

# MINUTES

JULY 11, 2022

**ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
ROME CITY TOWN HALL  
402 KELLY STREET  
ROME CITY, IN 46784**

Nick Heffner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. All members, Nick Heffner, Kirk Klein and Cheryl Clifton present. Also, present Brenda Conley, Leigh Pranger, Paul Hoffman, Dustin Fike, Bill Eberhard, Charity Martin, Kim Duty, Pete Skinner, Andy Skinner, Barb Boyes, Sara Meibers, Cindy O'Brien, Chris Harris with Commonwealth, Tom Chronister, Joe Ryne.

Pledge was said.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **MEDIACOM CONTRACT**

Charity Martin stated she has tried several times to get in contact with Ester Viles of Mediacom and no return email or phone call. Charity also contacted other representatives for Mediacom and they all stated Ester is the one to contact. This is to see if we change to Ligtel for our internet at the office would it be jeopardizing our contact with Mediacom. Bill Eberhard stated if the town approves, we can send another email and request a response within 10 days and if we don't receive a response then we can cancel our contract with Mediacom and go with Ligtel for internet. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Cheryl Clifton made to motion to contact Mediacom one more time and if no response then cancel Mediacom contract for internet and go with Ligtel. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **Commonwealth for the sludge removal at the sewer plant.**

Chris Harris with Commonwealth engineer stated the bids were opened and examined by their company. There were 2 bids, Noble Environmental for a total of \$670,374.36 and Merrell Bros., Inc. for \$977,221.05. The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$630,000.00. These are for 4 ponds which we can do 1 pond a year. The engineer firm would like the council and the attorney to look over these bids and contact Commonwealth with an answer. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table this until the next town council meeting. Cheryl Clifton made a motion to table. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **Bike Trail Project, Commonwealth**

Brenda Conley stated this contact is for the bike trail and it was approved at the last meeting with Bill Eberhard approval. Bill Eberhard approves the contract. Nick Heffner signed the contract.

### **Twin Island Stop Sign**

Charity Martin presented ordinance 2022-07 for a stop sign to be installed on Twin Island Road at the North Shore Drive intersection. Charity read the ordinance. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve. Kirk Klein made the motion to approve the stop sign at Twin Island Road and North Shore Drive. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Cats**

Kim Duty, 348 Kelly Street stated she has contacted our police department several times about the cat problem around her area. They are strays, around 50, and a neighbor has been feeding them. They have contacted the Noble County Humane and Animal Control and they will do nothing. They also contacted other cities and towns. Kendallville has an ordinance about cats and so does Garrett. Kim said some quotes for their ordinance. Kim wants something done about this due to most of these cats look sick and they can spread diseases to humans. The cats have gotten into their boat and destroyed over \$800.00 of things in their boat and have used her flower gardens and yard. Kim is asking the council to please amend the animal ordinance that the town has and included stray cats somehow in the ordinance. Bill Eberhard stated he can investigate this because of all his years as an attorney he has never had to deal with cats. Bill Eberhard will get back to the council.

Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table until the next meeting. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to table. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

#### **Lions Drive Road Water Issue**

Joe Ryne lives on Lions Drive and there is standing water on Lions. Joe explained that the neighbors want something done. Leigh Pranger stated we have been working on the problem. There is a broken drainpipe that is causing this. Leigh stated our employees can not do the job to fix it until it dries up more. Scott Neukom, Town Supervisor, has contacted two companies, Miller Excavating and Eshelman Construction. Miller did go and look at the project and stated if they must use an 8-inch pipe then labor and material to fix it would be around \$10,000.00 if we must use a 12-inch pipe the labor and all materials will be around \$20,000.00. Brenda stated this is an emergency this road needs fixed as soon as possible. Brenda also said there are pictures showing people extending their gutter so the water runs into that area and they should not also people are parking on where the pipe is located and they should not be doing that either. Eshleman's Construction did not return calls. Millers stated they can start in August. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to accept Miller Excavating for the Lions job project. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

#### **Parade**

Paul Hoffman stated the parade will be August 13, 2022. He will be closing roads the parade should only last about 45 minutes.

#### **Andy Skinner, water problems coming off the road**

Andy Skinner lives at 610 Lakeside Drive, and he is getting a lot of water off the road that was done 3 years ago. It is going into his garage and ruining his garage door and things in the garage. Andy stated he does have a drain going across his driveway and that water is going into a pipe to the lake water, but he is getting more water then normal on his driveway since the town did the road. Also, his neighbors are having the same problems. Andy stated the drainpipe for his drain is only 2 inches and he was wondering if the town can help by making that pipe bigger so the water will flow more off his driveway drain and into the lake. Leigh state that is possible, but we will need to do an easement. Leigh stated if it is ok with the council to see if Millers Excavating can look and see how much it may cost then report

back to town council. All members and Bill Eberhard agreed to have Millers look and then report back to council.

Pete Skinner, 1250 Eastgate, stated he has complained about the ditch on the other side of his property for years and nothing has been done. Pete stated he gets water draining into his garage also. Pete stated the ditch needs to be cleaned out. Leigh Pranger stated people are putting there leaves in the ditch and there is no way our leaf vac can remove them from the ditch, that is what is building up the ditch. Pete said he will tell people not to do that and burn them out of there. Leigh stated after that then we could have our employees, or a company look and see what can be done.

#### **New Employees**

Brenda Conley stated that we have a street/sewer department employee leaving on June 18, 2022 and we still have our other employee at police academy until the end of August. Brenda has talked with the supervisor, and he is highly recommending hiring 2 more full time employees so it will make a total of 4 street/sewer department employees. There is getting to me way too much for just 3 employees to handle. All members agreed. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve hiring a fourth person for the street/sewer department. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to approve a fourth person for street/sewer. Kirk Kline second the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

Town Manager (see attached)

Street/Wastewater (see attached)

Town Marshal (see attached)

#### **CLAIM PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**

TOWN FUNDS: \$83,861.90

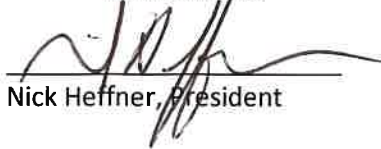
SEWER OPERATING: \$43,226.50

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

The next town council meeting will be August 8, 2022 at 6:30pm, Rome City Town Hall, 402 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN 46784

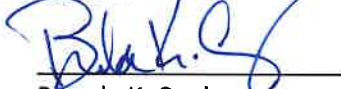
Nick Heffner asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:57pm. Kirk Klein made the motion to adjourn. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL



Nick Heffner, President

ATTEST:



Brenda K. Conley  
Clerk-Treasurer