April 2, 2025 Minutes

Arthur called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

This was followed by the pledge and the Lord's prayer.

In attendance was Arthur Kirtley (Board President), Barbara Johnson (Council Member), Robert Hutchens (Council Member), Suzan Myers (Attorney), Michael Straley III (Clerk Treasurer).

Arthur called upon Steve Brock.

Steve stated that the anticipation bond was completed so that we wouldn't lose the Ocra Grant. This was a 2-year term, and it would end in December 2025. He stated that with the water plant needing extra funding for the media project that Michael had asked to have the final bond completed by end of April. Steve stated this saved us money since the start of the project as the bond rates had come down. He stated that with the rate increase being last completed in 2016 and then having to decrease the rates in 2022 due to no URT Tax anymore that our rates would go up significantly. He stated that Baird was looking for a longer-term fixed financing that other banks couldn't offer. He is hoping to get us into a 35-year fixed bond but thinks we will end up with a 30-year term instead. They will have 10-year call protection, but after the 10 years we can refinance if the rates are cheaper. He stated the water rates would need to increase enough to support the loan debt. The next step is to introduce the rate ordinance, have a public hearing and then adopt the final ordinance. We are having the special meeting on April 23rd for the public hearing.

Robert made the motion to have the special meeting on April 23rd at 5:00pm. Barbara second the motion, motion was carried all in favor.

Steve stated the final bond amount would be \$1,616,000. On a typical 3000 galleon usage the rates would go from \$25.47 to \$56.11. This number could change, once we know the exact term we are receiving.

The next item needed a signed contract with Baird. Suzan recommended the contract to be signed. Suzan stated the Baird acted as the underwriter and has been doing this for a long time.

Barbara made the motion to approve the contract with Baird. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan read ordinance 2025-2 (rate ordinance) for the 1st reading.

Barbara made the motion to accept the first reading of 2025-2. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan presented Ordinance 2025-1 (amended & restated ordinance)

Barbare made the motion to read by caption only. Robert second the motion. Motion carried all in favor.

it. We need to get it approved and then try to get the donations because we don't know how long it will take them to get this completed.

Barbara made the motion to approve the purchase of the tornado siren. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Michael stated that edit funds needed to be used to pay the final payment for the fire truck in the amount of \$18,051.61. Once the funds are received in June we will repay edit.

Barbara made the motion to approve the edit funds being used. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Suzan stated that the ongoing environmental issues under our property can't be determined who this issue belongs to us or the gas station. In the past the board agreed to a Restrictive Covenant. What this states is this property can't be used for any other purpose than as it is now. Robert asked if a tornado took the building, would we be able to rebuild. Suzan stated that we would since we wouldn't be digging and adding a basement.

Robert made the motion to enter into this agreement. Barbara second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Arthur called for old Business. Mark Moody asked if there was any update on the sign. Michael stated they were still waiting for funding. Mark stated it's been going on for three years. He offered the town a business card for a company in New Castle that does signs. Mark asked if any more work was going to be done on Alleys. Michael stated they are looking into the June CCMG for funding, and we would hopefully know more soon. Mark asked if there was anything that could be done about the neighbor's dog barking. Suzan stated we a nuisance ordinance. He stated who takes care of that and Suzan stated the town police. He said they bark all night and evening anytime someone walks by, or a rabbit goes by. Suzan stated he should ask surrounding neighbors if this is a problem and present it to Brad. Robert said he had heard them bark as he walked down the alley.

Arthur called for new business. There was none.

Arthur called for citizens' comments. Bonnie Hobbs stated the banners would be hung again on Memorial Day. There are 6 brackets damaged. Merchants Bank of Indiana donated this last year. She said they needed \$500.00 to replace this. The board asked Michael if there were funds for this. Michael stated he had a hard time saying there was funds for this when we were looking for donations to pay for a tornado siren. Bonnie said don't worry about it, she will do a fundraiser. She asked if funds be given to the town with people who donate. Michael stated this could not be made out to the town as we don't have funds set up for that. She stated that it should be made out to Pro prints. Arthur asked if she had a bank account set up that they could take to the bank instead. She stated no. Michael stated he would not accept funds unless the board approved this. It could be an issue of having money in the office that doesn't belong to the town. The board decided she could do a donation box. This would be her responsibility. She asked if she could put a banner out Memorial Day weekend in our yard with fallen soldiers.

Barbara made the motion for the collection box and the sign out front. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Barbara made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert second the motion. Motion was carried all in favor.

Arthur Kirtley, President

Robert Hutchens, Council Member

Barbara Johnson, Council Member

Michael L Straley III, Clerk Treasurer