

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jill Gross, Shelly Krueger, Timothy Croy, Amanda Yaprak, and Andrew Grossnickle

**Members Absent:**

**Employees Present:** Josh Shepherd, Keaton Schopf

**Guests:** Jackie Gorski (Times Union), Ayden Yaprak to discuss Eagle Scout Plaque.

6:30 PM Call to Order, Public Hearing

Timothy motions to adjourn public hearing. Shelly Second. Carried

6:33 PM Call to Order, Regular Meeting

Timothy motions to approve the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Shelly second. Carried.

### **Guests:**

Ayden Yaprak briefed the council that his eagle scout project proposal has been submitted to the BSA District Council. In anticipation of a green light from the district, he presented a plaque image example for the board to review. All members agreed on the plaque design and labeling and wished him luck on completing his project.

### **Old Business:**

Phend & Brown – Amanda stated she is preparing for the closeout of the Community Crossings Grant and presented a change order reducing the original contract price by \$4,077.24. *Jill motions to accept the change order. Shelly second. Carried.*

Legal Counsel Update – Andrew stated he would schedule a meeting with Jill to discuss Zoning/Cemetery/Parks Board or Commission & unsafe building ordinance. Work in progress 2025.

Dodge Ram Lights – Keaton received a quote from Copsgear for \$18,000 to rebuild the lights on the 2020 Truck. He stated the visor lights, and a running board light are not functioning properly and possibly causing the battery to die. He estimated the cost of supplies at \$1,700, if he re-wires the lights himself. Keaton will look into other options.

Police Deputy – Keaton stated he received 9 applications for the deputy position. He estimated the starting salary for a full-time experienced officer at \$47,840 and \$45,292 for non-experienced. He also stated a part-time position with an experienced officer at roughly 24 hours per week and \$24/hour would range \$30,000 per year.

Mowers – Josh stated he received the two John Deere lawn mowers, and they are working great.

Park Bridge – Josh provided two quotes to sandblast, paint, and re-deck the bridge, Pioneer at \$63,700 and TRG at \$60,441. He stated he has made multiple calls soliciting for bids and only received responses from the two. *Timothy motions to allow Josh to accept the TRG quote for \$60,441 and to encumber the funds if the project extends to 2025. Shelly second. Carried.*

**New Business:**

Trick-or-Treat – Timothy reminds the community that Trick-or-Treating will be Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:00 PM and the costume judging starts at 7:00 PM

Downtown Master Plan – Amanda informed the council that she received notice of release of funds for the CBDG planning grant. She presented Andrew with the TSW Agreement and TSW notice to proceed for his review. Amanda also presented a draft resolution letter identifying an oversight in the procurement process during selection. *Timothy motions to have Andrew review the Agreement, notice to proceed, and procurement letter and allow Jill to sign the documents after his review. Shelly second. Carried.*

K21 Application – Amanda informed the council she had started the K21 Application and emailed a draft for their review. Jill mentioned contacting Jennifer at K21 directly for additional guidance. *Timothy motions to allow Amanda to submit the K21 grant and allows Jill to sign the K21 letter of support. Shelly second. Carried.*

Park Project – Amanda presented an acknowledgement of award confirming the bid was awarded to TRG Services Inc for \$623,029.11. *Shelly motions to allow Jill to sign the TRG contract award. Jill Second. Carried.*

Employee Policy - Amanda presented the council with NewFocus HR consulting services quote for \$5,000 to complete an employee policy for the town. Jill requested Andrew review the quote and recommended further discussion at the November meeting.

Makers Market – Shelly stated the next makers market will be October 4<sup>th</sup> and has temporarily moved to the Mentone Library parking Lot. She announced a meeting will be held at the library on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM to kickoff planning for 2025 Makers Market. Final market date is October 18<sup>th</sup> weather permitting.

Refuse Ordinance – Andrew Introduced Ordinance 24-481 Amending & Restating Rates and Charges for Garbage and Refuse. Council agreed the rates charge effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, increase to \$15.00, then \$16.00 starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027. Andrew stated he would provide the legal notice for the public for potential adoption in November.

Project NOVA – Andrew requested the MOU be filled in for review and can be discussed on the October 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

Police Deputy – Keaton stated he will contact all qualified applicants and will hold a Saturday morning written and agility test. He plans to start interviews the week of October 21<sup>st</sup> and will provide the council his top 4 candidate choices to begin interviews in November.

Radios – Keaton stated the current radios are obsolete and are on slowly failing. He provided a quote from J&K for \$3,338.58 for one new programed radio. *Shelly motions to allow Keaton to purchase a new radio and pursue a JAG grant for two additional radios. Timothy second. Carried.*

Lead Service Line Inventory – Josh, Corbin, Amanda, and Timothy had a meeting with Commonwealth about the inventory progress. IDEM updated their requirements to include a notification addressed to property owners whose water lines were identified as unknown or could possibility contain lead. Josh and Corbin have been physical inspecting unidentified lines to complete the inventory.

Salary Ordinance – Jill reminded the council of salary increase discussions from previous years. A 3.8% increase for 2022 and 2023, initial approved rate of 3.8% for 2024 that was changed to a \$5,000 flat increase across the board. There was discussion on cost-of-living rates and inflation rates. *Tim motions to increase salaries by 3% across the board and add a longevity bonus of \$200 per year per full-time employee and clerk-treasurer with a longevity cap of 25 years. His motion included a \$1,500 incentive increase to Keaton for completing Tier 2 training. Jill second. Carried.*

Shelly Thanked all the businesses that stay open late for the Makers Market and supporting each other: Hoosier Vintage, Terri's this and That, Egg Town Coffee, and Pete & Freddie's.

Shelly motions to accept claims. Jill second. Carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, budget adoption & MOU Review special meeting and Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM.

Shelly motion to adjourn. Jill second. Carried.

Council President \_\_\_\_\_ Attest: Clerk-Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Gross Amanda Yaprak