

April 19, 2022

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Mrs. Jennifer Heath, Council President led council in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the meeting minutes from March 2022 as written, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of Fund Report: Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave council the Fund Report for March 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the fund report, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and the motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of Claims: Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave copies of the bills to council for March 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Kubik to approve the bills as presented, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and then was unanimously carried.

Correspondence: None

MS4: Kate Doyle, MS4 Coordinator for the Town was present and had the following to report:

- SWCD (Storm Water Conservation District) MS4 Proposed Program has collapsed. An add will be placed to replace the county coordinators position.
- NOI (Notice of Intent): Due July 05, 2022, Kate went on to say that this is beyond her scope of work, Mr. Rick Brown used to help the town complete the NOI.
- IDEM Audits: Will be done between now and November 2022.
- MICHIGAN CITY, IN has their own program and made an offer to the town in the amount of \$31,064.00. Per Council President, Jennifer Heath the town can not afford that price.
- LONG BEACH, IN is planning to create their own MS4 Program, she wondered if council would like for her to approach LB on a price if we were to join their program. Council President indicated that she would like for Kate to approach Mr. Wall with LB. Kate to email Mr. Wall very soon.
- Storm Water Fee: The town should consider getting an ordinance in place for this fee.

Attorney: Attorney Christopher Willoughby in attendance to discuss:

- 110 Harding: To get with Building Commissioner, Steve Thomas to possible began the legal process on bringing the property into compliance. To table for now until he speaks with Steve.

Engineer: Tim Haas, with Haas & Associates LLC in attendance to discuss:

- 227 Avondale: Driveway Permit: Referred by Steve Thomas. Will follow up with Mr. Thomas on this.

Park: No Report; Ms. Heath indicated that we should contact them to get a meeting scheduled.

Planning and Zoning: No Report

Building Report: No Report

Police Department: Marshal Dick in attendance to report:

- **Baseball MOU:** He did speak with Michigan City Park Superintendent; Ed Shinn regarding the parking at the fields. Going to get a map out to the parents on the proper parking. Possible use of Church parking lot for the overflow of parking.
- **Radar Trailer;** will be deploying soon, possibly at the park first.
- **Code Enforcement on Junk Vehicles;** Has been focus the last 30 days.
- **New Police Squad:** Were looking at a 2022 Charger; that ordered will be cancelled by the dealership (no vehicles available) However, a 2022 Durango from LaPorte Chrysler; could be 60-90 days before it is on the road with all the upfit. Other graphics will not be used for this vehicle as the body styles are different. Ms. Denham indicated that she is working with the bank on rates and paperwork.

Street Department: Mr. Joseph Zerbes in attendance to report:

- **Leaf Pick Up:** Leave pick up started first week of April, have 2 more pickups through town.
- **Road Patch:** The street department has laid 6 tons of road patch this year on mostly just the mains.
- **Sticks, Limbs and Branches:** Large SLB's are picked up weekly.

Council Vice President, Peter Pizarek asked if the department was renting a road patch compactor. Mr. Zerbes indicated that he did, however next year he would like to look into purchasing one.

Mr. Pizarek asked about Nipsco's tree trimming; Davey's Tree Service; wanted to know if there were any more issues? Mr. Zerbes responded by saying that in the beginning there was, however once he spoke to Davey's Supervisor, things have gone a lot smoother.

NIRPC: no report, Ms. Denham indicated she does have a meeting on Thursday.

Old Business:

- **Baseball MOU:** Changes in parking. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the baseball MOU as written; motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and then was unanimously carried.
- **ARP Standard Deduction:** A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to take the standard deduction for lost revenue for this program, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and then was unanimously carried.
- **ARP Premium Pay:**
 1. Building Inspector / Plumbing Inspector: \$250.00
 2. Police Fulltime: \$2000.00

3. Police Partime: Will be a percentage of hours worked (see spreadsheet)
 4. Street Department: Part-Time (Street Commissioner and Employee) \$ 500.00
- Employee Policy: Retired HR Professional Pam Krueger, \$50.00 per hour / To prepare proposal for services and forward to Council President, Jennifer Heath. A motion was made by Mrs. Gralik to allow Ms. Krueger to prepare proposal, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and was then unanimously carried. Mr. Willoughby will reach out to Ms. Krueger.

Old Business:

- Refuse Adjustments: Hoppe Enterprise, Michigan Blvd. Ms. Denham states council approved the adjustment in March 2022, however she received a phone call from Council President, Jennifer Heath indicating her, and the Marshal were going to be speaking with property owner regarding the clean up of property prior to the adjustment being done. Marshal Dick indicated that the police have not tagged abandoned vehicles at that property until the town can investigate the fact that there are possible tenants living in the property. The property is zoned commercial however it may be that the "use" allows for a tenant, per Attorney Willoughby. Marshall will investigate junk/abandoned vehicles.

New Business:

- Retainer Agreement with Matt Reardon regarding TIF District. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve agreement as written, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and then unanimously carried.
- Street Commissioner Quarterly Pay: A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve paying the new street commissioner for the 2nd qtr; motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and then unanimously carried.
- Notice of Intent for MS4 Program: NOI is due July 5, 2022 (Street Commissioner to meet with Engineer to get this done.

Council President: Jennifer Heath indicated she is not sure where to go for a program. Attorney Willoughby indicated he would also follow up with Long Beach and get some information together for council. Ms. Denham asked if there was a penalty in place if the town does not have a program. Attorney Willoughby indicated he was unaware but will look into it.

Public Comment:

- Lawrence Fabina; 622 Greentree; concerned that there isn't a lot of meeting minutes on the website. Also, concerned with a neighbor's property that is zoned incorrectly. Council President, Jennifer Heath indicated that the assessor is responsible for changing any incorrect information, she will contact Mr. Schultz. As to the meeting minutes, Mrs. Heath stated that by law the town does not need to have a website. Ms. Denham indicated that with all that is tasked of the clerk's office, updating the website is one of her last challenges. Mr. Fabina also concerned with the aesthetic value of the town, garbage etc. The Marshall and Mrs. Heath indicated that they were aware of some of the garbage problems. Mr. Fabina mentioned many examples of the town's need to clean up.
- Patrica Fabina; 622 Greentree also concerned with the lack of meeting minute and the condition of the town, with garbage and Evergreen Plaza.

Clerks Comment: Ms. Denham in attendance with no report.

Council Comment: Council President Jennifer Heath stated that the LaPorte County Taxes will be incorrect and possibly inflated. However, this is being investigated and will be fixed soon. Until then the Department of Local Government Finance is asking that residents go ahead and pay their new tax amount, until they are fixed and then a reimbursement will be done.

Mrs. Heath confirmed that Engineer, Tim Haas will be doing the driveway inspections. Mr. Haas also indicated that the town did not receive the grant for the CCMG call #1.

Mr. Pizarek stated that the garbage company is not doing as well following the contract. Mrs. Heath asked that Mr. Willoughby follow up with the garbage company.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr.Pizarek to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and the motion was then unanimously carried.

APPROVED:



Jennifer Heath, Council President



Peter Pizarek , Council Vice President

ATTEST 
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer
May 17, 2022