

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

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

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the August 2nd regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Purdie moves to approve the minutes of the August 16th special meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the September 6, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

2024 BUDGET HEARING

2024 Budget Hearing is postponed to the October 4, 2023 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Wish lists

Captain Steve Wire shares a quote to replace Squad 11 from Fletcher which is below the amount that was previously approved on the Fire Department's ARPA wish list. Captain Wire brings documentation before Council to make everyone aware and Council President Perrin notes that this purchase was already approved.

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin notes that he is still wanting the remaining ARPA money earmarked for a potential upcoming road project.

Tracy Road Project

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin introduces Kellie Robertson from GRW. She has information about a Financial Commitment Letter that will need to be submitted with the application for funding to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO). The Financial Commitment Letter states that we will match 20% (\$1.1 million) of the total project (\$7.5 million). Council asks if signing the Financial Commitment Letter tonight commits the Town to paying the funds. Ms. Robertson notes that all numbers are estimates and that the letter does not hold the Town to anything until we go through the process of being approved for funding, which should be complete by 2026. Construction would not be until 2027. Supt. McCauslin adds that he is working with Kellie to find other sources of funding for the project, including one from Johnson County Trails. Councilman Purdie moves to approve signing and submitting the Financial Commitment Letter to the IMPO as part of the funding application process and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Golf Cart Ordinance

Attorney Lee Robbins refers to recent discussions about updating the Town's golf cart ordinance and shares the one that was passed last year. It has been suggested to reduce some of the restrictions from the previous ordinance, which limited golf carts to being used only by CPCS and for construction use. Council discusses various potential issues that could arise with reducing restrictions, especially with regard to safety. Supt. McCauslin refers to a draft ordinance he shared with Council previously which is much like the one from Bargersville. Attorney Robbins shares the one Morgantown adopted recently. Council President Perrin suggest that this decision be postponed until spring to allow time for Council to do more research.

Food Truck Ordinance

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents a draft food truck ordinance that was presented in 2020. Attorney Robbins notes that this ordinance was presented, considered, and discussed, but no decisions were made at that time. He states that this ordinance is very close to what we should have if we have one. Attorney Robbins also shares with Council that food trucks are already regulated by both the state and the county and that a food truck can park on private property if they have been given permission to do so. However, the Town could adopt regulations for food trucks on public property. Council decides to postpone this discussion until the November meeting.

Office Manager Pay

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss refers to the recent change of job title wherein the Payroll Clerk is now the Office Manager. We are needing something formal from the Council in order to change the salary ordinance and calculate her pay increase. Council President Perrin states that after going over the budget Council will decide on the pay increase and retro the back pay to the Office Manager to the date that the new job title was given.

Department Head Budget Meeting

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss asks if Council would like a separate meeting with department heads as they have had in the past. She asks if they would like to go over department head budgets at the next regular meeting on October 4th or if we should set a separate special meeting for that. Council would like a separate meeting date however none was set at this time. There was discussion as to the type of budget information Council would like to receive and review prior to meeting with department heads.

NEW BUSINESS

Flood Plain Manager

Council President Perring states that he received a letter this week indicating that in addition to being required to adopt a flood plain ordinance, the Town is also required to appoint someone as a flood plain manager. This person would be required to attend mandatory training before the end of 2024. Compliance Officer Bob Downey has expressed interest in filling this role. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock asks to see the requirements for consideration. Attorney Robbins notes that our Town has one flood plain area to be developed and once that area is developed, there will be minimal requirements for this role. Council wants to allow time for those considering this role and would like to appoint someone at the next regular Council meeting on October 4th.

Municipal Elections

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss explains to Council that she received a call last week from Trena McLaughlin, the Johnson County Clerk regarding the upcoming elections. Ms. McLaughlin stated that three municipalities in Johnson County (Franklin, Trafalgar, and New Whiteland) have all uncontested races and that the Johnson County Election Board would be meeting to determine whether they would have these municipalities on the ballot. The Election Board met this week and voted unanimously to include all municipalities on the ballot this November. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss explains that we had already budgeted the funds to pay for our part of the election fees.

Speeding in School Zones

Council President Perrin would like to consider changing the wording on the speed limit signs in school zones. Currently the signs indicate the speed limit "when children present" which can sometimes be ambiguous. Council discusses various options for wording. Supt. McCauslin notes that he's not sure Council can have a say on how the signs are worded because the signs have to be compliant. Council President Perrin asks Supt. McCauslin to do some research on various options and costs for the school zone signs.

Sidewalks in Town

Public Works Superintendent raises the question of what to do about sidewalks in town. Homeowners are currently responsible for their sidewalks. He asks Council how we address this because the damaged sidewalks provide a safety issue. Various options were discussed including whether we should do a larger project and have homeowners contribute a portion to the cost. Council President Perrin suggests that the DPW find and identify some sections of sidewalks that need to be replaced and get quotes so we have some concrete numbers to work with. Attorney Robbins notes that before we embark on the repairs, we need to identify how the Town will handle payment of sidewalk repair projects in advance and to stay consistent with future projects.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-08

Flood Plain Ordinance

Attorney Robbins refers to the flood plain ordinance presented for final reading. There have been some changes under FEMA adopted by the state that required us to amend our flood plain ordinance. This is a template the DNR tells us we have to adopt. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2023-08 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2023-09

An Ordinance Transferring Funds

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents and explains the transfer ordinance on first reading. Councilman Combs moves to approve Ordinance 2023-09 on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This item will be placed on the October 4th agenda.

Ordinance 2023-10

Ordinance Regarding Billing Credits

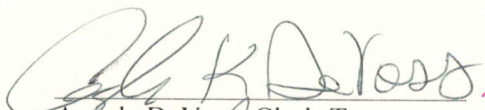
Attorney Robbins states that this ordinance is complete and we will have a document for Council to consider at the next meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

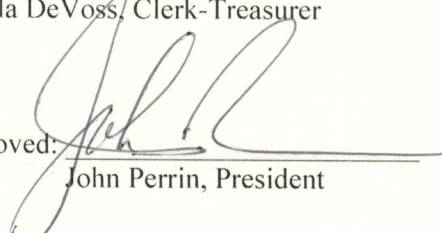
None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:


John Perrin, President