

## SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2016

6:30 PM

The Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 present were Council Members Bill Boggs, Les Hoffman and Randy Cokl. Town Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer and Clerk-Treasurer Janet Howard. Absent was Town Manager David Wilkinson.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Boggs at 6:44 PM.

The minutes from the January 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 regular session were approved. Motion was made by Council member Randy Cokl to approve the minutes and seconded by Council member Les Hoffman and passed with a 3-0 vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

The Account Payable Vouchers totaling \$83,868.61 were presented and a motion to approve was made by Council member Les Hoffman and seconded by Council member Randy Cokl and passed with a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS – Council member Randy Cokl wanted to clarify his stance to Appoint Mikel Van Devender as Town Marshal on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2016. He read a paper he prepared and copies are available. He said he would like to propose that we continue the town manager position for a period of one year and after that period, re-evaluating the positions success. He recommended that David Wilkinson be appointed to that position with an annual salary of 55,000.00. Tom Crowder stated it was his understanding that the Town Manager position was a part time position and your going to pay a part time position 55,000.00 a year. Randy stated it would be a full time position and Tom Crowder said he has a problem with the full time position for Town Manager as 20 hours a week should be plenty to do what Dave did because at this time the Town Manager has not redly written any grants, he is just researching. Teresa Cokl asked if there would be a pay increase for the Town Marshal as well and Council member Cokl stated he did not put that in the Motion but will revisit that with Mikel. Teresa then asked if there will be a savings with the difference of the two positions, Council member Cokl stated there would be an 11,000 savings. It was asked if there will be another police officer hired and Council member Bill Boggs stated we are not sure one will be need to be hired. Mikel is looking at filling the SRO position that is open after Geist resigned. SRO is paid by grants. Grant funded for school which is a great program. Teresa said she was just asking with all the changes would there be more money going out, Bill stated it would be a savings. Tom Crowder asked what would happen with the police car that David is driving and Council member Boggs said wasn't sure but would more than likely go back on the police rotation. Tom stated as just Town Manager he should not have access to a police car. Council member Cokl then made a motion to appoint Mikel Van Devender as Town Marshal, effective at noon Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 and seconded by Council member Les Hoffman, passed with a 3-0 vote. Copies of Motion to Appoint are available.

Attorney Hockemeyer stated you can change administrative positions but can not demote David to a lower position than want he has had and he could resign from police department if he would take the Town Manager position offered to him. Gregg stated he needed to change to wording of the motion for

Town Manager that if after 1 year town eliminates the Town Manager position that David may be reinstated with the police department and it would be his choice. Motion to offer David Wilkinson the position for Town Manager was made by Randy Cokl and seconded by Bill Boggs, vote was 2-1 with Council member Les Hoffman voting against. Copy of Motion to Appoint Town Manager position are available.

NEW BUSINESS – Teresa with the Park Board stated that the last few years their budget has decreased. They used to get 27,500.00 a year budgeted and last year 10,000.00 was allotted and noted at the end of the year there was a 15,000.00 surplus rolling around in the general fund that was not specifically given to the park board and would like that money earmarked for the park board to do projects and maintenance. They have agreement with Whitko schools to have a winter league, etc. and maybe start having classes in the community room for sewing, arts and crafts, etc. they have always wanted to have two or three canoes that people could grab and go down the Eel river to Collamer and then come back to Whitley and have something to eat in town. Teresa said the Park Board is an unpaid board and is asking the town council to establish a position for a Park Board Director which according to the by laws they can do. In the absence of the Parks Board Director the Park Board President is the director but would like an outside person to maybe get the programs up off the ground this summer. Bill state that before you go any further he had talked with David Wilkinson and he has spoken to Ericka Miller of the YMCA and she was willing to run activities for South Whitley, Teresa stated she was aware of Dave's discussion with her but hasn't seen anything or hasn't been brought to the Park Board yet but in any case they would have to have a director established and that's what we're asking for tonight, that the council would allow that position, a job description, procedures and policies for that position will have to be made and it will take a couple of months to do. Teresa asked that the 15,000.00 be set aside for the development of any kind of activities. The Park Director would be a paid position, with 15,000.00 set aside 5,000.00 for taxes and benefits, it could be 9 to 10 an hour for 20-24 hours a week, a lot would be the weekend hours. Bill asked Teresa to get some numbers around to present to the council and they would entertain the thought and get something going with the park activities. Teresa said they would like to resurface around the tennis courts. Council member Cokl stated that Huntington University had interns back when he was on the Park Board and they used these interns at a cost savings. Teresa stated she is asking for approval of establishment of the Park Director position. Council member Cokl ask her to get the figures around and then we will make a decision for the position and Teresa said she would.

Teresa said she would like the Park Board to be an agenda item from now on. The Park Board is meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM right now and they have one position open to be filled and ask if the council members if they knew of anyone to fill this position to let her know because it is the town council responsibility to get this position filled.

#### DEPARTMENT HEADS

Kent Slater said he meet with American Publishing today and is going to give a quote, also said it will take 6 months to prepare and then 90 days to review and finish.

Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer stated that IDEM wants more tweeting done, ordinance of pretreatment of certain chemicals for specific industrial users. Right now the only one is Fox Products, plating operations and new cascade of things that come into play. Randy asked Gregg about work sessions held once a month before the regular meeting. Gregg suggested the notice should be published same as regular meetings. Work sessions will be to discuss situations coming up.

TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

Amanda Thomson with the WC Planning Commission had a request for Doug Morrissey to be considered for the open seat for the board of zoning appeals. It will be tabled for Old Business till next meeting to check with Amanda about restrictions of being a member, if this person has requirements to fill this position as to where they live, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM