

Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 9, 2015

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, March 9, 2015 at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Ethan Stivers, Julia Glessner, Steve Buzzard, Tracey Brown; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Dennis Spitler, Jason Caley, and others. President Glessner called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

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Introduced was Mark Mussman, Executive Director of the Huntington County Department of Community Development, who reviewed Section 917 Replacement of the current in place Flood Plain Management Plan. The amendment is being introduced County Wide to meet federal regulations which control land management (building, etc.) within established flood plains. An ordinance will be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of Town Council.

Trent McCarver, representing Huntington County Baseball, stated that the spiker used to aerate the baseball diamonds at Tower Park is not being used as equipment is not available to pull it. Following discussion, Council, by consensus, made the Town tractor and an employee available as needed through the season which would be approximately once a week. Also approved was purchase of a load of ball diamond mix for use on diamonds.

Steve Jackson and scouts working on Community Badges were in attendance to view the Council Meeting.

An ordinance will be drafted to address wrong way parking on Town Streets and will be introduced at the next Regular Meeting of Town Council.

In discussion concerning closing of unused alleys, Morrison and Poulson reported a survey showed that there were few unimproved alleys left within the Town. Following discussion, Council determined that no project would be started to close alleys citing that citizens' can still petition to have specific alleys closed.

Glessner stated that she wished to be replaced on the Huntington County Emergency Management Board as she has a scheduling conflict and cannot attend meetings. Poulson, Fire Chief, is to contact members of that department to see if anyone would be interested.

Reviewed were copies of letters from the Department of Community Development to the owners of property at 112 and 118 Hendricks Street notifying that inspection of the properties would be conducted on March 16th due to reports of possible violations of Building Code.

Council, by consensus, approved an agreement with the Town's Financial Consultant, Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solutions Group, to complete required Redevelopment Commission Reporting due March 15, July 15, July 31, and October 1, 2015. The process involves analysis and report of data.

In response to action at the January 22nd meeting in which water and sewer rate study reports were requested from Guerrettaz, those reports were submitted. Initial recommendations given were an immediate 10% increase in water rates and a 30% increase in wastewater rates. Both recommendations were made based on increase of operational costs. There were also additional recommendations for the next few years based on scenario of future projects such as replacement of the Tower Park Water Tower and completion of the sewer separation project. Council, by consensus, directed that ordinances be prepared by the next Regular Meeting of Council so that public hearings and discussion can begin.

An offer from TowerPoint Capital to purchase the AT&T Lease with the Town for rental space on the top of the Water Tower on Eleventh Street was reviewed. No action taken and as two previous offers have been rejected by Council from other companies, further review will be done to see if there are any differences in contract language.

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As previously discussed, Council, by consensus, approved \$2,000 in annual operating funds for Historic Warren. Jeff Souder, representing Historic Warren, reported that steps were being taken to offer another round of downtown Façade Improvement grants. Entities are being contacted for project support and the group is also searching for grant opportunities. Citing budget constraints, by consensus, Council delayed making a commitment but members stated that the door was open for more discussion at a later date and especially if match was needed for a grant.

Poulson, Utility Manager, reported that work continues on the installation of radio read meters, water and electric. Some problems within the billing system are still being addressed. Poulson reported that a current project is the removal of a hydrant at Fourth and Wayne. Another substantial leak was repaired at Eleventh and Wayne with the connections also being upgraded. Poulson submitted two quotes from Bobcat for purchase of a small excavator, the quotes being for different sizes. Reason for purchase is access to smaller areas than with backhoe and the fact that the base would remain stationery. Following discussion as to additional uses, the number of times the equipment would be used, and the cost per department, Glessner moved, seconded by Buzzard, approval of purchase of an E32i Bobcat Compact Excavator at the final cost of \$28,728.54 following deduction of a \$19,414.44 municipal discount and trade in of a 8811 Backhoe piece for \$7000. The motion was approved unanimously. Poulson recommended, based on interview, that Josh Leidig be hired as the second of two summer employees. Leidig’s start date would be scheduled for on or around May 1st. Council approved the recommendation by consensus.

Both Fire Chief Poulson and Town Marshal Spitler filed monthly reports.

President Glessner cited the need to meet with Baseball Association Officials prior to the start of the season to review Tower Park Rules and Regulations and to discuss any concerns. Glessner will schedule the meeting.

Barb Trosper reviewed playground equipment in Tower Park and requested that an additional piece be purchased at the cost of \$20,000. Following discussion, it was determined that it was too early in the budget year for such consideration that but it would be revisited during work on the 2016 Municipal Budget.

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President As _____ Member
Julia Glessner Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member As _____ Member
Tracey Brown Ethan Stivers