo Totten to appoint Steve Hahn to serve as council alternate. Second of Greg Jones, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay.

Committees

James Miller posed suggestions to the council for organizing committees around functions for the town, and council members volunteered to serve.

- a. Transportation – Greg Jones
- b. Public Relations/ Communication – Mary Jo Totten
- c. Strategic Plan – Matt Coppock
- d. Citizen Advisory Groups

The council agreed to have a work session to receive detail information and make decisions on a few major topics: Community Crossings grant application, the sewage master plan, storm water issues and the new redevelopment commission. The work session was set for Monday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. at town hall. Collin Sullivan and Dave Buck will attend. Additional meetings might include a session with town residents to hear what projects and issues are important.

Miller asked the council if there is any concern about having a new email for the council president to use for official communication. Once established, it can be transferred to an incoming officer to preserve contacts and messages. Council expressed general agreement.

Steve Egly made a comment about appointing an Area Plan representative for 2020.

Motion by Mary Jo Totten to reappoint Greg Jones to continue as APC representative. Second of Matt Coppock, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay

Motion by Steve Hahn to reappoint Georgia Jones to ADA and Title VI Coordinator. Second of Mary Jo Totten, motion carried. 5 Aye, 0 Nay

The council debated whether to appoint a Treasurer to the position created last year, which has a \$400 stipend. James Miller asked if there is a job description, no one is certain. General agreement to table the appointment pending review of duties. Miller questioned if a Vice President would be important to continuity of leadership. Matt Coppock volunteered to review job descriptions with Miller.

Other ideas for the new council include implementing Monday administrative meetings with department heads, and investigating options for grants and financing for a new town hall and other projects.

The next meeting of the Battle Ground Redevelopment Commission (RDC) is January 27. Two commission members, Michael Budd and Scott Trzaskas, comprise a committee to study the TIF area. Steve Egly asked if two council members would participate with the RDC committee.

Ben Wegleitner, Stormwater Educator for the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, volunteered his experience to help Battle Ground work on continuing priorities with drainage and neighborhood communication.

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. by Greg Jones.



Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer



James Miller, Council President