

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, May 22, 2018, 5:00 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Carter called the meeting to order with Member Rypma, Council Member Vermillion, Council Member Budreau and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt present. Vice President Vojtko was absent.

Also in attendance were Jared Huss, Andrea Halpin, John Mrozinski, John Gelow, Mark Adnson, Deb Adnson, Cal Dittmar, Bob Middlebrook, Carol Middlebrook, Jill Doll and Stephanie Murphy.

Minutes

Council Member Rypma moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018 General Meeting, Special Meeting and Executive Session as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed. Council Member Vermillion abstained from voting on the General Meeting minutes.

Public Comments

- John Gelow

Mr. Gelow distributed information regarding water flows from various sizes of pipes. He asked the Council why a resident in town is allowed to continue to discharge water onto the street that then flows onto the highway. Bob Middlebrook, code enforcement officer, reports that he and Cal talked about this and they see no other option. Mr. Gelow stated that the homeowner should have placed his system in the back yard because it creates a nuisance for people who have to drive through it. He referenced the chart he distributed that shows a 2" line is running approximately 3300 gallons per hour and stated that this much water is running into the street and then to the highway and eventually into our lift station which is using electricity and causing wear and tear on the pumps.

Council Member Rypma stated that we are aware of this, have had meetings regarding it and it is still a work in progress. Council Member Vermillion stated that we cannot legally tell him to put the water in the back yard. Mr. Gelow stated that he is discharging water onto property that is not his and it isn't right. Council Member Vermillion again stated that we cannot make him discharge the water into his backyard. Jared stated that from an ordinance standpoint he is not allowed to discharge water on to the town's road or to US 20 and when he moved the pipe at the town's request in the past, it was not actively flowing onto the road or US 20. Jared said that we were warned about this issue by INDOT and were told to deal with it. and those are the facts but the Council can, of course, do what they decide to do. Mr. Gelow stated that he does not know the answer but it is definitely a nuisance. Council Member Rypma stated that we are looking into it.

Employee Reports

- Chief Cal Dittmar

Chief Dittmar reports that he has extended the time period for applications through Friday. He has also started a Facebook page for the department with the link available on the Town's website. He said there is also an unofficial page but it is not his and was started by someone else.

Andrea questioned if there is a social media policy in place that would include guidelines such as who is allowed to post, etc. Chief Dittmar stated that he is the only one allowed to post and he also has to approve any comments before they post to the page. Andrea stated that there are some things they need to be careful of, including censoring comments that are submitted. Chief Dittmar stated that he has been monitoring St. Joseph County's and other departments' Facebook pages for some time now and knows the kind of things that are posted and allowed. Andrea suggested that they speak after the meeting.

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reports that she has been on vacation and things have been relatively quiet.

- Engineer Jared Huss

Jared will wait for the work session to update on-going projects.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

John met with the contact at NCP Coating given to him by Council Member Budreau. He reports that once we have the grates prepped, NCP will paint them at no cost to the Town.

The clean-up day went very well with over forty households using the dumpsters provided by Waste Management.

John will be attending the 811 Meeting tomorrow and plans to have eight employees attend the Akron Water Conference on May 24th to keep up required CEUs.

Old Business

- Peerless Proposal

President Carter stated that since everyone has had the opportunity to review the Peerless Proposal, we need to decide if we are going to move forward with this or an alternative. He asked if anyone was in favor of moving forward with the Peerless study and Council Member Budreau stated that he had emailed his support of moving forward to President Carter. President Carter understands that the cost is almost \$40,000 to do the study but feels that if we are to move forward with anything but filling in basements, we need some idea of costs.

Jared explained that although we do have approximately one month of anecdotal data from the dewatering done last year during the INDOT project, what we don't have is any way of knowing what residual issues with the railroad overpass and homes could arise with long term dewatering. Although it is a difficult pill for some to swallow, groundwater is not caused by anyone and we are at the conveyance of three different aquifers.

Council Member Vermillion expressed that the railroad will have say in this and we could spend thirty-five thousand on the study and then the railroad would come in and say no. Jared responded that it could go a step further than that, as the railroad is not plugged into everything that happens around their structures, and we could decide to spend two million dollars to do a pumping system and pull permits to have it built and then have the railroad stop us entirely because they have legitimate concerns about their structure. We could have thirty-five thousand for the study plus system design and any other associated costs up to that time so he suggests we contact the railroad preemptively and ask where they would be on this but there is some risk in that as well. We could get a response back that if we do test wells they will fight us. Council Member Rypma asked what the chances would be that the railroad would pick up part of the tab of doing the study. Jared replied that we could ask. Council Member Vermillion stated that if the railroad is adamantly opposed, we should contact the homeowners to see what they feel about filling in the basements. Council Member Vermillion said that FEMA does have a program that assists with filling in basements. Jared will contact the railroad and collect those pieces of information. President Carter stated that we will wait to make a decision until we get that information at the next meeting.

Council Reports

- Council Member Budreau

Council Member Budreau reports that the Park Board will be meeting tomorrow. He questioned where the money collected from Home Town Days goes as there is an additional cost charged to those vendors requiring electric. The electric is paid for by the Parks Department and they have not received reimbursement from the committee in the past. Council Member Budreau will speak with Koby Keck who is president of the Home Town Days Committee.

- Council Member Vermillion

Copies of a letter regarding fire and EMS services from Hudson Township Trustee Joyce Forbes was distributed.

Council Member Vermillion and a group of friends will be gathering every Saturday at Memorial Park and he invited anyone with a classic car or hot rod to join them in the parking lot. This was originally a coffee group but they are going to expand to try to generate business downtown.

- President Carter

President Carter stated that everyone received a copy of the request from Mrs. Noens at 511 W Elm Street asking for an adjustment in her sewer bill because of a leak that occurred last fall. Sue explained that, because of the extended time frame of the leak, we were unsure of what adjustment the Council might choose, so a credit estimate was not prepared. Council Member Budreau stated that he determined that using an average, an adjustment for the entire period of the leak would result in a credit of \$374.08. Council Member Vermillion moved to adjust the sewer bill for 511 W. Elm Street with a credit amount of \$374.08, per Council Member Budreau's calculations. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed 3-1. President Carter voted nay.

President Carter stated that Hudson Township Trustee Joyce Forbes' letter as well as his response is included with Council packets. He asked that everyone read Hudson Township's letter and the response he has prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

The invoice from A&P Custom Paint and Collision for the fire department tanker was received. The Council had approved the repair estimate of \$12,776.17 at the January 9th but the invoiced amount for tanker repairs is \$18,481.75. President Carter surmised that the estimate given was sorely understated because of damage to the tank that was not visible or thought to be there when the original estimate was given. Council Member Vermillion asked Chief Middlebrook if he had been contacted and Bob reports that the tanker was in bad shape and additional issues were found once repairs began. It is the only tanker we had and it was important to get repairs done so they had to have them complete the repairs so we could get it back and they did do a beautiful job.

Council Member Vermillion moved to pay the full invoice amount of \$18,481.75 for repair of the fire department tanker. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed 4-0.

President Carter thanked Bob Middlebrook for his service to our country and reminded everyone to thank our veterans. He wished everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day.

Bills to be Paid

Council Member Rypma moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed 4-0.

Resident Mark Adnson asked if there is a timeline because they are pumping water 24-7 and their yard is ruined. Jared stated that if the Council moves forward with the study, it will take approximately 3-4 months after approval. That does not account for doing something. If we did the "chevy" version we would have to get permits from a number of groups including INDOT and he would be surprised if it would be done by the end of the year. If we went with another option, that could happen far sooner.

Mark said that he would need referrals of contractors if filling in basements would be the option that the council were to choose. Jared responded that one of the things we would want to help with would be to identify the contractors. Andrea suggests going further because if there is any type of financial assistance or reimbursement, bids on groups of homes and standardization would be required.

Council Member Vermillion suggested that Mark call the number on the FEMA paper. Mark stated that they want to know what the description of damage is.

Jared stated that there are basically two paths, which include doing the study or filling in the basements, as options. Jared will contact the railroad for input. Should they be opposed to any dewatering then it makes the decision on whether or not to do the study easier.

Bob stated that, as building inspector, he can say that K-Fex did an excellent job with the basement they filled in on Marvel Lane. He also reminded everyone of the basement wall that collapsed on E.

Michigan Street which was one of the possibilities we discussed could happen on Marvel Lane with dewatering.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Budreau and second by Council Member Vermillion the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Ken Carter, President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer