

MINUTES

ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

ROME CITY TOWN HALL
402 KELLY STREET
ROME CITY, IN 46784

Nick Heffner called the budget hearing meeting to order at 5:30pm. Brenda Conley presented the 2023 budget. All members and department heads agreed to the budget. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve the 2023 budget hearing. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to approve. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Nick Heffner asked for a motion to close the budget hearing meeting at 6:15pm. Kirk Klein made the motion to close the meeting. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Nick Heffner called the regular town council meeting to order at 6:30pm. All members present. Also present, Brenda Conley, Leigh Pranger, Paul Hoffman, Charity Murphy and see sign in sheet. Also on zoom.

Pledge was said.

Nick Heffner asked for a motion to wave the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to wave reading the minutes. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Amend ordinance on animals

Nick Heffner stated there is a problem in town with feral cats. There have been some complaints from property owners of the sick and deformed cats in town and people are feeding them but not taking care of them. The cats are on other property owners properties, and they are concerned about the diseases these cats are carrying. Heather Shaver read a letter explaining what she has done with some of these cats and that is supplying them with shelter, neutering them and vaccinating them with her own money. Heather stated her cats are community cats. Heather stated the cats that are neutered have the top of the ears clipped. Mark Shaver stated does this ordinance cover the 2-mile radius around the town or just the town limits. Leigh Pranger stated just the town limits. Some people are concerned about the dog issue in the ordinance which states only 2 dogs per property. Many people stated they have more than 2 dogs. Tanner Fugate stated he feeds the stray cats and don't think there is a problem with doing this. Cheryl Clifton has checked with the State and the DNR neither got back with her. Nick Heffner stated he has checked on other towns and cities and they do have ordinance on dogs and cats and all of them differ on how many. Charity Murphy stated most larger cities have animal control departments that take care of these problems with strays and Rome City and Noble County does not have animal control departments. Leigh Pranger stated the ordinance was done several years ago and the town had to set a limit on dogs due to kennels wanted to be placed in town on private properties. Nick Heffner stated if you feed a cat or dog then you need to take care of them. Paul Hoffman suggested to council that he,

town council, town attorney and town manager to get together and try to rewrite the ordinance that would help with this problem. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to table. Kirk Klein second the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Brenda Conley stated when this ordinance is ready to be back on the agenda, she will post it on the town facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 2022-09 Amend weed and Grass ordinance

Brenda Conley present ordinance 2022-09. Leigh Pranger read the ordinance. Brenda stated the state changed the law several years ago on the part on how to notify property owners when their grass and weeds need taken care of. Brenda stated it used to be we had to send the property owner a certified letter, but it was changed to sending a first-class letter and this is the part that was amended. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve ordinance 2022-09. Kirk Klein made the motion to approve. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Sewer Rate Study

Brenda Conley stated she had contacted Peter Franklin about a sewer rate study. Bill Eberhard had looked over the agreement and cost involved and fully recommends using Peter Franklin. Brenda stated the cost will not exceed \$5000.00 and if no in person meeting is needed, they estimate the cost will not exceed \$3700.00. Brenda stated the last sewer rate study was in 2018 and it cost the town around \$8300.00. Brenda Conley has contacted other town clerks and this company was highly recommended. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to accept Peter Franklin to do the sewer rate study. Kirk Klein made the motion to accept Peter Franklin. Cheryl Clifton seconds to motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Sewer Utility Truck

Brenda Conley stated Scott Neukom had found a utility truck for \$168,000.00 that was all equipped with everything they needed. Brenda had looked over the sewer account and stated right now with purchasing the 2 new dump trucks that it is not possible to pay for a new utility truck at this time. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to not get a new utility truck at this time. Kirk Klein made the motion to not get a new utility truck. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Economic Development asking for donation

All council members read the letter from Be Noble, Inc. asking for \$1000.00. All members agreed that they have not been present in our area. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to pay them \$500.00 this year. Kirk Klein made the motion to pay \$500.00 to Be Noble, Inc. Cheryl Clifton seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Natural Resources Division for trail at landing area agreement

Natalie, with Commonwealth, stated the DNR wanted an agreement for the landing area where the bike trail is going to be installed. Leigh Pranger read the agreement. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to accept the agreement for the bike trail with DNR. Kirk Klein made the motion to accept. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Commonwealth on bike trail

Natalie stated the soil boring was done and its good. Commonwealth would like to do a wet land study which would cost around \$8000.00. Paul Hoffman stated INDOT just did State Road 9 so they should have done a wet land study we could check with them and the landing area the DNR should have a study on this. Nick Heffner would like to table this until we get more info from others. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table. Kirk Klein made the motion to table. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Sludge mapping

Leigh Pranger contacted WET Environmental Engineering out of Churubusco, IN. Dave Abbott gave Leigh the info on this company. Leigh stated the company is working with Albion on their sewer problems. WET Environmental stated they would like to do a sludge study to determine how much sludge is in the ponds. The cost would be around \$12,600.00. After mapping out the areas and taking samples then they would be able to determine what kind if any bugs could be used to remove the sludge instead of having the expense of digging it out. Leigh will contact Albion to see how they are doing with this company. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to have the mapping and sampling done for the ponds. Kirk Klein made the motion to accept WET Environmental. Cheryl Clifton seconds to motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Rome City School Truck/Treat

Rome City School is doing a truck/treat on October 14, 2022 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Paul Hoffman, the town marshal, stated he will have his car there and will be giving out candy. All members thanked him for doing this.

Halloween Trick/Treat Day and time

Brenda Conley asked when the town would like to have trick/treat night for Halloween. Kirk Klein stated he would like it on Halloween which is Oct. 31, 2022, Monday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. All members agreed. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Kirk Klein made the motion for trick/treat on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger stated some of our sidewalks need leveled. A1 concrete did it before and it was supposed to be a lifetime warranty, which they would do it for nothing. But when they came out to inspect, they gave an estimate of \$950.00. Leigh is going to find out if these are new places. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to pay up to and not over \$950.00 only if these are new places. Cheryl Clifton made the motion up to \$950.00. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger stated Niblock will start road work around October 1 to 8, 2022.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

TOWN MANAGER (SEE ATTACHED)

STREET/WASTEWATER (SEE ATTACHED)

TOWN MARSHAL (SEE ATTACHED)

CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

TOWN FUNDS: \$224,095.60


SEWER OPERATING: \$101,536.90

Nick Heffner asked for a motion to pay the claims. Kirk Klein made the motion to pay claims. Cheryl Clifton seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Next Town Council meeting will be October 10, 2022 starting with 2023 Budget Adoption and then regular town council meeting. Rome City Town Hall, 402 Kelly Street, Rome City, In at 6:30pm.

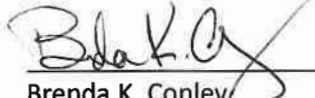
Nick Heffner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Kirk Klein made the motion to adjourn. Cheryl Clifton seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL



Nick Heffner, President

ATTEST:



Brenda K. Conley
Clerk-Treasurer