

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, November 27, 2018, 5:00 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were Andrea Halpin, John Mrozinski, Jill Doll, Bob Middlebrook, Carol Middlebrook, Samantha Rush, Josh Schweizer and Cal Dittmar.

Minutes

Council Member Budreau moved to accept the minutes of the Nov. 13, 2018 Public Hearing and General Meeting and the Nov. 19th Special Meeting of the Board of Public Safety as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kauffman and passed. Council Member Vermillion abstained from the Nov. 13th meetings and Council Member Rypma abstained from the November 19th meeting.

Employee Reports

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reports that she has worked on a high volume of public records requests as well as preparing for the unsafe structure hearing. She continues work to complete the updates for the three annual interlocal agreements and explained what those agreements encompass for those not familiar with them. The drafts are complete but will need one additional edit to include the new fire department pick-up truck discussed with Chief Middlebrook earlier this evening and then she will send them out for review and approval.

Tim Creason entered the meeting.

Andrea reports that we will need to set a date for the public hearing regarding the Disabled Person Parking Space Request that was filed. She will assist John with preparation of the notification to be sent to neighbors of the property which gives them the ability to be heard. The Council scheduled the public hearing for January 8, 2019 at 6 PM following the first council meeting of the year.

Mrs. Creason entered the meeting.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

John reported that the cemetery land purchase is complete and he is working with the State Cemetery Board and the surveyors to begin the process.

Leaf pick-up will continue as weather permits. John reminded everyone that leaves need to be raked to the curb and not into the street. They are finding many residents are putting leaves in the street which causes many issues.

John will be out of town next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to attend the state water convention and then he, President Carter and Council Member Vermillion will be attending the AIM Roundtable on Thursday in Middlebury.

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John requested the Council's approval to obtain quotes for demolition of both 222 E. Front Street and 121 Zigler Street.

Council Member Vermillion moved to allow John to obtain quotes for the demolition of 222 E. Front Street and 121 Zigler Street as requested. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed unanimously.

Andrea stated that, relative to the cemetery purchase, the prior owner had not paid the 2017 and 2018 property taxes prior to the closing per the agreement. The amount of the property taxes was subtracted from the purchase price of the property and will now need to be paid by the Town. John and Sue will ensure that this is taken care of before the end of the month.

Old Business

- Approval of Fourway Computer Products quote for security system installation labor costs.

President Carter stated that the quote for upgrade of the security system was approved at the last meeting but the cost of labor, which is estimated to be 30-50 hours, was not included. Additionally, the cost of the hardware approved included taxes so those will be removed.

Council Member Budreau moved to accept the Fourway Computer Products quote for an amount not to exceed \$14,295.15 including labor costs.

Council Member Budreau rescinded the motion.

Council Member Budreau moved to accept the Fourway Computer Products quoted costs not to exceed \$14,295.00 including labor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed unanimously.

- Continued Discussion on Electric for 126 W. Front Street

The homeowners had previously submitted a letter regarding their loss and a bill for approximately \$1,100 with \$900 being for labor. President Carter stated that it is his understanding from Perry that the Town is not at fault and asked if there was additional information for consideration.

Council Member Vermillion stated that he was not in attendance at the last meeting and questioned who did the splicing that was referenced. Sue informed the Council that the homeowner, Tim Creason, was in attendance this evening and could perhaps answer their questions.

Mr. Creason explained that approximately twenty years ago there had been a fire that took out the transformer behind his home. At that time, rather than replacing that wire set the previous electrical crew instead spliced the old wires together and covered it with a protective gray cover so it was not visible and therefore not noticed. As the splices became corroded and the neutral disappeared his service was grounded to the ground. When workers were replacing water services as part of the sidewalk project, one of them cut the line in front of his home and was shocked, the ground was cut and all of the appliances in their home blew up. They lost their air conditioner, microwave, garage door opener and surge suppressors. Mr. Creason said that they were very fortunate to have an experienced electrician who was able to replace transformers within the appliances instead of replacing the entire units. He stated that a few days later the company working on the water services came back and cut the pipe again and the worker was again shocked

and once again the transformers in their air conditioner were lost. He explained that most of the cost is for labor because the electrician assisted him by going box to box.

Mr. Creason commended the Town for getting on this right away but stated that the fact is that those splices were an issue. He said the Town showed up immediately because they thought the splices were an issue and replaced also them immediately. He stated that he has spoken with several people who all feel that this was the issue. The cost could have been much greater but instead of replacing the appliances, his electrician checked them and replaced transformers inside them.

Council Member Rypma asked where the splices were at. Mr. Creason explained that they were on the utility pole from the transformer down and into the house. He again gave kudos to the town crew because they were there immediately when they discovered the splices. He stated the only reason they were discovered was because the kid from the company replacing water services was shocked.

Council Member Rypma asked if he had his house inspected before moving in since the splices were done before he purchased it. Mr. Creason stated that he did have everything inside the house inspected but not the electric pole.

Mr. Creason told the Council that he went to turn this into his insurance agent and found it would be covered but with a \$500 deductible and an increase in his rates. He stated he would gladly pay it if it was his problem but does not feel as though it is.

Council Member Kauffman stated that it seems that the Town was responsible back in the day and the problem was covered so if reimbursing them for their costs does not make the town liable or culpable for this and it simply rights something that was done twenty years ago, he should be reimbursed. Council Member Budreau asked the amount they are seeking reimbursement for. The amount is \$1131.11.

Mr. Creason emphasized that the Town is responsible for the utility pole and he does commend the town crew for jumping on the problem as soon as they knew it existed.

Council Member Budreau questioned how we check if there are any other households hooked to water lines like this. John explained that sometimes they are found when doing water line work.

Andrea explained that we are responsible to a certain point and it is very difficult to go back to determine fault but she doesn't see that it is a problem should the Council decide to reimburse Mr. Creason for his loss. Mr. Creason stated that he wanted to give Perry credit because he did not just walk away and took several days to be certain everything was correct.

Council Member Vermillion moved to reimburse Mr. Creason \$1,311.11 to cover those expenses as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously.

Council Member Rypma stated that we rarely have many people at the meetings and this is one reason why it is important to have people from the town because if we only hear one side of a story, one explanation, you don't get the whole picture but once it was explained and the photos were reviewed it gave a clearer picture. Mr. Creason suggested that 5 PM is a bad time to have meetings because many people work in LaPorte County and it is an hour earlier.

New Business

- Request for credit/adjustment for water leak

President Carter read a letter from Mrs. Noens at 511 Elm requesting additional sewer credit for a water leak as she has been receiving credit for a previous leak that she assumed was fixed.

This was tabled until the next meeting to determine the amount of the requested adjustment prior to a vote.

Council Reports

Council Member Rypma

Council Member Rypma stated that the Christmas parade went great, seemed well organized. To John he wanted to say that he ran out of gas and ended up with a bunch of leaves and with the snow the piles are all back in his yard.

Council Member Rypma stated that last year he revisited the pay increase for town employees and doesn't know if the matrix idea is still being considered but if not there should be something set in place sooner rather than later to help keep people here longer and whether he is here or not it needs to be on the radar.

Council Member Kauffman

Council Member Kauffman expressed that she hopes that in the new year the Council can discuss having meetings at a later time so that a majority of citizens might be able to attend and possibly consider different days because we are in conflict with St. Joseph County Council's meetings.

Council Member Budreau

Council Member Budreau questioned whether funds were budgeted for a Christmas party as he feels it would be nice to do that again. Andrea will speak with Jared tomorrow and perhaps they can co-sponsor something for the employees again this year. Holding something after the first of the year was discussed.

Council Member Vermillion

Council Member Vermillion reports that he has a candidate in mind for the Council's Area Plan appointment, his brother-in-law, Harry Dudeck, who runs his own business, dependent upon his ability to attend meetings. Jill asked if the Town's representative doesn't have to live in town and Council Member Vermillion responded that they do not and do not even have to live in Olive Township or St. Joseph County.

President Carter

President Carter reported that the income study is complete and shows that the Town is eligible for OCRA grants. This survey is good for five years and he and John will be meeting with the grant writer to look at projects such as park improvements, park land, roadway projects and the water treatment plant.

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President Carter has issued to each council member a draft statement regarding growth between 20 and 2 that he formulated. He asked that the members review it and give comments.

President Carter reports that the fire and ambulance agreements as well as the 2019 salary ordinance will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

He would like to look into hiring a replacement for Abby that can be used by both the police department and town as needed. This should be posted in-house first and the job description changed as needed.

Jared had forwarded to all the proposals from Umbaugh and Donohue regarding the water utility capital improvement plan and water study. He requests that everyone look at it and we schedule a special meeting for discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Sue reported that 1st Source Bank provided the best interest quote for the lease of the previously approved 2017 Freightliner plow truck and asked for Council Approval to move forward with a five-year lease for \$141,310 at 4.1% interest with 1st Source Bank.

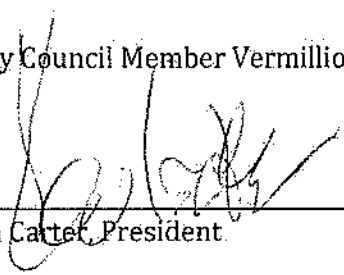
Council Member Rypma moved to accept the 1st Source Bank lease quote at 4.1% interest for a period of five years for \$141,310 for the lease of the 2017 Freightliner. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed unanimously.

Bills to be Paid

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


Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Budreau and second by Council Member Vermillion the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.



Ken Carter, President

Attest:



Susan L. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer