

Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 21, 2020

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, September 21, 2020 in a Regular Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Ethan Stivers, Carrie Miller, Steve Buzzard, Present electronically but not voting was Council Member Tavis Surfus; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Ty Surfus, Brian Sills, Jason Caley, and others.

President Stivers announced the opening of a scheduled public hearing at 5:00 pm on the proposed 2021 Municipal Budget. Following a short review and following a request for public input and hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Carol Jones, resident of Warren, was present to address Council on the condition of a property at 310 Western Avenue. Also discussed were vacant houses at 218 W. Third, 313 N. Matilda, and 319 N. Matilda. The matter was referred to the Huntington County Department of Community Development (DCD) for inspection.

Upon request from the Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Festival Committee and, by consensus, Council approved that the Festival go on as planned for October 30th following any mandates, etc. in place at the time. In addition, Trick or Treat hours were set as usual for Halloween Night, October 31 from 6-8 PM during which time additional police presence will be in place.

Kim Hostetler, Director of the Huntington County DCD, submitted Ordinances 2020-5, 6, rezoning of two parcels on Eleventh Street from R-4 to General Business. Following introduction of the Ordinances and discussion of related issues, the matter was tabled until certain procedural questions could be addressed. A Special Meeting will be scheduled when the issues are addressed or the matter will be placed on the agenda of the October 19th meeting of Council.

Hostetler also discussed the need to update the Warren Comprehensive Plan so that the Town would be included in a Stellar Community Application in March by Huntington City, County, and Towns. No decision was made on how to proceed.

Updated was that since the last Regular Council meeting, three emergency meetings had been held related to noncompliance issues with Golfo Di Napoli Dairy. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management was called in when issues developed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant due to unacceptable discharge from the Dairy. That inspection and subsequent action resulted in the Town Council issuing a Cease and Desist order on the Dairy's use of the lift station at the site and additional measures being taken at the Plant to somewhat alleviate the problem. IDEM also inspected the Dairy and issued an inspection report detailing deficiencies at the Plant. The main issue is the delay in Golfo installing a Pre Treatment system as required in the Town's Sewer Use Ordinance and in the IDEM permit with Golfo. That lack has caused excessive loading in the lift station and plant with the subsequent dumping into the Treatment plant becoming unmanageable due to increase production levels at the Dairy. During the following week, discussions between Golfo Representative, the Town Compliance Consultant, and IDEM resulted in controls being placed on timely reporting being required by Golfo, daily monitoring of the situation at the Lift Station, and a schedule for installation of pretreatment by the end of September. In addition, emergency measures were put into place to remove sludge from the sewer plant manually to prevent discharge into the Salamonie River. In emergency session seven days later, the Order was lifted. The Order in place did not require closing of the Plant and Plant operations, but made the Lift Station inaccessible.

As Golfo owes the Town nearly \$30,000 in surcharges related to discharge into the Sanitary System calculated since January of 2020 and, as Golfo has not made a payment since a notice was sent in June, Council discussed a payment plan as proposed by Golfo. The total past due is to be paid over a four month period plus the then current sur charge must be paid by the date stipulated. The matter was forwarded to the Town Attorney for an official agreement to be put in place.

Two quotes were received for replacement of the smaller Bucket Truck owned by the Electric Utility.

ALTEC	\$205,104 plus trade in of \$19,000
Utility Truck Equipment	\$219,278 plus trade in of \$20,000

The matter was taken under advisement to further compare the quotes.

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Morrison reported that the project to remove the dam on the Salamonie River was progressing having reached the request for bids stage. The project is being done through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources with a LARE grant through that Department. Estimated project cost of is \$72,000, the entire cost to be paid through the grant. In addition, US Fish and Wildlife will be removing at least one of the pillars near the dam area which allows accumulation of debris. That project is underwritten by that agency, again, no cost to the Town.

Following discussion, Stivers moved, seconded by Buzzard, to issue a 2021 raise in the amount of .64 per hour for each full time employee of the Town. Voting in the affirmative were Buzzard and Stivers. Voting against was Miller.

Miller gave a report from a previous HCUED Meeting.

Morrison submitted the monthly financial report and reported that the new phone system had been ordered which will replace all phones including Utility and Police as well as office. The system is expected to be installed after October 15th.

Assistant Marshal Caley submitted the August Activity Report.

Fire Chief Poulson submitted the August Run Report and reported that Huntington County had not received notice yet on a grant filed to replace radio systems.

Sills, Utility Operations Manager, submitted the August Project Report. Submitted were quotes for purchase of two trucks, one each for water and sewer. A more detailed report of the quotes will be discussed at the next meeting of Council.

Poulson, Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, requested permission to replace membranes at the Plant for the cost of \$6000. The project, which had been discussed earlier by Council, needs to be done as soon as possible due to possible failure. Council approved by consensus.

The next Regular Meeting of Town Council has been scheduled for October 19th.

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

General Discussion was held.

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

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President As _____ Member
Ethan Stivers Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member As _____ Member
Carrie Miller Tavis Surfus(Absent)