

**New Carlisle Town Council**  
**124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana**  
**General Meeting, April 16, 2019, 6:30 PM**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also in attendance were John Mrozinski, Andrea Halpin, Knox Rush, Jill Doll, Vince Vojtko, Chris Antonucci, Josh Schweizer, Cal Dittmar, Angela Cauffman, Mary Ann Holston, Sandy Raabe, Mary Ann Swope, Dan Caruso, Carol Middlebrook, Bob Middlebrook and Mary Countryman,

### **Minutes**

Vice President Vermillion moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2019 Public Hearing and the April 2, 2019 General Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed. President Carter abstained from voting on the April 2, 2019 General Meeting minutes.

### **Visitor Comments**

- Dan Caruso

Mr. Caruso stated that the recently released Peerless Water report on the Kankakee aquifer requires us to take their word on a number of their findings such as the calculations and estimations that were used to determine withdrawal rates, recharge rates and vulnerability to contamination. He stated that Peerless was paid by those desiring a result which would indicate that it is safe to proceed with the plans for industrial and logistics development, at the price of our precious, fertile farmland. He feels to best represent and protect the interests of family, friends and neighbors, the residents of the Town of New Carlisle, it behooves us to pay for our own study in order to assure us of full transparency. Mr. Caruso presented his proposal for a resolution stating the council has been elected to protect and act in the best interest of constituents and that the office of the SJC Economic Development have unfettered access to TIF monies originating from an area, which encompasses fertile land within the IEC, for their discretionary use. The fertile farmland, the legacy of generations of hardworking farmers, the Kankakee aquifer, current infrastructure and quiet country lifestyle are being sacrificed at the will of the non-elected officials, non-New Carlisle resident persons. The proposed resolution states that the New Carlisle Town Council insist that they, as our democratically elected voice, must be included in any and all discussion regarding changes, and proposals for change, which involves our precious ground within the area identified as the IEC and that the New Carlisle Town Council must be the deciding voice regarding any change to our community, particularly when those changes are being pursued by and are in the interest of those who are not voters in or members of our New Carlisle family.

Shane Fischer and Christina Fischer entered the meeting.

### **Employee Reports**

- Police Chief Cal Dittmar

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Introduced Angela Cauffman, the new information data clerk, who will be helping him and John. He stated that she will be working on the town website for whatever updates you guys need.

Attended Chief's school and recommended that it be mandatory for anyone in the future. Stated that it is required for cities, etc. Was a really good class and would benefit future chiefs and the Town.

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Assisted with a couple of small records request.

Completed work on the purchase agreement for the Bray Street property and met with the owners. We had contemplated the purchase price minus 2018 taxes but tax bills have not been sent to date. The owners have signed all the paperwork, including the Warranty Deed, but have not been paid yet. It was decided to pay the full purchase price and the sellers will pay the 2018 taxes as soon as they are available.

Has put together a draft letter regarding the issue with Praxair but is still gathering information with some facts that must be checked first and then we will be moving forward.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

Roger got additional lumber for the bridge on the path at Bourissa and will begin work on it soon. Roger also spoke with Keith Hite in Building Trades at the high school and they hope to be able to work with him when it is time to set it.

Three employees will be attending a mock pipeline incident training at the SJ County Fairgrounds tomorrow.

John, Marcy and Ken will be attending the AIM roundtable on Thursday

Purchased new flags for the light poles on Michigan Street and the crew will be putting them up shortly.

Looking into replacing some of the brick pavers on the corner at Michigan and Arch due to deterioration on tops of some of the bricks.

The first cemetery mowing is scheduled for the end of this week or beginning of next dependent upon weather.

**Old Business**

- ADM Computer bid for upgrading police laptops discussion

President Carter reported that they have not reached a decision and are looking at newer laptops now so this is tabled at this time.

**New Business**

- Appointment of Board Members for the Olive Township New Carlisle Fire Territory

President Carter reported that Council Member Kauffman has reached out to him and asked to be on the territory board and he asked if anyone else had interest in serving. Council Member Budreau stated that he would like to be on the committee as well. President Carter stated that he has not had time to look at this but will make a decision on the appointments before the first fire territory organizational meeting next Tuesday.

- Resident request for reimbursement

The Council received a request for reimbursement due to a power outage at a home on Elm Street. The resident reported a loss of \$170 for food in her refrigerator that was lost due to the outage. John explained it was a late Sunday night call and the electric was repaired in two days.

Vice President Vermillion moved to reimburse Tammi Schmitt \$170 for lost items in her refrigerator. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously. President Carter explained that this reimbursement is being made due to a deficiency of the town and not because of just a power outage.

- Fire Dept request for reimbursement of 2018 bills

The fire department has requested reimbursement for additional bills totaling \$1,938.02 that they paid for in 2018. The Council reviewed the bills that were presented. Josh explained that they paid for them out of the fire department funds at the end of last year when they had to cease spending because they were approaching their budget cap. Sue explained that there were other bills that were submitted for items purchased last year that were also held and not submitted for payment until January and February of this year and she feels that Council approval is necessary to pay this reimbursement.

Council Member Kauffman asked if this is the remainder of outstanding bills that need to be paid and Josh replied yes.

Council Member Budreau stated that this is an issue. We ask for employee reports and there are no reports and he feels that awareness is keen. He asked how the fire department plans to fit five quarters into their budget this year. Josh explained that they are using one part-time person at times instead of two on the fire department and have accumulated the funding for part-time employees and have projected enough funds for this year.

Vice President Vermillion moved that we reimburse the \$1,938.02 to the fire department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Budreau and passed unanimously.

- Ordinance 1379 - A salary ordinance an employee of the Town of New Carlisle  
Council Member Budreau moved to suspend the rules for Ordinance 1379 to allow for adoption on the day of introduction. The motion was seconded by Vice President Vermillion and passed unanimously.

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President Carter read Ordinance #1379 by caption only for the first reading.  
President Carter read Ordinance #1379 in entirety for the second reading.  
President Carter read Ordinance #1379 by caption only for the third and final reading.

A motion to adopt Ordinance #1379 as written was made by Vice President Vermillion and seconded by Council Member Budreau. Motion passed unanimously.

**Council Reports**

Council Member Rush

Council Member Rush questioned where we stand with the Whitt issue and the attorney the Council is supposed to be meeting with. President Carter stated that she reached out to him and forwarded a proposal for services by email a couple weeks ago but he did not receive it as of yet. He will get back with her soon to find out where she emailed it because he would like to wrap this up.

President Carter

President Carter reported that he has been told via the grapevine that certain members of our staff in town have been asked to forward statements to the press or other organizations and it is his desire to nix that. Anybody that is requesting any type of proposal from a town employee needs to talk to John Mrozinski or himself as people employed are not spokespeople for the town. Andrea clarified that there is not restriction on employee's ability to express their own opinion but they must make it very clear they are not speaking on behalf of the town. First amendment rights remain but an employee can be disciplined.

Regarding the Little League fence on Bray Street near the park that was discussed at the last meeting, as someone who uses that park on a daily basis, he opposes the request to install permanent fencing. Additionally, when baseball is not in play, the field is used for parking and vendor displays during events and that would no longer be possible. He also feels that this is considered part of the green space of our Town. President Carter stated that there was discussion on who owns what property in that area. Sue stated that we could review minutes as this was previously discussed. The area directly south of the park is leased by the Town from the school corporation. The ball diamond was put in without Council or school permission and when installing a fence was discussed, it was determined that a permanent fence would not be allowed so that the area could still be usable for parking and events outside of baseball season.

President Carter asked John if we are all updated with Surf Air and John responded that we are.

Bob Middlebrook informed the Council that a business property that the owner wants to sell, is for some reason, zoned residential. Bob spoke with Area Plan and there are some specific requirements for non-conforming properties. Andrea stated that we have had non-conforming properties in the past, for example signs, and townspeople and other businesses have had those rules enforced or we make a specific determination of why it is different. Andrea will review parameters of non-conforming use so that we know what we are looking at in advance and can be certain this is the best way to handle each particular instance without any unintended consequences.

**Clerk-Treasurers Report**

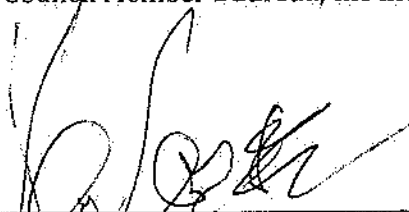
Sue requested a work session with the council for continued discussion of Internal Controls requirements and to work on a written hiring policy for all departments. Although we have followed specific procedures for hiring, a written policy should be in place to so that everyone has a clear understanding of the process and also to protect the Town. Council Member Vermillion asked if this is in writing and Sue responded that it is not in writing but needs to be. We still need written policies for several additional things and also to establish an "audit committee" for review of financial reports. A work session was scheduled for May 7 following the general meeting.

**Bills to be Paid**

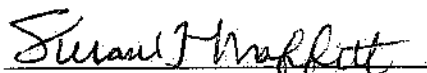
Council Member Budreau moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice President Vermillion and passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Vice President Vermillion and second by Council Member Budreau, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

  
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Ken Carter, President

Attest:

  
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Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer