

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

February 4, 2020
MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were Mike Rogier, Scott Alspach, John Schilawski and John Perrin. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Rogier offered the opening prayer. Councilman Frank Vaughn was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the January 21st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval for February 4th. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Scott Lowe, 46 Hollybrook reports back to the council on the Christmas light display initiative. Lowe has a volunteer committee of 8 and they held their first meeting last week. Lowe presents a proposed layout for the light display. He also shares the following highlights from the first meeting:

- Looking to hold a contest for children K-4th grade to name the light display. Winner to be chosen by the committee and would get to “flip the switch” on the opening weekend.
- Looking to approach the high school to see if either the band or the choir would provide some music on opening weekend.
- They are drafting a letter to ask local businesses to sponsor a light display or make a donation.
- Plan to have volunteers pass out hot chocolate and/or candy canes opening weekend and the evening of the Fire Department Santa Parade. Committee is recommending that Monday – Thursday nights the park would be open to pedestrian traffic, Friday, Saturday and Sunday this would be a “drive thru” event only.
- Scott will work with Matt and Duane as plans develop. Duane is working with Duke Energy to figure out how to safely add more electrical in East Park.
- There has been some discussion of selling luminaries to line Ballpark Drive.
- Proposed dates would be November 28th thru January 3rd. Park closes at 10:00 p.m. but committee would like to allow the lights to stay on and the park remain open until 11:00 p.m. on the weekends. They are asking that Ballpark Drive be closed to vehicle traffic from Monday – Thursday.
- Committee still needs to determine where donations will be sent and where the light displays will be stored after the event. Volunteers will install the displays and also take them down. Installation will be monitored by town employees.

Council is most appreciative of Lowe's work to set up a committee and very impressed with what has been accomplished. They will discuss all of these items and wish to continue an

open dialogue with Scott and the committee. The council is fully supportive to this plan and wants to be sure that it is done well. They will need to approve all aspects of the plan but want clear separation that it is the committee and not the town asking for donations.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Utility Updates

Street Sweeping

Utility Supt. Gillock presents the proposal from Enviro Sweep to come in and clean the streets like they have done before. The proposal is for \$8,420.00. Supt. Gillock has the money for this expense budgeted. Councilman Rogier moves to approve the proposal and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

2020 Sanitary Smoke Testing & Manhole Inspections

Utility Supt. Gillock presents the Not to Exceed proposal from Wessler. The work will be billed hourly with a Not to Exceed limit of \$50,000.00. This proposal will address 177 manholes and 41,122 linear feet of pipe. Supt. Gillock contacted Mark Sullivan with Midwestern requesting a proposal but they declined. Supt. Gillock presents a map of the area to be tested and adds that he hopes to complete the rest of New Whiteland in 2021. Gillock states the money for these services was budgeted in this year's approved budget along with an additional \$150,000 for any I & I repairs identified in the project. Gillock notes this work has had a positive impact on our system; during the last major rain event (4") the plant did not flood out and was able to handle all of the water. Gillock mailed 59 letters to property owners with information on the deficiencies identified in the last round of smoke testing. He has received nine (9) phone calls, two (2) repairs have already been made and a third is scheduled. Gillock reports people have been very receptive to the work that is being done. Councilman Alspach moves to approve Wessler's proposal and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Johnson County Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents the MOU for President Perrin's signature. She thanks PW Supt. McCauslin for his assistance completing the paperwork. Council approves the document and authorizes Council President Perrin to sign it.

Pothole Repair

Council President Perrin thanks the Street Department for addressing the large pothole at Sweetbriar and Tracy. Supt. McCauslin states they are working to repair them but it is difficult if the weather doesn't cooperate as the materials won't adhere to the street surface.

East Park – Old Street Garage

PW Supt. McCauslin states that the employees have been cleaning up the property where the old street garage was on the south side of the creek in East Park. McCauslin would like the council to consider what they want done with the now vacant property. The building and fencing have all been removed. McCauslin presents several options:

- Back fill the area and plant wild flowers – would only require mowing twice / year

- Allow adjoining property owners to purchase the land
- Turn the property into a dog park

Council will consider all options. McCauslin will complete the clean up and backfill and grade the area and plant wildflowers until a permanent solution is decided.

Councilman Schilawski leaves at 5:50 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach received a request from the president of the Hilltop Farms HOA. They are planning a community garage sale this summer and would like to bring in a dumpster the weekend following that event for community members to dispose of unwanted items. They do not have any common area and wanted to place the dumpster in the street for the weekend. Council asks that the president attend an upcoming council meeting to discuss possibly allowing the dumpster to be placed in one of the cul-de-sac islands for the weekend.

Community Crossing Grant

PW Supt. McCauslin is working to complete the applications that are due this Friday. He will have them submitted prior to the deadline.

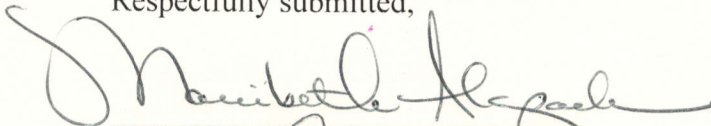
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

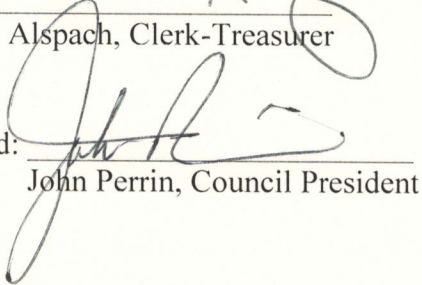
Ordinance 2020-01

Attorney Robbins presents the revised ordinance revising our current EPN ordinance on second and final reading and explains that this was passed on first reading on January 21st. Councilman Alspach moves to approve the ordinance on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 3 affirmative.** Attorney Robbins will have this advertised as required.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, Council President