

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, June 18, 2019, 6:30 PM

President Carter called the General Meeting to order at 6:36 PM following the public hearing. Present were Vice President Vermillion, Council Member Kauffman, Council Member Rush and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt. Council Member Budreau and Council Member Rush were absent.

Also in attendance were Jared Huss, Andrea Halpin, John Mrozinski, Jill Doll, Bob Middlebrook, Carol Middlebrook, Josh Schweizer, Vince Vojtko, Jim Parent, Jack Daly, Sandy Raabe, Cal Dittmar, Rich Kopkowski, Jenny Kopkowski, Dan Caruso and Randy Clark

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Vermillion moved to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2019 Public Hearing and General Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kauffman and passed 3-0.

Visitor Comments

- Jim Parent

Mr. Parent thanked the Council for time to discuss the water issues that continue on Zigler Street. He said they have called the county about clearing out the ditch near his home out to the Taylor Ditch and numerous other things. He believes he has a broken pipe on his property that needs to be fixed and has spoken with Jared. They cameraed last year and found to be broken but nothing has been done. The house on the corner of Marvel Lane by the viaduct is virtually worthless now. He realizes that there are variances in how water affects each home. He asked what we are going to try to do. He has moved his furnace and water heater to the rafters and is getting quotes for filling in the basement and making it instead a crawl space. This is the second year they have been here before the Council and they have collectively spoken and he would like to know the general plan. He has done what he has been asked to do and wants to know what to do next. He also spoke with County as Dan had suggested. They said they would get on it so maybe the Council members can make a call. Just dredging the ditch 15 feet only created a pond for mosquitoes. Ground water level makes the house worthless at this point.

Jared responded that there have been a number of conversations and public meetings. We did look at the concept of different pumping plans and looked at the context of the railroad. One of the main reasons the entire project was shut down during the viaduct project was because they were concerned about the water changing the ground and possibly affecting the bridge. A pumping plan to artificially lower the water level would have the railroad stopping us. Surface water will be addressed with the Zigler Street project next year but as FEMA told everyone, the problem isn't surface or storm water it is truly ground water. As an engineer he wants to fix this but the only fix is to create an artificial pumping system to draw down the aquifer other than getting major equipment off the ground or installing some type of pumping system, neither of those are cheap.

The Town has no funding mechanisms for ground water. None provides any comfort for the issue but it is not the fault of the town. The article that discussed Lake Michigan talks about how dried out the docks were a few years ago and now the water is high. Mr. Parent said that he understands it is a hydrologic cycle but it lasts how long? Jared responded that he doesn't have that information and wouldn't feel comfortable answering as it is not his area of expertise. The area is highly subject to rain because of sand and gravel and prolificacy of aquifers.

Mr. Parent asked what about standing water near the grocery store and ambrosia. Jared responded that this is a direct representation of how much ground water we are seeing. Jared stated that although its not a town related piece, part of what you see at Taylor Ditch there is a lot of water on a pretty consistent basis. Hudson Lake discharges into the Taylor Ditch. We talk about drawing down the ground water and then we discuss concerns about taking too much water from the aquifer. Jared stated that after speaking at length with other colleagues, a multi-million dollar pumping system is the only thing that might help. Again, the water is ground water . Mr. Parent again expressed appreciation to the Council and asked that, as we get closer to the project on Zigler Street next year, he would like some input on what we do with the pipe and things.

- Dan Caruso

Attended the county commissioners meeting this morning and they voted on four issues that were pushed by the Redevelopment Commission that OSA has been harping on. The only way we can stop this or even attempt to stop this is to contact Voice of the People, email or write to our County Councilman, Mark Telloyan. Everyone attend the meetings, they are painless. Attend County Council and County Commissioner meetings. We vote in November and will vote for those who see things our way who can be our voice.

- Jack Daly

Also attended the county commissioners meeting this morning. Bill Schallioil talked about working with all of the towns involved in various projects at various sites. If that is true, it would be great if the Council had communication with Area Plan, Bill Schalliols Group, etc. and publicize that somewhere. Another suggestion is that they have spent over 3 million on this project so far and that aside, have the consultants they spent 3 mil on spoke to the Council yet or the people in town? If the county is spending 3 mil, maybe we should say hey, we are New Carlisle.

- Randy Clark

In concurrence with Jack Daly, he asks the Town Council to present unified opposition to the IEC plans to industrialize the farmland east of town. We need a clear, unified statement. The farm ground is a finite resource and will remain so if it is preserved. If it is destroyed by industry it will not. We already have Gary and East Chicago. We don't need to leave our children's children's children a mess to clean up. They are still cleaning up Studebaker and Allis Chalmers. We have the

best farm ground in the world here and to see it destroyed for some jobs that last a generation or two....

Employee Reports

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

The Praxair settlement is complete.

She sent out a letter requesting reimbursement from a former employee per the signed agreement for AEMT and Paramedic training costs but has not heard anything yet.

They have prepared several public records requests.

President Carter asked about the status of the situation regarding the protective order. Andrea responded that there is a protective order in place and he is not entitled to attend council meetings for a period of three years. Since that time he has threatened a lawsuit to the Clerk's office.

- Engineer Jared Huss

We have received the draft for the 20 year capital report for the water system. He, John and Pat will meet and review the report and then forward comments back to the Council

We have a work session for the sidewalk project for the public tonight following the general meeting.

We have a two week delay in the Community Crossings projects because of an advertisement glitch but still have plenty of time.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

On June 6 Walsh and Kelley paved the alley between Arch and Race. They replaced 2 dead trees on Michigan Street and will be mulching them soon. He is setting up times with Josh for CPR training and have two dates set.

At the last park board meeting they said to move forward with fence repair at Bourissa Hills Park so he has contacted the company but they are currently backed up approximately five to six weeks.. Park Board member 'Malarie Varnak's husband will be pouring cement for the sign to be installed in Memorial Park, so cost will be minimal.

John presented options on lights for welcome signs for review and discussion at the next meeting. Work on the bridge in Bourissa is going well.

John presented a quote for a vac machine that he would like to purchase that will be shared by six departments for review. He will put this on the agenda for Council decision at the next meeting.

New Business

- Baker-Tilly Agreement-Electric Tracker Preparation

Vice President Vermillion moved to proceed with the BakerTilly Agreement for Electric Tracker Preparation not to exceed \$3000 without prior approval. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kauffman and passed 3-0.

- Vote on Fire Territory Chief and Staffing Model

The Executive Board for the Fire Territory had two recommendations to bring forward, to promote Josh Schweizer to Fire Chief and to accept the recommendation of a staffing model at this time.

Council Member Kauffman asked for clarification that this is just for the first year and not about future years. President Carter stated that was correct because if the department becomes larger they will have to revisit the staffing.

Council Member Kauffman moved to accept the nomination of Josh Schweizer as Fire Territory and to accept the staffing model for the initial year of the territory as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice President Vermillion and passed 3-0.

Council Reports

Council Member Kauffman

Attended the Redevelopment Commission meeting last week and went to the County Commissioners meeting this morning regarding the IEC as there has been some new movement. They are acquiring the property at Edison and Snowberry that will pave the way for the extension of Snowberry out to 20. They are also doing a big transportation study at a cost of \$200,000. She spoke up and expressed her strong feelings at the meeting as a citizen and stated she was not representing the Council. She has very serious concerns regarding the saturation point of the IEC. They are at the 3 million mark or more and there are concerns about what we may get out of it and what we may see.

President Carter

Tomorrow is our first concert of the year. At the concert on the 26th there will be a tribute to Stephen Vojtko who put so much time and effort into developing the concert program that is a wonderful event for our town. The concerts, celebrating the twentieth anniversary this year, will be renamed the Stephen Vojtko Summer Concert Series in his honor and memory.

Was going to speak at length about the meeting last night between the Town and Olive Township with Hudson Twp at the library but will just say that is a lot of work that needs to be done.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Received a lot of good information at SBOA school last week as well as new legislative updates and will put some of the information together to share with the Council.

State Board of Accounts arrived yesterday to begin a full four-year audit that will take approximately six weeks.

Bills to be Paid

Vice President Vermillion moved to pay all bills as presented on the Claim Docket. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kauffman and passed 3-0. Council Member Budreau abstained.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Vice President Vermillion and second by Council Member Kauffman the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Ken Carter, President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer