

Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 10, 2020

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, August 10, 2020 in a Regular Meeting 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, Carrie Miller, Steve Buzzard, Tavis Surfus, Absent: Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Ty Surfus, Dennis Spitler, Brian Sills and others.

President Stivers announced the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and announced the opening of a Public Hearing related to Ordinance 2020-3, an Ordinance amending the Warren zoning ordinance in regard to Solar Power. Requesting public input and hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed. Buzzard moved, seconded by Miller, to adopt Ordinance 2020-3. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mike Kleinpeter, consultant for the OCRA Grant process for water improvements, reviewed the steps necessary to meet time guidelines now that the Grant has been awarded. Financing and Engineering steps must be completed within the next six months. Discussed was the process in general.

Tom Wall, Huntington County Commissioner, reviewed development plans being discussed by the County Redevelopment Commission and Commissioners. Further discussion centered around development of TIF districts in the County and available of utilities to those sites. The County has hired an engineer to develop that plan.

Stivers introduced Brian Sills has the recently hired Utility Operations Manager. Sills first day of employment was this date.

Discussed was Golfo compliance issues as conditions continue to worsen at the Waste Water Treatment Plant due to unapproved discharge. A review of the surcharges as calculated by Commonwealth Compliance Manager were once again reviewed although Golfo had not responded to the notice sent in June. In addition, the lack of pretreatment installation continues to create problems. IDEM inspector had noted that the Town may need to take a stricter approach to handling the facility. Reviewed was a report from the Compliance Manager which detailed steps which could be taken. No decision was made at this time although Morrison, Sills, and Poulson will continue to work toward a solution with Commonwealth.

Deed research continues to hold up the survey report on the Scout Cabin has the delineation of the area cannot be complete with some measurements from a property to the East of the land being considered by Council for purchase.

Poulson reported that the second quote for replacement of the bucket truck had not yet been received.

Work continues on steps necessary to bid the DNR dam removal project with the last permit not yet received. It is expected the project will take place in early 2021.

The application for an OCRA – Office of Community and Rural Affairs – has been awarded in the amount of \$700,000. A contract from Commonwealth Engineering for related costs was submitted for Council consideration. Buzzard moved, seconded by Miller to approve the contract. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2020-4, an Ordinance providing salary for a Utility Operations Manager was submitted for consideration. Buzzard moved, seconded by Stivers, that rules of the Council be suspended to allow consideration of an ordinance at the meeting of introduction. The motion was approved unanimously. Buzzard moved, seconded by Stivers to adopt Ordinance 2020-4. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussed was planning in case an employee was diagnosed with COVID-19 to make sure operations of the Town would continue. No final decisions made.

Morrison reported that preparation of the 2021 Municipal Budget was nearing completion with the public hearing set for September 14 and reviewed the July Financial reports as submitted. Also reported was that customers had done well with utility payments through the moratorium on disconnects with approximately ten accounts being ninety days past due. An agreement to pay will be offered to those affected by COVID-19 to bring the accounts current.

Marshal Spitler submitted the August Activity report and stated that the recently purchased police vehicle should be in operation in the next seven to ten days.

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Fire Chief Poulson Poulson submitted the August Activity Report. Due to the plans of the new owners of the Trailer Court to open more lots, upgrade to the Town's electric system providing power to the area must be upgraded. System improvements are being developed at this time. Membranes at the Waste Water Treatment Plan are needing to be replaced. Poulson requested and was approved to get a price quote for the project.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for September 14th and will also be the Public Hearing for the 2021 budget and introduction of the Budget Ordinance.

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

General Discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President As _____ Member
Ethan Stivers Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member As _____ Member
Carrie Miller Tavis Surfus(Absent)