

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, January 8, 2019, 5:00 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were Andrea Halpin, Jared Huss, John Mrozinski, Jill Doll, Dave Doll, Stephanie Murphy, Sandy Raabe, Bryan Dolezal, Carol Hesch, Abby Moffitt, Cal Dittmar, Carol Middlebrook, Bob Middlebrook and Josh Szuba

Election of Council President

Council Member Carter opened the floor to nominations for 2019 Council President.

Council Member Vermillion nominated Council Member Carter to serve as president for 2019. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Kauffman.

Council Member Carter asked for any additional nominations. There were none and the floor was closed. Council Member Carter was unanimously elected to serve as the council president for 2019.

President Carter opened the floor to nominations for 2019 Vice President. Council Member Kauffman nominated Council Member Vermillion. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Budreau.

President Carter asked for any additional nominations. There were none and the floor was closed. Council Member Vermillion was unanimously elected to serve as the council vice president for 2019.

Appointment of Commissions

President Carter appointed the following commissions for 2019:

Council Member Budreau – Utilities
Vice President Vermillion – Police, Fire and EMS
Council Member Kauffman – Streets and Sidewalks
Council Member Rush – Cemetery and Parks

Minutes

Council Member Vermillion moved to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2018 Special Meeting and December 11, 2018 General Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kauffman and passed unanimously,

Visitor Comments

- Dave Doll

Dave presented an informational sheet regarding the proposed fire territory that contained a comparison of what has been proposed and the Southwest Fire Territory that was established in 2009. He spoke with the Southwest Fire Chief to validate numbers presented at a previous meeting

and drew up this comparison. Dave asked the Council if we have looked at all options or visited anything except the budget that Josh presented. President Carter responded that the original budget was for the original territory which included Warren, Olive, New Carlisle, Hudson, Wills and Kankakee and was quite top heavy. When we were informed Wills and Galena were not interested there was no connectivity to Kankakee and they were excluded. He stated that there were also problems with the trustee of Warren Township who wanted to run the show. From there it was trimmed down at least four times from where we are right now.

Dave stated that in speaking with Jim, the Chief of Southwest, they are comparable departments with Southwest formed in 2009. Southwest has a population of 24,000, approximately three times that of the proposed territory at 6,500, with similar square mileages of coverage. The budget of the proposed territory here is \$3,000,000 compared to Southwest at \$1.6 million. The proposed chief salary here is 85K compared to the chief at Southwest at 54K. The chief of Southwest has a take home car but is limited to use only in St. Joseph County which is not the case here currently. Southwest has no assistant chief as duties are delegated to battalion chiefs which are the same as our captains. Dave reported that he asked him how the work of what we are calling operations chief or assistant chief would be delegated to three battalion chiefs. The Southwest Chief explained that each of them is responsible for a certain "area". Dave explained that when he asked at the territory meetings why we need an assistant chief, the only reason given was he would be there when the chief is gone and/or because it would be nice to have. Dave asked if the position is actually needed and expressed that he is frustrated that we are going forward with this budget. Our firefighters will make more than even the battalion chiefs at Southwest. We will be integrating fire into EMS here and he learned that Southwest is an EMS 2. The Southwest Chief explained that they started at an upper level but dropped down because of more extensive training and the city provides EMS. Dave stated that he can see some difference in pay but \$31K? He also reported that Southwest currently pays \$10 per hour on-call pay to supplement positions and be certain there are enough to respond. The Southwest chief said they had 1700 calls for service last year and Josh stated around 2000 total calls for the year before for New Carlisle so that is fairly equal. He stated that he does feel that our total is inflated because medical and fire calls are counted separately for the same call and Southwest does not.

Dave stated that the chief at Southwest responds to all calls. They have two stations with between two and three people on each shift which is supplemented with on-call people if needed. The day shift has two plus the chief on duty. Dave stated that we could integrate our volunteers with on-call pay using the 100K built into the proposed territory budget.

Dave stated that the part that really gets him is that we will take an additional 750K for the proposed territory budget while Southwest continues with a total of \$1.7 million, the same number they have been at since 2009 and they don't even use all of that. He also expressed concern for the burden on the schools and the library, especially since that impact has gone up substantially since Hudson Township has dropped out.

President Carter and Council Member Kauffman thanked Dave for the information.

- Stephanie Murphy, Director NCPL

Stephanie informed the Council that in 2018 the Knight Foundation teamed with pollsters to find out why people are excited about where they live. The things determined to be most influential were:

1. Social offerings/places to meet

2. Openness and how welcoming
3. Esthetics – general beauty

She stated that New Carlisle has each of these and she believes the library is central to them all.

She reported that in 2018 there were:

- 800 Meeting Room Uses
- 500 Classes and Events with 7000 people in attendance
- 20,000 Computer Uses
- 7,000 Wireless Users
- 99,000 Checkouts
- 7,000 E-book uses
- They also deliver books to nursing homes and shut-ins
- Teen volunteer group participates in community events
- 5,800 Users with 19% in Hudson Township

Stephanie stated that when attending the fire territory meetings last year she spoke with Paige and a circuit breaker impact of approximately \$44K was estimated at that time. She spent last year trying to figure out how to deal with that. Just before Christmas we learned that Hudson Township is not going to participate, but the Town and Olive Twp. will go ahead without them and the new circuit breaker impact for the library is \$222K. This is twenty-five percent of their budget and they cannot sustain the library as it currently stands losing that amount. She urged the Council to communicate clearly and effectively to Hudson and explain that it also effects their access to library services.

President Carter responded that he met with the new Hudson Township Trustee yesterday. He conveyed the items Stephanie just gave but the new trustee does not know how he will communicate that to his residents.

Stephanie stated that, for those of us in St. Joseph County, 2020 will be a rough year fiscally. The bulk is in circuit breaker credits but Hudson Twp. not participating definitely means the difference between a job or two. She wants the residents of Hudson Twp. to be able to use the library and our residents to also be able to use LaPorte County's library and that is why there is a reciprocal agreement. She also expressed that she feels fire protection is important.

Employee Reports

- Building Inspector Bob Middlebrook

Council Member Budreau asked Bob if there are still concerns about the roof on the fire station. Bob stated that yes, he is very concerned but waiting until we get the money. President Carter explained that we are in a quagmire and the reason is that Olive Township is in a poor position financially and they have placed not-to-exceed limitation for Olive's reimbursement to the Town for fire and ems expenditures this year. Council Member Budreau questioned what they expect to do if we don't go to a fire territory. President Carter stated that they will more than likely have to borrow money again.

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reported that a huge amount of records requests have been received and processed.

She updated the Council on the Safety Board Hearing scheduled for tomorrow. She had a conversation with Sgt. Whitt's attorneys and they discussed that there is an additional charge that is being levied and based on that, she and they feel it is appropriate to not hold the evidentiary hearing tomorrow because they will need more documents. They requested that we move the hearing time to 5 PM with the idea being it will be short and what will happen will be that, basically, Chief Dittmar will present the charge and Sgt. Whitt will be given five days to request a hearing. We expect that they will request that on the spot and we will set the hearing with everyone having the opportunity to look at their calendars and by mutual agreement set the date and time. Council Member Budreau asked if the suspension continues. Andrea responded that nothing can happen to his status until the hearing is held but the vote can be held if necessary. We will try to remain in the thirty day period but would need to coordinate with everyone's schedule.

- Engineer Jared Huss

Jared reported that John brought to his attention that NICTD has maintenance on the viaduct structure planned for this summer. We will try to meet with them to determine impact to the Town and what the total amount of work will be. This will not be a total rebuild so there will be no opportunity for discussion of a pedestrian walk way, but we do need to determine the impact of that project and also of the 2 and 20 construction scheduled to begin in 2019.

Jared explained that we have not yet received the final paperwork from Walsh and Kelley and so will need to be tabled it again

The application process for the 2019 Community Crossings Grant opened yesterday and we will make some adjustments to our 2018 application and resubmit prior to the deadline of Feb. 1.

Jared met with Shannon McCloud and provided information for a wastewater planning grant that she will be assisting the Town with.

Jared reports that we will continue working with SJEC with exceedance issues.

As a byproduct of Donohue working on long range planning, looking at GIS and what it may look like for the town and what steps would provide the most value as an informational piece can be looked at.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

John reported that he has received one of two bids he requested for demolition on the Zigler Street and Front Street properties.

The new plow truck arrived December 21st.

John continues working through necessary things with the new cemetery property and will be working with Dave Doll to look at layout, etc. Marbach Palm with do necessary survey and plotting.

Work continues on the Bray Street lift station upgrades.

Jerry Cooper will be attending an ADA training meeting in Zionsville on January 23rd.

John welcomed Samantha as a new council member and said that he plans to take her around town to show her all of the town property and what everyone does on a daily basis. He will be updating his employee directory for everyone soon and also working with Andrea to set up the hearing for the Disabled Persons Parking Permit per our policy.

Old Business

- 2018 Sidewalk Project Final Pay App

Tabled

New Business

- Reappointment of Library Board Representative

Council Member Budreau moved to appoint Tara White to serve as the Town's representative on the library board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed unanimously.

-Approval of furniture purchase for EMS Building

President Carter stated that this is tabled until we decide where we are going

Ordinances and Resolutions.

- Ordinance #1373 – A Salary Ordinance for Town Employees

A motion to waive the rules to allow for adoption of Ordinance #1373 on the day of introduction was made by Council Member Vermillion and seconded by Council Member Budreau. The motion passed unanimously.

President Carter read Ordinance #1373 by caption only for the first reading
 President Carter read Ordinance #1373 in entirety for the second reading.
 President Carter read Ordinance #1373 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Council Member Vermillion moved to adopt Ordinance #1373 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously.

President Carter reports that he has received some suggestions and feedback regarding preparation of Council's stance on the Indiana Economic Center and proposed growth.

There was brief discussion with Council Member Kauffman expressing that the surrounding ecosystems, land, air and water, be protected because those are obviously very important and she feels our statement should be comprehensive on many fronts and not just the utilities. Council Member Budreau stated that he feels that the character of the Town kept intact is also important. Council Member Vermillion felt that a combination of the two presented including character and comprehensive plan, which would include the character. Council Member Budreau stated that this

is the reason everyone has either stayed or moved here. Jared stated that the aquifer is critical and management of it in general as it is not just a resource but a character issue.

President Carter read the following, which is a combination of what was presented:

The Town Council of the Town of New Carlisle supports planned and measured growth that supports the Town's utility investments, supports the health of the aquifer and surrounding ecosystems and supports the New Carlisle Comprehensive Plan which includes preservation of the character of our town.

Council Reports

Council Member Budreau

Council Member Budreau distributed information on a survey he did to get input from residents about days and times of our meetings. He had twenty-two responses with two not being from town. The majority of participants work in EST with 100% not in favor of the current 5 PM time. The favorite day was split between Tuesday and Wednesday with the favorite time being 7 PM. Council Member Vermillion said that he and Council Member Kauffman talked about this as well. They would both like the opportunity to attend county meetings which are held on the same nights as our meetings and suggested that perhaps we could change to the first and third Tuesday. He likes 6:30 for the time.

Sue stated that if the days are switched to the first and third Tuesdays, there will be times that the claim docket will not be available as we may still be closing out the month and doing reconciliation from the previous day.

Council Member Vermillion moved to prepare an ordinance changing the meeting days to the first and third Tuesday at 6:30 PM EST effective the first Tuesday in February for the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously.

Council Member Vermillion stated that the third Tuesday in February is the 19th and that is the date scheduled for the second public hearing for the proposed fire territory. The time will be adjusted for that meeting.

Council Member Budreau also presented an example of a performance evaluation for supervisors for Council review. He feels that performance evaluations should be done annually for all department heads.

Council Member Vermillion

Council Member Vermillion welcomed Marcy and Samantha to the Council. He reported that Harry Dudeck attended his first Area Plan Commission meeting and was sworn in as our representative from the Town. Council Member Vermillion explained that if there is anything that involves us, Harry will either let him know or come and give an update.

President Carter

President Carter expressed congratulations and welcome to Samantha and also to Marcy for stepping in to fill the vacancy left when Steve passed away.

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He and John went to Potato Creek for an informational program regarding available grants through the state for parks and trails. The program just started in November of last year but by the time of this program, there were towns already starting their initiative so we are going to look into purchasing some land for additional park/green space and look at developing some additional trails and then we will submit a grant proposal under this program for 2020.

Council Member Kauffman

Council Member Kauffman welcomed Samantha. She also expressed her thanks to John and the town crew for all of the work to make the Town look so lovely at Christmas.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Sue asked for the Council's approval to encumber funds for the 2018 Sidewalk Project to 2019 as follows:

Walsh & Kelley, Inc. for \$137,301.75
 PO # 9931
 To be encumbered from Cumulative Capital Development

Council Member Vermillion moved to approve the encumbrance of \$137,301.75 for the sidewalk project per PO #9931. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously.


Bills to be Paid

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

Samantha presented her 2019 Nepotism statement to President Carter.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Vermillion and second by Council Member Budreau the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.



 Ken Carter, President

Attest:



 Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer