

July 17, 2012

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. All council members in attendance, with the exception of John Bayler.

Council President, Warren Schacht, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to approve the meeting minutes from June 19, 2012 as written, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox.

Approval Of Fund Mr. Studtman made a motion to approve the fund report; motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and then was unanimously carried.

Approval of Claims Mr. Silcox made a motion to approve the fund report in the amount of \$ 92,251.47 (NINETY TWO THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY SEVEN CENTS) motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and then unanimously carried.

Correspondence: Mrs. Denham read some correspondence sent to the town hall. Starting first with a nice card that was written for the yard waste crew, Able Disposal complimenting them on their dedication to our community. Second and lastly a letter to the Marshall from Michigan City Chief of Police, Mark Swistek thanking the Trail Creek Police Department for their help and continuous support during the July 08, 2012 Michigan City fireworks.

Department Reports:

MS4: Ms. Doyle in attendance. Ms. Doyle gave an overview of the IDDE proposed plan and provided council with copies of a summary of her meeting. She also spoke of the proposed 2013 budgets and indicated that it is projected there will be a 14.1% overall increase. It is unknown at this time if Trail Creek will see an increase. She will know more at the next meeting on August 14, 2012. An update will be given during our August Town Hall meeting on August 21, 2012.

Attorney: Town attorney, Bill Herrbach will comment in the Old Business section of the agenda. .

Engineer : Mr. Doyle reiterated the approval of two 2012 Street Improvement projects :

AREA 1 Johnson Road at Cricket Lane

AREA 3 Black Oak Drive / Redwood Drive

Mr. Warren Schacht opened discussion to go ahead and complete the other two projects;

AREA 2 Killdeer Drive / Killdeer Court / Raven Drive

AREA 4 Trail Street – Radtke Drive South

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Schacht asked Mrs. Denham where would the funds come from to complete these projects? Mrs. Denham, Clerk –Treasurer responded by saying there are three funds the money could come out of: Major Moves, Riverboat and LRS. She indicated that if doing all four projects at once would make more sense money wise then we should probably move forward with completing all four area improvements.

Mr. Doyle indicated that there will be open bids starting 10:00 a.m. on August 14, 2012, to be awarded during the August 21, 2012 town hall meeting.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to move forward with the bids on August 14, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. for all four area street improvement projects, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was then unanimously carried.

Street Department: Street Commissioner, Brian Kubath in attendance. Brian indicated that they are currently picking up Sticks, Limbs, and Branches and trimming some trees.

NIRPC Mr. Bayler attended the most recent meeting and found out that there are some funds available for use through NIRPC for broad projects. However, there is an application deadline of 07/09/2012, which unfortunately would not allow enough time to be eligible.

Park Department No report

Building Inspector: No Report

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Bill Greene, Planning and Zoning Board President, in attendance with a complaint he received regarding the residents at 309 Johnson Road. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Marshall Klosinski would follow up with the complainant for more information.

Police Department: Marshall Klosinski in attendance and provided council members with an estimate from Mike's Country Store in LaPorte, Indiana. The estimate was to upgrade department guns from .40 calibers to 9mm handguns.

Old Business:

- 235 Harding; Bill Herrbach, Town Attorney responded by saying the total cost of repair to make the property safe is \$1350.00 as per the Building Inspector, Steve Thomas. Mr. Herrbach indicated that he sent a letter to the homeowner giving him ten days to fix according to our ordinance (Public Nuisance) or the town will make repairs and bill the homeowner.
- Firewood Ordinance; Mr. Herrbach opened discussion with council regarding the wording to be put in such an ordinance. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Mr. Herrbach would formulize an ordinance by the August 2012 Town Hall Meeting.
- Pritz Park: Mr. Kubath, Street Commissioner announced that he has cut a grass path into Pritz Park which measures about 4/10 of a mile, to be enjoyed by both Evergreen Plaza employees as well as exercise enthusiasts.

A few picnic tables have also been placed. Council spoke about the parking. It was decided that Redwood would be the best place for parking for now until another arrangement can be made if there is interest in the park.

New Business:

- Nepotism / Conflict of Interest Ordinance; Mr. Herrbach gave an overview of what this ordinance means to elected officials as well as contractors and how to remain compliant. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Mrs. Heath; motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was unanimously carried.
- Fire Protection; Coolspring Fire Department. Mr. Herrbach presented the contract for 2012 for \$60,000.00 to be payable in two parts. However, when the contract was originally verbally approved the new council members were not in office. The contract will be signed at the August Town Hall Meeting however, council gave approval to go ahead and pay the first payment of \$30,000.00
- Solicitors / Peddlers Permits: Mrs. Denham explained the need to review the ordinance on this topic. We should have a more stringent policy on this. Mr. Herrbach, Town Attorney indicated he would review this and get back with council during the August meeting.
- Building Permit Ordinance: Mr. Herrbach, reviewed the new ordinance with council. This ordinance will be more user friendly by having all the new permit fees in the same section as the code. Mr. Silcox made a motion to approve the ordinance; motion seconded by Ms. Heath and was unanimously carried.
- Contractor Registrations Signs: Brian Kubath indicated that 7 signs have been hung throughout the town on the Trail Creek signs that say "Contractors must be registered".

Public Comment:

- Thomas Holets; 628 Black Oak was in attendance to express his concern regarding the standing water in front of his house. Mr. Doyle responded to his concerns by explaining the nature of the problem.

Clerk-Treasurer's Comment: Mrs. Denham made mention that this year one of the Town Hall's focus, has been in making sure all contractors that do work in our town are registered and insured. This protects our residents from less than quality work. Our building permits and registrations have increased by 100% compared to last year at this time. Mrs. Denham, also indicated that she would be attending a Indiana Bond Bank Seminar on July 19, 2012 to keep up to date on the lending and other programs offered through the bond bank.

One more item, Mrs. Denham expressed that the Solid Waste District of LaPorte Co. has decided to change the recycling date from every other Monday to every other Friday. A letter with the schedule will be sent to all of our residents as well as the possibility of a door knocker. As the date becomes closer it will be put on our website too at www.townoftrailcreek.com

Council Comment: None

There being no further business, Mr. Silcox moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Warren Schacht, President

ATTEST: _____
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer
Approved: August 21, 2012