

SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES

TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM

118 E FRONT STREET

SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787

APRIL 13, 2021

IMPA WORKSESSION 3:30 PM GENERAL WORKSESSION 5:30 PM

The South Whitley Town Council met for the worksession on April 13, 2021 at 3:30 -4:00 p.m. in the Town Board Room, with IMPA representatives, Justin Thompson and Bill Castrodale. Present were Randy Cokl, President, Les Hoffman, Vice-President, Brock Waterson Councilman, and Ron Anderson.

An informative meeting regarding new meters was held with the IMPA representatives, in which they presented an overhead screen presentation. Questions were asked from the council and Council President Cokl will check with other towns that have switched to using this meter to see if this would be advisable for the town to acquire.

**GENERAL WORKSESSION:** The South Whitley Town Council met for the general worksession on April 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room. Present were Randy Cokl, President, Les Hoffman, Vice-President, Brock Waterson, Councilman, Mikel Vandevender, Town Marshal, Kent Slater, Utilities Supervisor and Pamela Hoffman, Clerk-Treasurer. Worksession began with Ryan Ottenweller asking permission to put something together for council regarding the \$70,000.00 liquidated damages issued by Donohue. He plans on talking with Paul Eley to see if they can agree on an alternative. Paul Eley will be retiring April 30<sup>th</sup> and Katherine Merkle will be his replacement.

President Cokl asked if anyone would be available to attend the Library Open House on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. There will be a table for the town to set up flyers for Fall Festival and town information.

If no response is received from BMJ Entertainment, Councilman Hoffman suggested we put on the market as one building and have the EDC take charge of finding a buyer.

Town Marshal Vandevender informed council that the grant truck wasn't ordered by dealership when he informed them to order and therefore missed the 2021 truck deadline. Dodge production for 2022 trucks will begin July 1<sup>st</sup> with a \$5,000.00 increase. Marshal Vandevender has a 2021 truck on hold at John Jones for \$4,500.00, more than original quote for the grant. He also stated that we originally were going to purchase a used vehicle, but checked into leasing through Crossroads Bank and they had a 4 year lease agreement, which at the end of the 4 years, we would own the vehicle. The payment per year would be \$11,884.78 per year or 2-6 month payments per year of \$5,942.39. He's looking at one more new vehicle next year by applying for another car grant. Council President Cokl asked if he'd checked into Indiana Bond Bank for pricing. Councilman Hoffman suggested it would be better to spread out cars over the next few years, instead of purchasing two new ones. Marshal Vandevender said a Special Meeting will need to be set up after Tuesday for Master Lease Agreement to sign and Attorney Hockemeyer to look over. There is approximately \$30,000.00 now in the SRO K-9 Fund. The insurance for the K-9 dog will add \$500.00 per year to our insurance premium. There will be a 2 month

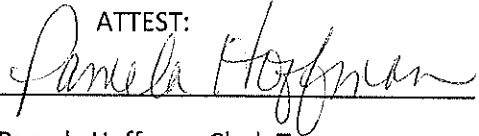
trail period with the dog. Budget concerns regarding grooming and food. Vet bills are covered unless surgery is needed. The SRO car will need bottom seat removed to accommodate the K-9, but no cage will be needed since dog is not trained for aggression.

Utilities Supervisor Kent Slater asked if the town employees could have take home vehicles, which Councilman Hoffman agreed would be fair, and asked if they'd rather have a vehicle or compensation. Kent said that a take home vehicle would be preferable. They are looking into purchasing a new dump truck.

Clerk-Treasurer asked if she was okay to invoice Whitko for the Teghtmeyer bill for the Whitko Baseball sign.

No further discussion needed, worksession ended at 6:26 p.m.

ATTEST:



Pamela Hoffman, Clerk-Treasurer

  
LES HOFFMAN, PRESIDENT

  
RANDY COKL, VICE PRESIDENT

  
BROCK WATERSON, COUNCILMAN

SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM  
118 E FRONT STREET  
SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787

APRIL 13, 2021  
6:30 PM

The South Whitley Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 in the Town Hall Board Room at 6:30 p.m. Those present were President Randy Cokl, Vice President Les Hoffman, Councilman Brock Waterson, Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer, Town Marshal Mikel Vandevender, Utility Supervisor Kent Slater and Clerk-Treasurer Pamela Hoffman.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS RICK PHILLIPS 502 N CALHOUN – 50/50 SIDEWALK GRANT \$1,200.00. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman to accept, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

BRAD THOMSON 407 MARKET ST – 50/50 SIDEWALK GRANT \$1,000.00. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman to accept, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

DEA JINNINGS – SEWAGE ADJUSTMENT - \$886.83. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by a vote of 3-0.

TONY STARKEY – DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS – He had concerns regarding the back of the town building next to the Green Parrot, stating that Council President Cokl had told him the building would be torn down and then was never followed through. Council President Cokl answered that there were structural reasons that it was not torn down. Starkey then became belligerent with the Council in general and ended up being asked to leave with a police escort out of building.

EDC INVOICE OCTOBER 1, 2020 to MARCH 31, 2021, \$8,512.95. Motion made to accept, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS TOBY VANHOUTEN – SEWAGE ADJ - \$813.35, he is in the process of manually digging up his water/sewer line as he can't locate the water break, but the water is still shut off and will be, until it is fixed. Motion made to approve by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

206 and 208 S STATE ST PROPERTY STATUS – no response received from BMJ Entertainment. Attorney Hockemeyer stated he gave them until April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to respond or the deal would be void. Councilman Hoffman asked to have the EDC sell as one property. Attorney Hockemeyer will contact EDC for a proposal request in helping to sell the building.

PUBLIC INPUT – DOVE and MICHAEL STASKO explained to the Council their Urban Chicken Proposal Ordinance, to allow chickens in town.

PARK BOARD – Dave Warner had 2 handouts for the Council, Lawn Tractor repair used at Hagan Park repaired by Eel River, County Master Gardeners-\$400.00, a request for yoga in the park, Pickleball courts need new light on the north and south end-Kent stated Ron is putting in more lights. Pickleball funding needs approved, basketball court needs a trash sign to encourage the basketball players to use it, Park furniture at LeBrun Gateway Park needs repaired. It was suggested to check with Brett Messmore at Whitko Career Academy to have students repair legs on furniture. Dave also presented a 5 year spending plan for South Whitley Town Parks, which included replacing fences and sealing pickleball

courts and basketball courts. Council President Cokl said that Manchester University donated a box of basketballs to the town for use at the Parks.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

TOWN MARSHAL – MIKEL VANDENDER – Marshal Vandevender asked for a truck lease/master lease agreement for 4 year truck lease. Motion made by Councilman Waterson, seconded by Councilman Cokl, carried by vote of 2-1, Councilman Hoffman voted against. Approval for K-9 Insurance added to town insurance policy for \$500.00/year. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0. A K-9 officer agreement is needed and Marshal Vandevender will email Gregg to complete agreement. Deputy Robert Lysaght will start on his own 4-12-21. Mikel sent out 15 health, trash and vehicle ordinance violations.

UTILITIES SUPERVISOR – KENT SLATER stated that the basketball lights go off at 1:00 a.m., he will check to make sure the timer is reset since the time change. State Road 14 project from Main Street to Collamer Road approval. Motion made to accept by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

TOWN ATTORNEY – GREGG HOCKEMEYER – nothing to add, in addition to old business.

CLERK TREASURER – PAMELA HOFFMAN – no information at this time.

APPROVAL FOR FEBRUARY 2021 CASH RECONCILEMENT STATEMENT were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote 3-0.

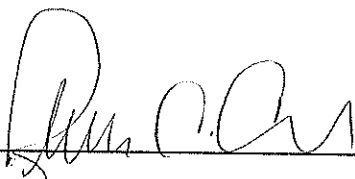
APPROVAL FOR MARCH 23rd, 2021 REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote 3-0.

APPROVAL for APV'S TOTALING \$131,205.11 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING APRIL 5th, 2021 TOTALING \$ 10,072.70 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Waterson, seconded by Councilman Hoffman, carried by vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, TOTALING \$8,457.06 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Waterson, seconded by Councilman Hoffman, carried by vote of 3-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING at 7:22 p.m., motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by a vote of 3-0.

  
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PRESIDENT, RANDY COKL

  
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VICE PRESIDENT, LES HOFFMAN

  
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COUNCILMAN, BROCK WATERSON

ATTEST:

  
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CLERK TREASURER PAMELA HOFFMAN

SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM  
118 E FRONT STREET  
SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787

APRIL 27, 2021  
6:30 PM

The South Whitley Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 in the Town Hall Board Room at 6:30 p.m. Those present were President Randy Cokl, Vice President Les Hoffman, Councilman Brock Waterson, Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer, Town Marshal Mikel Vandevender, Utility Supervisor Kent Slater and Clerk-Treasurer Pamela Hoffman.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS     DONOHUE – INV #13868-03 ENGINEERING SVC – ADDT'L TASKS \$3,887.16. Motion made to approve by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

                  STRAND & ASSOCIATES – ENGINEERING PROPOSAL for INDOT ST RD 14 PROJECT.  
Motion to approve by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

                  TEK COAT and SPRAY, LLC – TAX ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE APPROVAL. Motion made to approve by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS     DONOHUE / OTTENWELLER – LIQUIDATED DAMAGE OPTIONS – TABLED UNTIL 5/11/21 MEETING.

                  CHICKEN ORDINANCE – Several residents attended and voiced opinions for and against. Tonya Warner turned in 150 signatures against changing the ordinance. Toby Van Houten said there shouldn't be a problem with chickens if they're in a coop, not running around. Dove Stasko said that South Whitley is a sweet, small town and several residents have misconceptions of raising chickens in town. She presented a much thought out proposal for the chicken ordinance. Janet Howard voiced her opinion against chickens and amending the ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman Hoffman to change the animal ordinance to include raising chickens only. No second was received, motion died. Councilman Cokl didn't second as he had trouble with permit and ordinance compliance. Councilman Waterson added that he couldn't second as he was speaking for the majority in town. Councilman Hoffman stated that as a town, we need to be careful not to be mindful of new ideas to help bring new residents into town and not stalemate as a town in growing and attracting prospective residents in the future. President Cokl suggested Dove Stasko reach out to Nathan Bilger of the Whitley Co Planning Commission for a special exemption for chickens.

                  206 and 208 S STATE ST PROPERTY STATUS – Tabled until 5/11/2021, Attorney Hockemeyer to reach out to Dale Buuck of the EDC and have him attend the next council meeting. EDC has connections and could advertise on their website for potential buyers. Appraisals for the properties to be marketed as one building to be completed by Ron Anderson and Kent Slater.

PUBLIC INPUT – Janet Howard expressed her thanks to Deputy Marshal Blake Burman for taking a flag down at the AmVets and setting in back up right after it became twisted in the wind.

PARK BOARD – Dave Warner attended, but had nothing to discuss  
DEPARTMENT HEADS:

WASTE WATER/UTILITIES SUPERVISOR – KENT SLATER TRUCK and WA JONES QUOTE – Several bids were retrieved for new dump truck for the Utilities Department. Kerlin's was the most reasonable, at \$33,410.68, and a quote for \$16,400.61 from WA Jones to outfit the truck was presented. A motion was made to approve purchasing the truck and outfitting by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by a vote of 3-0. TRIAD BIDDING CONTRACT for WATER PROJECT – open sealed bids on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Councilman Waterson will attend to open bids. More information should be available regarding the State Road 14 Project at the next meeting.

TOWN MARSHAL – MIKEL VANDENDER – Marshal Vandevender presented a Standard Operating Procedures Contract for the Officer and Canine, which is rules and procedures on what dogs are to be used for and how to be handled by officer. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by 3-0. Marshal Vandevender also asked for approval for a 2 month contract with Top Notch Dog Training near Elkhart for SRO canine, a standard poodle. Officer Clark will have the dog for a 2 month trial to see if he is compatible. Police car will need a platform in back, not a cage, since the dog is non aggressive. Motion made by Councilman Hoffman to approve contract, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

TOWN ATTORNEY – GREGG HOCKEMEYER – nothing to add, in addition to old business.

CLERK TREASURER – PAMELA HOFFMAN – no information at this time.

APPROVAL FOR APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 WORKSESSION MINUTES were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote 3-0.

APPROVAL FOR APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote 3-0.

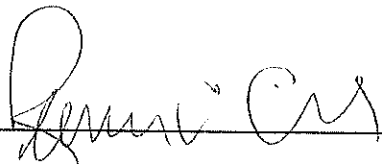
APPROVAL FOR APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for APV'S TOTALING \$296,257.68 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

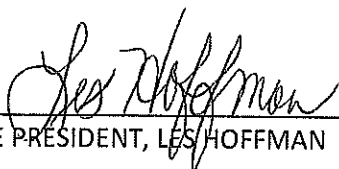
APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 TOTALING \$ 9,257.04 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, TOTALING \$8,296.27 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING at 7:13 p.m., motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by a vote of 3-0.

  
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PRESIDENT, RANDY COKL

  
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VICE PRESIDENT, LES HOFFMAN

ATTEST:

  
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CLERK TREASURER PAMELA HOFFMAN

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COUNCILMAN, BROCK WATERSON