

Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 12, 2018

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, March 12, 2018 at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Julia Glessner, Steve Buzzard; Tracey Brown; Ethan Stivers, absent: Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Dennis Spitler; Jason Caley and others.

President Glessner announced the opening of the meeting at 5:00 pm and opened a Public Hearing in regard to a house at 313 Matilda which had been damaged in a fire. Marla Stambazze of the Department of Community Development reported on an inspection held on February 6th with DCD officials and the owner of the property which resulted in a recommendation for demolition. The sixty day time period given by the DCD for removal of personal items or a submission of a plan of action ends on April 9, 2018. The property owner was present and stated his willingness to comply but was concerned that personal items could not be removed by the deadline. Requesting input and hearing none, President Glessner closed the Public hearing. Following discussion, Glessner moved, seconded by Brown to uphold the DCD enforcement order but requested that the owner attend the April 9th meeting of Council to update progress and that further extension of time could be considered at that meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. In other matters related to the DCD, an inspection of the buildings lost in a December 22nd fire in the downtown will be schedule.

Glessner introduced Steve Jackson, Scout Master, and a number of scouts in attendance. Jackson reported that the Scouts were attending the meeting to meet requirements of a Citizenship and Community Spirit Badge. Glessner encouraged them to participate in the meeting.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2018 were approved as submitted.

A citizen requested that the sidewalk and street area around the building which burned on December 22nd be kept clear of glass and debris. The Marshal and Utility Manager will monitor the situation.

Also in regard to the December 22nd fire, an invoice from Heartland REMC to the Town in the amount of \$12,140.87 for replacement of poles, lines, and transformer impacted by fire and labor has been denied by owner's insurance carrier citing that the policy in effect did not cover such damage. Morrison and Poulson reported that in discussion with the adjustors, an offer for the Town to assume half the cost of the invoice with the insurance carrier assuming the other half had been made but apparently was not accepted. In discussion, Council Members expressed disbelief as the work done was a direct result of the fire. Following further discussion, it was determined that the Town's insurance agent be contacted to see if coverage was available or if any other options were available.

Also in regard to above situation, the owner of the buildings that burned has asked the Fire Chief if the department, i.e. the Town, would assume part of the cost of demolition of the building as the total insurance allotment of \$5,000 for the Department has not been reached as per insurance coverage. With that information, Council, by consensus, directed an additional claim be made for items such as damaged ladders, compensation, etc. related to the fire. Town officials had originally been told the limit that could be claimed was \$1500 although approximately \$2300 in claims was eventually paid. Therefore, the request by the owner was denied by consensus.

Morrison submitted the advertised notice for bids on the Eleventh Street Reconstruction Project noting that March 23rd was the deadline for submission. It is expected that the Bid Tabulations will be available for review at the April 9th meeting of Council

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Brown moved, seconded by Buzzard, payment of annual dues in the amount of \$1251 to AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities) formerly known as the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT). The motion was approved unanimously.

A copy of a contract offer to buy out the communication lease held on the Eleventh Street Water Tower by md7 was submitted for Council review. The Water Utility currently receives \$2550 per month from AT&T for that lease. Having reviewed such offers with similar conditions prior and following discussion, Brown moved, seconded by Glessner, to take no action and to inform the company that no further discussion will be held. The motion was approved unanimously.

Glessner moved, seconded by Buzzard, to approve a request from Historic Warren to close Main Street extended from First Street along the edge of the park under construction for the Weekday Farmer's Market during operating hours of 4:30-7:00 pm. The motion was approved unanimously.

Morrison submitted and reviewed the Cash and Investment portion of the 2017 Annual Report as submitted to the State. Also reported was that the Fixed Asset Accounting System is currently being updated by T.M. Wells Valuation Service as per prior Council approval. Tax rates for County entities as published in the Herald Press were reviewed.

Marshal Spittler submitted the written activity report for February.

Poulson, as Fire Chief, submitted the written activity for February and the written financial report for the Volunteer Firemen Association. Reorganization of the department has Doug Christy being appointed Assistant Fire Chief. Council approved by consensus. A current roster of the Department was also filed. The Tanker ordered in 2017 will be delivered following its use as a demonstration vehicle at an April equipment show in Indianapolis. Four members of the Department are scheduled to attend a two day extrication class in Wisconsin in April at \$600 per member. Poulson inquired about the Town reimbursing registration fees for the individuals. Brown moved, seconded by Glessner, that the Town would pay for up to two registrations dependent on the Township agreeing. The motion was approved unanimously.

Poulson, as Utility Manager, reported that one quote had been received for replacement of entrance light poles. Council members directed that at least one more quote, preferably two, be received before any action would be taken. Noting that the RAW pumps at the wastewater treatment plant had not been working efficiently for some months which had led to failure of one which in turn shorted out the other resulting in substantial flooding of the plant basement, a quote to replace the two pumps at the cost of \$86,400 plus freight from Covalen, maker of the pumps, was submitted. Buzzard moved, seconded by Glessner to accept the quote. The motion was approved unanimously. Clean up of the basement continues. A log jam at the interurban pylons in the Salamonie River has once again formed and is larger than the last one cleared which had resulted in erosion issues. A letter will be sent to DNR detailing the problem and what had to be done at Town expense previously and requesting assistance from that agency.

By consensus, a proposal to make a permanent surface for the batting cage at Tower Park was denied as the price of \$6391.90 to \$8697.75 is considered prohibitive as it does not get general use. Council members expressed appreciation for the preparation of the proposal and determined that maintenance be done on the current bedding for the cage.

Discussed at a previous meeting, Glessner moved, seconded by Buzzard, to promote Deputy Marshal Caley to Assistant Town Marshal. The motion was approved unanimously. Amendment to the Law Enforcement Salary Ordinance will be determined at the next meeting of Council.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Town Council is April 9th, 2018

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

General discussion was held.

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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President
Julia Glessner

As _____ Member
Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member
Tracey Brown

As _____ Member
Ethan Stivers (Absent)