

TOWN OF ADVANCE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: TOWN HALL

February 12, 2024

7:00 PM

112 N. Main – P. O. Box 67 Advance, IN 46102 Phone: (765) 676-6611 – Fax (765) 676-6696

Email: advanceCT@townofadvance.com

Council Members: President Jim Caldwell, Dale Thompson, Amanda Lyles and David Lumpkin

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Marshal: Brad Thomas

Attendees: Council Members: President Jim Caldwell, Amanda Lyles, Dale Thompson, and David Lumpkin

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Others in attendance: Deputy Shaun Hitch, Keith Cromwell, Kyle Schnoor, JR Shelton, Kristen Linton, Stacey Sutphin, Dan Fry, Reserve Bewley, and Robert Hill Jr.

President Caldwell called to order the Council Meeting at 19:00.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rules of Order

A moment of silence was held for Jeff Hopper.

APC – Dan Fry:

Mr. Fry requested feedback from residents regarding the proposed Solar Park outside of town.

Stacey Sutphin, town resident, spoke of her job experience in development and stated Hexagon Group was looking to place a 2500 acre solar farm south of town near Grandville Wells Elementary School and east past Old Union Church. Mrs. Sutphin shared maps of the proposed development area provided by Hexagon.

Concerns/actions presented: A Facebook page was started.

Mrs. Sutphin felt the solar park could affect property values, and the growth of the community. Hexagon Group, who would be developing the solar park, has been visiting residences and

advising this project is happening, when they have only signed pre-lease or lease agreements with a few landowners. They have not filed any requests for approval.

Safety (for the elementary students) is a concern of this installation. Battery storage is a future concern as well as potential soil contamination. LLC responsibility and future sale off of property is also a concern.

CT requested the name of the Facebook group. Mrs. Sutphin shared this information and her contact information advising the FB page is for educational purposes only, with admin rules.

President Caldwell asked if there was any further public comment?

CT questioned what the ramifications would be if the solar park was bought and sold repeatedly? Mrs. Sutphin stated the first sale is the lease agreement and approval.

President Caldwell stated the various power sources in America, such as wind, nuclear, coal, hydro, and solar. Solar in the summer, he stated, produces 80% power and 2% in the winter. The biggest power producer is coal.

Revenue discussions ensued. Mrs. Sutphin stated this is an industrial use and will change the face of the community and will affect the tax base.

President Caldwell questioned Mr. Fry if he had enough information. Mr. Fry stated he needed more information and stated he felt the land owners could do with their land what they want with their property.

Mr. Thompson stated the issues he had with acquiring the Monsanto building and that the rules change with each project.

Discussions ensued regarding other municipalities and considerations of wind farms.

CT asked Mr. Fry if he would want to have a public meeting for residents to express their concerns. Mrs. Sutphin stated legal counsel was retained for their group. She also stated a non-local political influencer group (from Tennessee) has been utilized to speak with residents.

Mrs. Sutphin stated a public meeting will be held.

Mr. Fry stated the Board of Zoning would have to have a meeting first. President Caldwell stated the next a meeting would be held at the APC, and then the County Commissioners.

Discussions regarding the solar park potentially being a detriment to future development of houses ensued.

Councilwoman Lyles questioned if this is a done deal and would a petition help? Mrs. Sutphin stated this is not a done deal and there were petitions available.

Engineering Report – Gary Ladd:

Mr. Ladd submitted a report recommending All Star Paving, INC. as the lowest responsible Bid for \$120,902.75 and to not use the alternate Bid.

President Caldwell stated he spoke with Mr. Ladd and All Star is a smaller company and was recommended.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the All Star Paving Bid of \$120,902.75 and for President Caldwell to sign the Notice of Award and other documents pertaining to the CCMG Grant. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to not use the alternate Bid. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2024 and the January 29, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve claims for February 12, 2024 in the amount of \$99,825.43 and the Year-End Claims of \$48,032.10. Councilman Lumpkin seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

The council signed off on reconciliation for the Year-End BNY Mellon account and January 2024 reconciliation.

Clerk-Treasurer – Shari Johnson:

Fund and appropriation reports were presented. No comments were presented.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve CT adjustments for the month of January 2024, in the amount of \$-261.92. Councilman Lumpkin seconded. President Caldwell abstained from approving the fire department adjustment; motion carried.

TRECS is being uploaded.

CT advised that there were issues uploading the W-2s. She attempted to upload on 2 occasions and the uploads were rejected. The W-2s were mailed on February 1, 2024 to SSA, and she submitted a request to file paper copies and wrote a letter of forgiveness for any potential penalties and interest due to being mailed a day late. She advised that the upload requirement had changed from 250 down to 10. Many Clerk-Treasurers and businesses across the state had issues.

CT presented a Request to Travel for the ILMCT Conference and said that she would be teaching in 2 classes. Councilman Thompson stated if she was teaching, the cost of the conference should be free. CT stated that the dues are extremely low, and she understood his concerns.

Councilman Thompson (under duress) made a motion to approve CT's request to travel with expenses estimated to be \$1173.00. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Boone County Housing Study was shared with the Council.

P. Caldwell stated that the Town Hall would be closed on April 8, 2024 to allow the CT and Deputy-Clerk to assist in the Eclipse events. Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to move the Town Council Meeting to Tuesday April 9, 2024. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussions ensued regarding the Eclipse activities. CT advised she was still looking into insurance for the event.

CT stated that she will be reviewing financials and making recommendations for upcoming rate studies for all utilities.

CT presented to the Council that they could sponsor the Mooning in Advance and requested an amount they would like to contribute. Councilwoman Lyles made a motion for the Town of Advance to sponsor Mooning in Advance for \$1000.00. Councilman Lumpkin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Lastly, CT presented to the Council compensation to the Deputy Clerk for web development on her off hours. President Caldwell recommended a \$1000.00 stipend for web developing.

Councilman Lumpkin made a motion to approve a \$1000.00 to the Deputy Clerk upon website update/setup completion. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Lyles questioned if there was going to be an autopay option. CT advised they were looking at changing over to in.gov for credit card processing and e-check capabilities.

Mrs. Sutphin questioned if there would be more than one admin on the account. CT advised she and the Deputy Clerk would both be administrators.

Cyber enhancements were discussed.

Park – Kristen Linton:

The Park Board is working to get on track for the year. The Mooning is an event where the park is assisting Jawbone to receive additional funding. Grants are being pursued. A community building project is being headed up by JR Shelton.

The park is renting spaces at the park, and CT is working on getting insurance information, so the park is all covered.

The permit for the concession stand is being submitted.

The event for mooning is going to be a big event, and spaces were going to be marked off by Mr. Shelton and Ms. Linton.

CT questioned information on the banners, and Ms. Linton advised the memorial banners through DAR, and hopes to work with DAR representative to get everything in place to unveil Memorial Day weekend. The cost of brackets are being ironed out and include the banner total cost.

President Caldwell stated he was working with M. Thomas on an EMS plan for the eclipse to hand out to all departments.

M. Thomas advised that all the money for the event will go to the park board and the bills for the Mooning in Advance will be paid by the park. Five non-for-profits will benefit from the event. The park will have Venmo and Paypal accounts.

Discussion of the amenities for the Mooning in Advance ensued.

President Caldwell stated a quorum cannot be held by the park and the park board needs to be careful what is discussed at the park. Decisions cannot be made in a quorum. CT stated open door law has to be followed by the park board, and this was advised by the town attorney.

President Caldwell requested a 5-10 year plan for budget purchases.

An application was completed to participate in the polo matches in Zionsville. Discussions ensued.

UMAC – CT Johnson read report:

The WWTP did experience some high flow days. In December the plant ran at 69% capacity and was a dry month. The plant has been performing well and within parameters. No other issues to report. Adams Electric was contacted for a generator plug price. This information should be available in March.

Hopper Excavating – Keith Cromwell:

For the month of January 2024 work completed was line locates, repairs at the town building, snow removal and salting, a frozen base was checked, and there are still pending work orders.

CT questioned if Mr. Cromwell remembered when the elementary school had the septic pumped.

Mr. Cromwell shared appreciation to all those who reached out during the passing of Mr. Hopper on behalf of the Hopper family.

IMPA – President Caldwell read report:

In January 2024 there were 2 service requests, no poles were replaced, and there was one outage.

Councilman Thompson questioned the status of REMC and ilines. President Caldwell stated work had been completed. Mr. Cromwell questioned if the town had been in contact by Comcast, as fiber is being run from Jamestown to Thorntown.

IMPA Commissioner's President Caldwell:

President Caldwell advised there was nothing new to report, as all the same information was discussed.

Fire – Keith Cromwell:

For the month of January 2024, the fire department had 6 EMS, 2 fire, 1 MVA, and 3 persons in distress.

Police – Marshall Thomas: (no report presented – verbal):

There were 6 runs in January. Runs were discussed. Police assisted the Fire Department with 3 persons in distress.

Elderly welfare checks are being done, and the department is still working to help those get G.E.D.s.

Reserve Smith attended a ride along that had a police chase.

Old Business:

Trent Heat and Cool completed duct work repair in WAM bathroom. CT advised P. Caldwell authorized payment to Trent of \$3109.82.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to ratify payment to Trent Heat and Cool in the amount of \$3109.82. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

CT Johnson read Resolution 2024-01: A Resolution Declaring Items Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition of Surplus Items.

Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to suspend the rules and consider Resolution 2024-01 on its first reading. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

CT Johnson advised that she did not place the ad for the sale of vacant lots timely and that the ads would be placed with the public hearing notice for the March 11, 2024 Meeting.

CT Johnson read Ordinance 2024-0: An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Blanket Bond and Crime Insurance Policy.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2024-01 on its first reading. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01. Councilman Lumpkin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Billing Disputes:

None presented.

Request to Speak:

None received.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 20:21.

X

Clerk Treasurer

X

President

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday March 11, 2024, at (19:00) 7:00 p.m. at the James L. Caldwell Fire Department, 106 E. Wall St., Advance, IN.