SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM

118 E FRONT STREET

SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787

December 13, 2022

6:30 PM

The South Whitley Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 in the Town Hall Board Room at 6:30 p.m. Those present were Councilman Randy Cokl, Vice-President, Brock Waterson, Councilman John Dunn, Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer, Town Marshal Mikel Vandevender, and Utilities Supervisor Kent Slater, and Clerk-Treasurer Alyssa Knepple with Assistant Deputy Clerk Braylynn Anderson to assist.

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

NEW BUSINESS

* NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Randy Cokl introduced the newest board members that were voted in by the Caucus members on December 6th; John Dunn as Councilman and Alyssa Knepple as Clerk-Treasurer.
* CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST honorable mentions and three prize winners were announced by Scott Smith from Smith and Sons Funeral Home.
* SEWAGE ADJUSTMENTS:
* Gavin Gillespie requested an adjustment for the amount of $252.00. Councilman Waterson motioned to approve the adjustment. Councilman Dunn seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 3-0.
* Brandi Hart requested an adjustment for the amount of $248.75. Councilman Waterson motioned to approve the adjustment. Councilman Dunn seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 3-0
* CONSULTING AGREEMENT FOR M. HARVEY TECHNOLOGY & CONSULTING LLC.:
  + Mark Harvey had changed the monthly and additional services fees in our contract for 2023. Attorney Hockemeyer looked over the new contract and approve for voting. Councilman Waterson motioned to accept the contract at $400.00 per month and $90.00 per hour for additional services beyond monthly fees. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 3-0 vote.
* RENEW BRIGHTSPEED (Clerks office landlines) CONTRACT: $269.96 per month per location. This topic was tabled for further research on other options and prices that are available.

OLD BUSINESS

* INCREASE RATE/PAY for BZA and PLANNING COMMISSION: Councilman Cokl shared other neighboring cities and towns’ pay rate for these positions. Discussion about what the council felt was a fair increase. Councilman Waterson made a motion to increase the pay from $10 to $45 per meeting. Motion was seconded by councilman Dunn. Before the vote, the councilmen discussed the how the commission needs to meet on more of a regular basis and the pay is only for those in attendance. Motion passed to increase the pay to $45 with a vote of 3-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

* MICHAEL STASKO is concerned about the area of land to the east of the bridge on SR 5. He said there has been tree removal businesses dumping large amounts of wood and construction material. Recently, other citizens have been dumping household goods and old furniture on the land. He is concerned about how it makes the town look.
  + Discussions began about how that piece of land is not owned by the town, but by the county. Marshall Vandevender has spoken with the department of natural resources and because it’s private land, the owners can do with it as they please. Attorney Hockemeyer explained that until there is proof of solid waste being dumped, the state won’t get involved. There were also talks of Swings Tire and how the situation with the scrap tires will be taken care of. Marshall Vandevender said Swings has two weeks to remove the tires and derby cars before they are in violation.
  + Judy Earnhart asked about the process of getting the property east of SR 5 annexed by the city. Attorney Hockemeyer said it could be a possibility to contact the current owner and try to purchase the property, but with that comes a small rise in taxes. There is an extensive process to have the property valued and studies done to determine how to get services into the property.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

PARK BOARD – President Dave Warner was not in attendance.

TOWN MARSHAL – MIKEL VANDENDER: Swing Tire has a business license that is in the previous owner’s name, who is now deceased. IDEM has been involved with the concern for tires and the owners were given a citation in August to have everything cleaned up by the end of fall. Since the clean up has not been done, fines and a forced clean up will start in January. There was a resident who filed a complaint and there has been no response. In response to the selling of vehicles, the current owner is allowed to sell the cars “for sale by owner” without a business license.

UTILITIES SUPERVISOR – KENT SLATER: Brought up the need for a new hire for the utilities department. Kent and the council are going to meet to discuss putting the open position onto other websites, such as, indeed and the town Facebook page. They will also go over the responsibilities for the position so the ad is clearer on duties for the applicants. Also, the Washington Ct lift station is almost finished.

TOWN ATTORNEY – GREGG HOCKEMEYER: Attorney Hockemeyer wants to remind the board to send a copy of the new signed contract to Borden to have them sign it and send us a copy.

CLERK TREASURER – ALYSSA KNEPPLE: Nothing to add for this meeting.

APPROVAL FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Councilman Cokl motioned to accept the meeting minutes from the November 22nd meeting. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for APV’S TOTALING $189,355.79 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Cokl, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote 3-0.

APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 28th, 2022, TOTALING $9335.98 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Cokl, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by vote of 3-0.

APPROVAL for PAYROLL WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 5th, 2022, TOTALING $9466.15 were presented to council, approved and signed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Waterson, seconded by Councilman Cokl, carried by vote of 3-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING at 7:01 p.m., motion to adjourn made by Councilman Cokl, seconded by Councilman Waterson, carried by a vote of 3-0.

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COUNCILMAN, JOHN DUNN

ATTEST:

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VICE PRESIDENT, BROCK WATERSON

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CLERK-TREASURER ALYSSA KNEPPLE

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COUNCILMAN, RANDY COKL