

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, Chad Waltz and Scott Alspach. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer. Councilman Frank Vaughn and Attorney Lee Robbins were absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the August 4th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for September 1st for approval. Councilman Alspach moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

2022 BUDGET HEARING

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach asks if there are any questions on the budgets that have been submitted by the various department heads. Alspach states the proposed budget has been reviewed with our DLGF representative and is fully funded. She also has prepared and provided to council a ten (10) year history of various fund balances with revenues and expenditures and reiterates the need to not spend more money than we take in. While we can fund the 2022 proposed budget it will dip into our cash reserve. Alspach notes that in the police department budget money is requested to purchase one new police car and finance a second one. Councilman Perrin has located some 2021 Dodge Chargers at a dealership in Salem, Indiana and we may want to consider purchasing cars now due to the lack of inventory. President Perrin states the police chief is requesting three (3) new cars however, the price of the cars is \$7,500 more that we paid for one in March with the State's QPA price. The dealer in Salem does not have to honor the QPA and the dealer that has the State bid can't get any more cars. After much discussion council approves purchasing one (1) car now and leaving funding in for one (1) additional car in 2022. Moving forward we will purchase one (1) car each year and return to the eight (8) year rotation for the police fleet.

Councilman Alspach moves to authorize the purchase on a 2021 Dodge Charger from John Jones Automotive Group at a cost of \$34,598.00 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Waltz moves to approve the 2022 budget on first reading with this change and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Council directs Clerk-Treasurer Alspach to schedule a budget workshop with the department heads before the October meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

PILOT Program

Councilman Alspach asks that Attorney Robbins present information on the proposed PILOT Program at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Playground Equipment Proposal

PW Supt. McCauslin states he has budgeted \$270,000.00 in his 2022 budget for playground equipment and lighting for Tot Park. McCauslin notes that since May of this year the equipment has increased in cost by \$8,000.00 and an additional 4% increase has been projected for December. McCauslin would like to order the equipment this year to avoid more increases.

The proposal is broken into three (3) parts -equipment, fall barrier and installation. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states we could purchase the equipment this year with Rainy Day and Cum Capital Development Funds but if we tried to purchase everything it would require an Additional Appropriation. Council directs Supt. McCauslin to get three (3) bids and to continue his pursuit of a Johnson County Community Foundation grant. If we order the equipment this year, we could reduce the appropriation in next year's parks budget or transfer the money into Rainy Day.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Resolution 2101-04

President Perrin presents the resolution reading it in its entirety to allow up to eighty (80) hours of paid sick leave for any full-time employee who has COVID, is quarantined due to contact tracing, or to receive a vaccine. This is for employees only not if they are off due to a family member. This policy mirrors the Family First Coronavirus Act that expired December 31, 2020. Councilman Waltz moves to adopt Resolution 2101-04 and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Resolution 2101-05

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach reads the resolution in its entirety. This authorizes the Utility Superintendent and/or their designee to approve utility adjustments and extensions. Councilman Alspach moves to adopt Resolution 2101-04 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Utility Transfer Memo

Clerk-Treasurer presents the transfer memo and explains. Motion to approve the transfers by Councilman Schilawski and seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Resignation / Retirement Letters

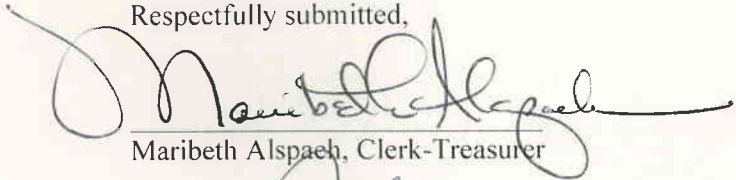
Council has received letters from Councilman Vaughn announcing his resignation effective September 30th and Clerk-Treasurer Alspach retirement notice effective October 8th, 2021.

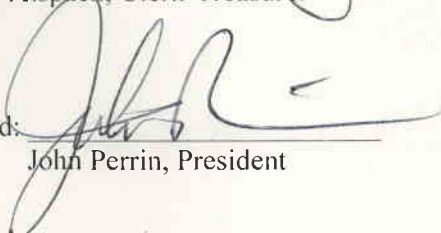
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dee Appleton, 103 Sawmill wants to hold the Annual House Decorating contest again this year. She states they had 26 participants in 2020 and awarded \$2,100.00 worth of prizes that had been donated by local businesses. Appleton hopes to expand to asking businesses to decorate their store windows. Council approves and thanks her for her efforts but reminds her this is not a town sponsored program. Appleton asks if they could add a red, white and blue light display on the Proctor Park flag pole. Council explains that they are adding a display at the corner of Ashland and Tracy with a large Christmas tree and an LED light display. All decorating will be done by town employees to avoid liability issues.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 

John Perrin, President