

MINTUES

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

ROME CITY TWON 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, Charity Murphy and others on sign in sheet, see attached, and on zoom.

Pledge was said.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Orange Township Trustee and Fire Chief

Shawn Wilson introduced himself as the Orange Township Trustee. The fire chief was not able to make it to the meeting. Shawn stated the office hours are 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Ordinance 2023-01 Amend Animal Ordinance

Nick Heffner stated that this is the first reading of the ordinance to amend the animal ordinance. There will be more hearings on this due to removing or adding more to the ordinance. Mark Shaver asked to speak. Mark explained that there is a difference between stray and feral cats. Strays are friendly cat and feral cats are not. Kim Angell stated that in the ordinance a part about how many dogs and cats can be on one property, she stated her husband is a police officer and he believes this is in violation of the 4th amendment. Paul Hoffman stated no it is not in violation of the 4th amendment due to that amendment pertains to search and seizure and that is not what the ordinance is pertaining to. Charity Murphy, town attorney, also stated this is not in violation of the 4th amendment. Kim stated also that the ordinance states any more then 4 animals, refers to a kennel and she believes that it not the case. Leigh Pranger stated the town does not allow kennels. After several questions and comments Nick Heffner explained again that this is just the first reading, and the town will address these questions after further investigation and present an updated ordinance later.

Rezoning Limberlost Landing

Leigh Pranger stated there were some more information that is needed before proceeding with the rezoning and the owners are working on this and will get back to the town later.

Sewer Rate Study

Brenda Conley is working with Peter Franklin Company on a sewer rate study. The results were presented to the town council. The town council would like to review this in detail. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table this until a later date. Kirk Klein made the motion to table. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chickens allowed in town, Kim Angell

Kim Angell would like to the town to amend the ordinance and allow chickens in town. Kim stated this will be beneficial for families. Kim stated no roosters just hens. Leigh Pranger stated our ordinance states no chickens are allowed in town. Kim wants to amend that and allow chickens. Cheryl Clifton stated she will excuse herself from any votes on this due to Kim Angell has a business that is adjacent to Cheryl Clifton property. Kim Angell stated she would not put chickens on her business property. Nick Heffner stated this is also in the new amending animal ordinance. Leigh Pranger stated the BZA/Plan Commissions approved that no chickens are allowed on property in the Town of Rome City, IN

Sewer cost at 452 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN

Mr. Rainsberger owns the property at 454 Kelly Street and remodeled it in 2021-2022 to a duplex. The town allowed him to pay 1 sewer payment while he was remodeling. It was finalized on May 26, 2022 by the Noble County Building department as a duplex. Mr. Rainsberger was notified that he will have start paying 2 sewer payments a month due to it being a duplex. Mr. Rainsberger stated in a letter to the council that only one family is living in the house, and he wants to only pay 1 sewer payment a month. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Kirk Klein made the motion to start having Mr. Rainsberger pay 2 sewer payment a month due to it being a duplex starting February 1, 2023. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

IT Contract

Gary Cox, the towns IT coordinator, presented a contract for 2023 for \$4000.00 annual for unlimited IT services. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to accept. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to accept. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Noble County Humane Society

Brenda Conley presented an invoice for the Noble County Humane Society for \$3000.00 annually. Brenda also presented the town council a 2-year information from the society on how many animals were picked up in Noble County towns and cities. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to pay the Noble County Humane Society \$3000.00 for 2023. Kirk Klein made the motion to accept. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Rome City School Carnival

Brenda Conley presented a letter from the Rome City School asking for donations for the spring carnival at the school on March 17, 2023. Brenda stated the town has in the past given them pop. Cheryl Clifton asked if \$100.00 worth of pop or food could be approved. All members agreed. Brenda Conley will contact Heather Green, principal, to find out what they need. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Kirk Klein made a motion to approve spending up to \$100.00 for food or pop for the Rome City School Carnival on March 17, 2023. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Concerts at Sylvan Cellar's on June 17, 2023, July 22, 2023 and August?

Leigh Pranger stated the owners of Sylvan Cellars is asking permission to extend the noise ordinance on June 17, 2023, July 22, 2023 and date unknown in August to 12:00 midnight instead of 11:00pm. These concerts will be outside. Larry Young, Al Langsenkamp, Mr. and Mrs. Tatman and Donald Farrally were against the extension of 1 hours. The above people spoke on why they were against it, mostly due to the large crowd, loud music, parking on the roads and on the Mother of Mercy property, St. Gaspars cemetery and Catholic church. Nick Heffner stated we should talk to the Schermerhorn's before a decision is made. All members agreed. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to table this until the March 13, 2023 meeting. Cheryl Clifton made a motion to table. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Contract for Asset review

Brenda Conley stated that the state is getting more involved with how the assets are reported. Brenda received 2 quotes. Larry Tippin is a retire state board of account employee and came highly recommended from other clerks. Mr. Tippin contract is for \$75.00 per hour, and he believes it will take 5 to 15 hours. Baker/Tilly contract states to total cost would be between \$5000.00 to \$10,000.00 plus milage cost. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve the contract with Larry Tippin. Kirk Klein made the motion to approve Larry Tippin. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

TOWN MANAGER (see attached)

Leigh Pranger stated INDOT sent a email that they will be chip and sealing part of state road 9 north of the bridge sometime in 2024.

Leigh Pranger stated Scott Neukom has a lift for sale at a cost of \$225.00. Scott stated he had talked to the town employees, and they believe they could use this lift a lot when pulling out pumps. All members looked at the lift. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to purchase the lift for \$225.00 from Scott Neukom. Kirk Klein made the motion to purchase. Cheryl Clifton seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger presented a quote from Eshleman for repairing the broken pipe on Lions Drive. The quote is \$11,250.00. Leigh stated we approved Millers Excavating last year to do the work, but they cannot get to it anymore. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Kirk Klein made the motion to accept Eshleman quote of \$11,250.00. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger stated Leatherman Construction wanted to get started on the street garage. Leigh stated Leatherman Construction still needed a commercial design release from the state before they start. Leigh is asking the town council what they wanted to do. Nick Heffner stated we wait on the commercial design release. All members agreed. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to have Leatherman Construction wait to do any work until the Commercial Design Release is received. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger stated American Legal quote for updating our code book with the 2021 and 2022 ordinance is between \$1200.00 to \$2000.00. Brenda Conley stated they have always charged on the lower end of the quote in the past. Nick Heffner asked for a motion to approve American Legal. Cheryl Clifton made the motion to approve. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Brenda Conley asked the council what they wanted to do with the 2002 and 1994 International Dump Trucks that we no longer use. Scott Neukom stated they should be sold as is due to both need a lot of work. Nick Heffner suggested to post in the paper for sealed bids on the trucks and the town can open them at the March 13, 2023 meeting. Kirk Klein made the motion to sale as is with sealed bids. Cheryl Clifton seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Leigh Pranger presented cost for new grinder pumps. Harbor Court, Norine Drive, 600 Lions Drive and 400 Spring Beach. Brenda Conley stated there is around \$84,000.00 in the ARP Fund. Leigh stated the cost is between \$24,629.00 to \$26,829.00. Nick asked if we could just do 2 at this time and Scott Neukom stated yes and the Norine Drive and Harbor Court should be the first ones to do. Nick Heffner asked for a motion. Cheryl Clifton made a motion to do Harbor Court at a cost of \$26,829.00 and Norine Drive at a cost of \$24,629.00. Kirk Klein seconds the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

STREET/WASTEWATER (see attached)
TOWN MARSHAL (see attached)

CLAIMS PREENTED FOR PAYMENT:

TOWN FUNDS: \$237,060.57

SEWER OPERATING: \$98,294.54

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

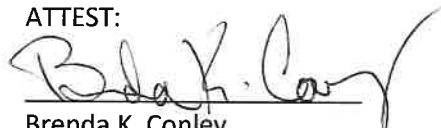
Next town council meeting, March 13, 2023; 6:30pm. Rome City Town Hall, 402 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN

Nick Heffner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. 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