

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, August 22, 2017 5:00 PM

President Carter called the general meeting to order at 5:17 PM with Vice President Vojtko, Council Member Rypma, Council Member Vermillion and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt present. Council Member Budreau entered the meeting later.

Also in attendance were Andrea Halpin, Jared Huss, Josh Schweizer, Jeff Roseboom, John Mrozinski, Jason Quirk, Bob Middlebrook, Carol Middlebrook, Sandy Raabe, Marcy Kauffman and John Gelow.

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Vojtko moved to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2017 General Meeting, August 14 and August 17, 2017 Executive Sessions and Memorandum of the August 8, 2017 Work Session as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed 4-0.

Public Comments

- John Gelow, W. Michigan Street

Mr. Gelow had two concerns he wanted to express to the Council. First is the \$10,000 audio system that the Council purchased for the meeting room that is sitting in the closet and he questioned why we spent money on this system.

The second issue of concern Mr. Gelow wanted to address is the walkway easement on Tiger Court. Mr. Gelow stated that the Town spent a lot of time and money for a survey and legal fees to preserve the walkway for connectivity and now nothing is being done because he moved the playground equipment and it is finished. This still leaves no entrance to the park from Tiger Court because both mailboxes remain in the way and only one entrance to the park. President Carter stated that he voted nay when this last came before the Council and was not in favor of dropping the issue and that a council member that was in favor of doing nothing else should respond. Council Member Rypma stated that the school system and property owners were talking about doing a separate walking path behind these homes to the school which would have given another access.

Employee Reports

Chief Roseboom

Chief Roseboom reports that he has two vehicles scheduled and budgeted for replacement this year and has requested three quotes for 2017 Ford Interceptors. Only one dealership, Lakeshore Ford, responded with a quote for the two vehicles. Lakeshore Ford's quote was for a discounted price of \$27,123 each with an additional cost of \$16,832.00 total for equipment and installation. He asked for permission to move forward with the lease purchase of the two new vehicles. Council Member Vermillion asked if all new equipment is necessary or if some from the two vehicles to be cycled out could be used. Jeff explained that radios and some additional items will be retained and used but other equipment such as lights and cages are outdated or vehicle specific and in those cases new will be required.

Council Member Rypma motioned to move forward with the lease/purchase of two 2017 Ford Interceptor SUVs from Lakeshore Ford at a cost not to exceed \$71,078.00 including equipment installation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed 4-0.

Chief Josh Schweizer

Chief Schweizer reports that they have been awarded a \$42,000 Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the purchase of two automatic power-load cots.

Public Works Director John Mrozinski

John reports that he has hired a new employee for the town crew who will begin next week.

Everything went well at the meeting last evening for the residents of the 100 block of east Front Street. Northern Construction is doing the project and he expects it to go very smoothly.

Attorney Andrea Halpin

A letter has been prepared and sent to the attorney representing Mr. Collins regarding their proposed expansion of the apartment complex on Chapman Drive and we are awaiting a response.

Council Member Budreau entered the meeting.

Andrea reports that there has been on-going conversation with Chief who is working with Bob on a code enforcement issue. She has also assisted with some employment issues and handled another very large records request that, although it involves litigation, was submitted as a records request in place of using subpoenas.

Engineer Jared Huss

Jared reports that the Notice to Proceed for the Sidewalk Project will be issued tonight. After further review with Chief Roseboom and John Mrozinski, they decided to keep two-way traffic in this block but with parking allowed only on the north side. The transportation department of NPUSC has been contacted and Chief and John are working together well on this project.

Council Member Vermillion asked if we have received a response from Norfolk Southern regarding rocks falling from the overpass. There has been no response to date.

Jared reports that he has received no response to the request for a final walkthrough of the viaduct project. In addition, there has been no response regarding the pervious pavers. President Carter questioned a timeline for addressing these issues. Because this is not a completed project, Jared feels that we should wait another week or so with perhaps a council member making contact as well.

President Carter asked the status of the request for sewer service outside of the town limits on the LaPorte County side of county line road that was brought before the Council at the last meeting. Jared reports that he looked at costs to extend an 8" main north for future potential growth but after reviewing with John he finds that this would not be necessary nor benefit the town. He then ran costs for the proposed business alone, including a grinder pump and tapping fee and has provided the information to the individual who had made the request.

Old Business

- Job Description Approval

An updated job description for the Public Works Director was presented for approval. Council Member Vermillion moved to accept the job description as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed 4-0.

President Carter asked about the tree replacement plan suggested by the park board. Council Member Budreau will ask someone from the park board to come and discuss it at the next meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- Ordinance #1347 – An ordinance establishing the Annual Electric Tracking Factor Adjustment (decrease) – 3rd reading

President Carter read Ordinance #1347 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Vice President Vojtko moved to adopt Ordinance #1347 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed unanimously.

- Ordinance #1348 – An ordinance adopting the 2017 Supplement for the Town Code – 2nd Reading

President Carter read Ordinance #1348 in entirety for the second reading.

- Ordinance #1349 – a salary ordinance for employees of the Town of New Carlisle

A motion to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1349 on the day of introduction was made by Vice President Vojtko and seconded by Council Member Budreau. The motion passed unanimously.

President Carter read Ordinance #1349 by caption only for the first reading.

President Carter read Ordinance #1349 in entirety for the second reading.

President Carter read Ordinance #1349 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Vice President Vojtko moved to adopt Ordinance #1349 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed unanimously.

Council Reports

Council Member Rypma

Council Member Rypma addressed the issues brought to the Council earlier by Mr. Gelow. He stated that one of the issues he had questioned was the need for as many microphones as were quoted and he found that it was more cost effective to purchase them as a package deal which would help with ADA compliance. Further, Council Member Rypma stated, the system was purchased two months ago and has already been used at least once.

Secondly, concerning the easement, Council Member Rypma stated that it was his endeavor. He was approached by a concerned citizen and so he offered to bring it before the board for consideration. This same individual had contacted the school of his own free will and they were interested in alternative routes that would cost the town nothing. This is not about winning and

losing it is about what is best for the community and citizens and it would have been irresponsible to not. The easement remains and can be changed or altered by the town at any time. We have not heard back from the school on anything at this point and they are not even moving forward with the plan discussed for the alternative path. Because we have had no requests for this path at this time, he feels it does not seem like something we need to do. Should the park board or another group of citizens come forward to request this he feels that we should reconsider.

Council Member Vermillion feels that it was a very nice compromise. He removed all of the stuff that was requested by the Town and he feels that no one else would use the walkway besides residents of Tiger Court. Mr. Gelow stated that there is still dirt and debris remaining at the back of the walkway, and that the homeowner intentionally blocked the walkway with dirt, trees, mailboxes etc. He said that the Town paid for a survey of the walkway and those stakes were removed. Mr. Gelow stated that he feels we spent a lot of money to protect this walkway and it was all for nothing.

There was a question as to whether this is an easement or a walkway and Sue stated that it is a ten foot walkway and was required for connectivity when the Edge of the Woods Subdivision was platted. Vice President Vojtko suggested perhaps a fence could be installed to delineate the walkway.

Vice President Vojtko

Vice President Vojtko attended the Area Plan meeting last week with nothing for New Carlisle to report.

He reports that at the recent Solid Waste District meeting there was much discussion regarding property taxes and the recycling charge. It was never the intention of the board to take someone's home because of a recycling charge and they are trying to get clarification on this now. In addition there has been a lot of discussion lately about doing away with the curbside program. Vice President Vojtko reports that our county commissioner feels that it should be the individual town's responsibility so that is being looked at as well and he feels that this is not something we want to get into.

Vice President Vojtko stated that at the last meeting people were here to voice their opinion on an issue and after speaking with them, he found that they didn't even know who is on the board. He never thought about this before and felt it is something that should be addressed. He reports that at Area Plan they have plaques for each member with their names on them. The county would be more than happy to make them for a small charge for the council, clerk, attorney and engineer if the Council would like them to. Council Member Rypma feels they do need to know everyone is and suggested a graphic of the table be projected behind them that would have each person's name indicated by seat. Vice President Vojtko said we would have to have someone prepare that and run the video. Vice President Vojtko said that emails were also brought up in previous meetings and he feels that there should be a portal on the website and a general email portal for general questions.

Vice President Vojtko stated that the Borkowski property has a lot of weeds and junk accumulated including semi trailers that may not have updated plates and feels this should be looked at by code enforcement.

Vice President Vojtko said that lastly there was a lot of talk about sign ordinances in the past and when the auction company came to town they were asked about temporary signage and we were told it was only to be out for the day of the auction. He stated that lately they have been leaving

them up for days prior to auctions and he feels that they should be given a friendly reminder. He also noted that the concert this week will be tomorrow from 6:30 to 7:30.

Council Member Budreau

Council Member Budreau reports that a negative letter to the editor about the splash pad that was included on the wish list in the park master plan update and also about the volunteer park board was recently published. There are several reasons for not moving forward with a splash pad at this time including funding and lack of an ideal location for its placement. The next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 30th.

Council Member Vermillion

Council Member Vermillion inquired about requirements for making an intersection a four way stop. Jared stated that he will look at requirements. Council Member Vermillion is concerned about the intersection at Bray and Dunn and also the intersection at Arch and Chestnut Streets. He feels that anywhere there is a four way intersection it should be a four way stop and proposes that all four way intersections become four way stops. Jared stated that if intersection site lines are impeded it would be a safety issue and a four way stop would be warranted but he would have to look at all four way stops before answering.

President Carter

President Carter reminded everyone of the Grand Re-Opening of Town this coming Saturday. The ribbon cutting will be held at 3 PM in front of town hall with refreshments provided by the Town and music provided by Down by the Dock Discover New Carlisle has a list of businesses offering discounts and giveaways throughout the day and then the Beer and Wine Walk will begin at 5.

Council Member Rypma asked if a plan for painted parking spaces in front of Memorial Park and across the street was included in the project for the resurfacing of Michigan. He feels marked parking spaces would deter passing in that area and let people know that parking allowed. Jared stated that we could ask INDOT when contacting them about the walk through but because parking spaces were not there before they may not do this.

Bills to be Paid

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

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Vermillion and second by Council Member Budreau the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM

Ken Carter, President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer