

## NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 12, 2024

### MEETING MINUTES

Town Council Vice President John Purdie opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Purdie, John Schilawski, Dennis Combs (arrived at 5:02pm), and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Purdie offered the opening prayer.

#### MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the May 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the June 5, 2024 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the June 5, 2024 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Combs arrives at 5:02pm

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Proctor Park Updates

Maribeth Alspach, Chairperson of the Proctor Park Committee, gives an update about the Proctor Park Memorial project. To date they have raised \$55,245.46. They have received grants from JCREMC for \$5,000, Duke Energy for \$5,000, Sertoma for \$1,000, and have applied for a grant through Festival Country, T-Mobile, and looking at a grant from the Johnson County Community Foundation. They have completed a PowerPoint presentation that they shared with the Center Grove Rotary Club. The donation money goes through Uplift and then into our unappropriated fund to be used specifically for this project. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, which is the anniversary of Aaron Smith's death, there will be a soft groundbreaking at Proctor Park at 11am. This project will be part of the sheriff's ride this year which will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup>. NSK took this project on as a fundraiser and raised \$2385. Maribeth asks if Council would waive the permit fees for this project. Also, she needs to speak with Town Attorney Robbins about a contract. Duke has presented a not to exceed contract, which would take this project off PW Supt. McCauslin and Utility Supt. Gillock's plates. Duke also has a foundation and could give more but had asked what type of recognition the larger sponsors would have. John Perrin asks about the donors. He recalls this question came up to the Proctor Park Committee and they were adamant they did not want to recognize donors. Perrin believes it would be nice to recognize donors who give a certain threshold of money towards this project. Wendy McClellan, Executive Director of UpLift Johnson County, suggests placing a temporary sign that would stay up during construction to recognize donors at \$1000 and up and some sort of permanent plaque to recognize donors at \$5000 and up. Perrin asks for a sign prototype. Ms. McClellan states that they plan to have "Red, White, and Blue" donors as well as "Gold Star" donors.

##### Tracy Road

Public Works Supt. McCauslin explains that the grant that he applied for through the IMPO fell through. He has learned of other grant opportunities. Those grants come with various requirements that will involve some cost on our part. One option is to develop an RFP for the design of Tracy Road. That is a substantial cost of \$600,000 that the Town of New Whiteland would have to pay on our own. Another option is to develop a master plan. The last time New Whiteland had one done was in 1989. This would cost around \$70,000 and the Town would need to pay for it. However, it would open us up to a lot more grants that have this requirement. PW Supt. McCauslin is asking Council for \$70,000 from the ARPA funds to pay for this master plan.

The remaining ARPA funds were earmarked for the Tracy Road project anyway and this is a step that we would need to take to pursue funding options. There is a lengthy discussion about the various types of comprehensive plans and master plans and what would best serve the Town of New Whiteland. Overall Council agrees this would be a good thing to do to help us have access to grants. However, we do not need a lot of the extra things in our master plan that other municipalities might need. Planning and contemplating growth is the responsible and orderly way to grow, says Attorney Robbins, but we cannot grow much geographically. He suggests our master plan focus on maintenance of our Town with an eye for what might happen. Council asks Joe Tierney from GRW to come back at the next meeting with something more concrete and some more specific types of available plans along with costs for those plans.

#### School Zone Study

Public Works Supt. McCauslin shares the we received the school zone study back from GRW and we are out of compliance. He asks Council to allocate \$45,000 to bring us into compliance. We would need roughly \$37,000 for Carrier & Gable for flashing beacons and the speed warning signs at the entrance of the school zones. We would also need roughly \$6,000 for other school zone signage from Stello Products. Carrier & Gable is the only carrier of the flashing beacons that we need and is the same brand that INDOT uses. They are programmable. Council President Perrin asks where the signage will go and PW Supt. McCauslin shares that it has to be up to MUTCD standards and GRW has given us the exact locations where they need to go to comply with the standards. Councilman Combs moves to approve spending \$45,000 from the ARPA funds for the school zone improvements and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### UV System

Utility Supt. Matt Gillock shares that the UV System upgrade project is coming to a close. However, he does have a change order that came through because they added some sidewalk on the west side of the tank as well as had to move some conduit. The price increase is \$4801.13. The project is currently funded from the ARPA money. He is asking Council to increase his project funding by the \$4801.13 change order amount and use the ARPA funds. If not he can pull the funds from his budget. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the \$4801.13 from ARPA funds and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

### NEW BUSINESS

#### County Opioid Grant Program

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss informs Council about a County Opioid Grant Program. As part of the opioid settlement, municipalities receive funds in yearly payments, the first of which was the end of 2022. To date New Whiteland has received \$5,370.55 in unrestricted funds and \$12,456.80 in restricted funds. DeVoss and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Melissa McCarty attended a workshop last year about the use of the opioid funds and there are a lot of restrictions as to what the money can be used for. There is no set timeframe to use the money. Last year it was decided that if a municipality will receive less than \$5,000 annually in restricted funds, that money will automatically go to the County. Johnson County has developed a County Opioid Grant Program where those funds can be pooled together and the board, comprised of a member from each municipality and a county commissioner, will make decisions as to the use of the funds. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss points out that the unrestricted portions for New Whiteland will be under that \$5,000 threshold and will go to the County regardless of what is decided. Our Council would just need to decide whether our funds will be part of the County Opioid Grant Program and to enact a Resolution if they would like to be part of the program. Attorney Robbins states that he just

received the documents from the County attorney on the Friday before this meeting and suggests that we add this to our next regular meeting Agenda.

#### Surplus Items

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents a memo to Council with a list of computer technology items that are surplus and asks their approval to have the items properly destroyed by our vendor Wright Tech, who is willing to take care of this for us for free. Councilman Purdie moves to allow the destruction of the items listed and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### IRS Tax Issue

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss informs the Council that we received a notice from the IRS stating that we owed \$960,876.52 by June 6<sup>th</sup> as a result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 941 that we filed. After inspection it appeared that there was a data entry error on the part of the IRS when they entered line 5c column 2. It appears two extra digits were added. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss forwarded all of this information to Town Attorney Robbins, who has engaged with Steve Reed at BGBC who have handled similar matters in the past. Attorney Robbins informs Council that Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss needed to sign a POA to allow BGBC the authority to talk to the IRS on our behalf. He confirms that this is clearly a mistake on the part of the IRS and that it is just a matter of BGBC taking the necessary steps to resolve the issue.

#### Circuit Breaker and Supplemental LIT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss updates Council regarding our Circuit Breaker and Supplemental LIT. The Circuit Breaker numbers came in and we will receive \$61,988.86 more than what we estimated. We had over-estimated so that we wouldn't end up in the red. Also, we received our yearly deposit of Supplemental LIT and this year we received almost double what we received last year.

#### Insurance Coverage

##### Property Insurance

Public Works Supt. McCauslin refers to an email that he sent about new property insurance quotes. We do not have all of the quotes yet and he asks Council to consider scheduling a special meeting to go over property insurance quotes and options. The policy will lapse on June 30<sup>th</sup> so it is urgent to make a decision soon. Council sets the special meeting for Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

##### Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance

Public Works Supt. McCauslin states that health insurance will renew on August 1<sup>st</sup> and there is an increase. Packets have been given and Bob Piha and Jannie Gibson from LHD Benefits are here to explain options and answer questions. The initial offer from Anthem this year was a 14.9% increase. Mr. Piha was able to negotiate with Anthem to a 9.65% increase. We are currently part of a Legacy plan which is a traditional PPO plan that we qualify for due to the size of our Town and the fact that we are grandfathered in. If we change to a different plan, we would not be able to return to our Legacy plan. A few other plans were presented. However, the cost savings were minimal and the deductibles were much higher. In the best interest of the Town overall, Council decided to stay with the Legacy plan that we have with the 9.65% increase and split the increase in cost 50/50 with employees.

PW Supt. McCauslin shares that dental insurance with Delta dental has an 8% increase this year. He recommends Council go with option 1 and stay with our current dental plan with that

increase. It is a minimal increase. There is no change to our vision or life and disability insurance plans. Councilman Schilawski moves to stay with our current Legacy block plan for health and our current dental plan and to split the increases of 9.65% and 8% with employees 50/50 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Police Department Promotion

Police Chief Joe Rynerson announces that he has promoted Sergeant David Brooks to Assistant Chief and that he will include him in planning the budget and other tasks. Council congratulates David Brooks.

#### Sewer Rates

Utility Supt. Matt Gillock shares that we just did a rate increase for Storm Water so we do not need to look at that side. However, the Sanitary Sewer rates have not had an increase in five years. He is coming to Council for guidance. He put some numbers together based on various costs. There are some non-recurring costs that might require a rate study for accuracy. He has contacted a couple of companies for prices on rate studies but has not heard back from either one. Ut. Supt. Gillock asks if Council wants him to continue putting his own numbers together or to keep looking for a firm to do the rate study. Council President Perrin shares that we are trying to be more proactive with our rate studies and potential increases and not wait 15-20 years at which point rates increase dramatically and cause a huge burden on our utility customers. Joe Tierney from GRW states that we need to go back to our Asset Management Plan and take note of projects that are coming down the road and things that need to be replaced. We should build some of those costs into the utility rates. Attorney Robbins shares that nothing in the law states that we must pay to have a rate study done. Ut. Supt. Gillock's numbers are fine if Council wants to rely on that for sanitary sewer rates. However, if we need to adjust the sewer availability fee he suggests we do a rate study for that. Attorney Robbins also shares that he has had issues with getting some of the companies who do rate studies to return calls. Council President Perrin is concerned that we could use Ut. Supt. Gillock's numbers and pay for a rate study that ends up telling us the same, or similar information, which would result in spending the money on a study for nothing. Attorney Robbins suggest that we try to get 2-4 quotes from firms who conduct rate studies and bring those back to Council to make a determination.

#### Wastewater Plant

Utility Supt. Matt Gillock has been working with a developer in their planning phase. They have a concept plan and we have had GRW look at doing a related road impact study. When GRW started looking at that it became evident the development is in close proximity to the WWTP and he wondered how that would affect the development. If the WWTP needs to expand due to capacity issues, that could reduce the number of available lots. GRW has proposed \$7500 to do a capacity study which should take place before doing the road impact study. Mr. Tierney says there are 131 lots surrounding the plant with a 30-foot buffer. If capacity is already high, and the WWTP needs to expand, that could reduce the number of lots. The developer would not want to find this out after the fact. Our capacity must also be in compliance with IDEM and we want to be sure we are meeting capacity standards with our current and future developments. Ut. Supt. Gillock says that he has the \$7500 amount in his budget for this capacity study. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the capacity study with GRW for \$7500 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Rates for Food Truck Ordinance

PW Supt. Duane McCauslin presents rates that go along with the Food Truck Ordinance 2024-03. We can make changes in the future if necessary. Councilman Combs moves to approve the rates presented by PW Supt. McCauslin and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Compliance Issues

Councilman Purdie notes that there were a couple members of the public who were in attendance at the meeting and left at some point. They were here at previous meetings to discuss the conditions of some of the homes in the Town. He would like to understand the process of what happens when calls come in. He did drive by the homes in question and noted that the condition needs to be addressed. Councilman Perrin notes that they might need to go back to receiving regular reports from department heads like they've done in the past.

SRF Loan

Councilman Combs asks for details about the Bond Principal, how much we took out and how long we will owe payments, and what it was for. Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss states that she will look everything up and report back to Council with all of that information.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2024-03

Food Truck Ordinance


Town Attorney Lee Robbins presents and explain the food truck ordinance on final reading. There have not been any changes. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2024-03 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

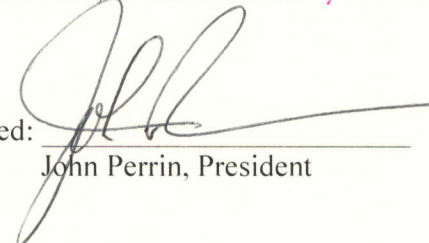
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President