

MINUTES
ROME CITY TOWN COUNCIL
AUGUST 14, 2023
PUBLIC MEETING
ROME CITY TOWN HALL
402 KELLY STREET
ROME CITY, IN 46784

Nick Heffner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present Nick Heffner, Kirk Klein and Cheryl Clifton. Also present Leigh Pranger, Heidi Lang, Paul Hoffman and attorney Charity Murphy. Excused Scott Neukom.

Pledge was said.

Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Kirk Klein seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Old Business

Be Noble – Melanie Kellogg presented the Northeast Indiana Partnership which is working with the Sawyer House and the Trading Post in Mongo in looking at having the Sawyer House be a kayak/bike rental facility along with having an Air BNB on the top floor of the house along with “glamping” options. They are also working with the Shop Noble for small businesses and are working this them as a lot of them are currently struggling. Be Noble is helping the businesses with their marketing and getting their names out further in the community.

Sewer Rate - Natalie with Commonwealth suggested we start moving forward now with the Geotechnical Engineer to start the soil boring for the leaking lagoon at the sewer plant. The soil boring will be approximately \$15,000.00. Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to approve beginning the soil boring. Kirk Klein seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Main lift station and the station at Oak Shores are being replaced and will be back to fully functional.

The sewer rate increase was further discussed. It was agreed that the rate will need to be raised by \$8.00 starting January 1, 2024 with a possible progressive increase in the coming years if needed. Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to approve the rate increase by \$8.00. Kirk Klein seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2nd Reading Animal Ordinance – It was discussed that further work needed to be completed on the ordinance. Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to have a 3rd reading of the Animal Ordinance at a future meeting. Kirk Klein seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

New Business

Budget Meeting Schedule for 9/11/2023 at 5:30 and 10/9/2023 at 6:30 – agreed times are good.

Preliminary Tax Abatement Ordinance for Precision Medical – There was no one at the meeting on behalf of Precision Medical. It was discussed by Leigh Pranger, the Town Council and Charity Murphy to move forward and approve the Tax Abatement Ordinance at this time. Preliminary set the next Tax Abatement meeting to the next meeting for Precision Medical. Cheryl asked for a motion to approve the Tax Abatement Ordinance for Precision Medical. Kirk seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Issuing a Notice of Intent to Award for Bike Trail Natalie Shelling with Commonwealth – Pulvers Paving was the lowest bid and the chosen party to move forward with using. The work on the Bike Trail will start late winter/early spring of 2025. John Kitchen addressed the Town Council and Natalie regarding the Bike Trail going in front of his property and his insurance not continuing if the Bike Trail is placed there. Other citizens also discussed their frustration with the Bike Trail going in front of their property as well. Cheryl asked for a motion to approve the Notice of Intent to Award to Pulvers. Kirk seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Andy & Joyce Skinner – Joyce Skinner address the Town Council and Leigh Pranger regarding the issue of excessive rain water coming off of the road above their house and flooding their driveway and house. Neighbor Cris Kopecky agreed that the flow of the water has changed also on her property as well. Pete Skinner also discussed water on Eastgate flowing over the road and onto his property and flooding his and his neighbors roads. Joyce Skinner is requesting updates on the progress as it is being made in getting the drain on their property corrected. In regard to Pete Skinner the Town Council agreed to look into this issue again and see what can be done to resolve this issue.

Paul Hoffman brought to the Town Council's attention that he received a request to have a crosswalk be put it by the school crossing Harriman Street on the east side of Jefferson Street. Cheryl asked for a motion to move the approval of the ordinance for the cross walk to the next meeting. Kirk seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Departmental Reports

Town Manager, monthly (see attached)
Street/Wastewater, monthly (see attached)
Town Marshall, monthly (see attached)

CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

TOWN FUNDS: \$227,855.66

SEWER OPERATING: \$215,675.60

Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to approve the claims. Kirk seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Next Town Council meeting September 11, 2023 at 6:30pm, Rome City Town Hall, 402 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN

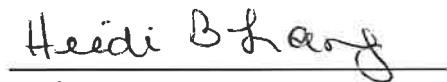
Nick Heffner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Cheryl Clifton asked for a motion to adjourn. Kirk Klein seconded the motion. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ROME CITY TOWN HALL



Nick Heffner, President

ATTEST:



Heidi B. Lang

Heidi B. Lang
Clerk-Treasurer