

INCORPORATED TOWN OF
NORTH JUDSON
INDIANA 46366

Inc. Town of North Judson's Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street., North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Hoppe, Vice-President Rowe and Council Members Brown, Young and Felchuk were able to attend. Town Superintendent Horstmann, Clerk-Treasurer Rowe and Town Attorney Schramm were able to attend.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the agenda. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Brown seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting on 6/04/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve those minutes. Council Member Brown seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Public Presentation:

No Public Presentations

Old Business:

New Business:

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-06 – Establishing/Updating Schedule of Fees

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe highlighted the preliminary changes discussed previously including changing the Tap Fee under both Water Fees and Sewer Fees from \$750.00 to \$1000.00, as well as adding a Gas Service Inspection Permit - \$50.00 Permit fee applies to inspections performed by the Town's Building Inspector (per requirement by NIPSCO/Utility Service Provider) – under the Permits/Applications section of the ordinance. Town Superintendent Horstmann proposed additional updates to the Town's Schedule of Fees which will be updated and included for a potential first reading of Ordinance 2018-06 at the July 2, 2018 Regular Council Meeting.

Council Member Brown spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Joe Leszek who had mentioned that after a verbal/written warning the initial \$50.00 fine for code or ordinance violations, such as for junk cars or high grass and weeds, is in the ordinance but penalties for violations beyond the first infraction are not listed on the Town's Schedule of Fees. Leszek also proposed raising the cost of the first fine to work as a greater deterrence towards repeat offenders. Council Vice-President Rowe recommended raising the first fine

Regular Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2018 6:30PM

Page 1 of 6

imposed to \$100.00, the inclusion of a \$250.00 fine for a second violation, and, for example in the case of junk vehicles, towing the vehicle upon the third violation.

Town Attorney Schramm informed the Council that before they would be able to update the Town's Schedule of Fees related to varying code violations, they would be required to amend the original ordinance setting forth the scheme of how warnings, fines, and further actions are to be carried out, and at what amount monetarily. That would then need to be published before being incorporated into the Town's Fee Schedule, which would also have to be published before being officially adopted since it's prescribing a penalty provision. Schramm also noted that, after an initial warning, a fine of \$250.00-\$300.00 is reasonable and could be escalated beyond that first fine.

Council President Hoppe advised that Code Enforcement Officer Leszek and Town Marshal Fisher should work together with Town Attorney Schramm and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe to put some teeth into the way the Town carries out fines for code and ordinance violations.

No motion made on Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-06 at 6/18/2018 Regular Council Meeting. Town Superintendent Horstmann will provide Clerk-Treasurer Rowe with changes not included in the initial version of 2018-06, and action may be taken at the next Council meeting.

2019 Indiana Stellar Communities – Discussion of Details of Recent Meeting with SCEDF, Partnership between North Judson, Knox, and Starke County

Council Member Felchuk expressed her enthusiasm with the Starke County Economic Development Foundation's efforts to bring together regional entities, and at the possibility of working with other nearby communities and the county to try to obtain the Stellar Communities Grant. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that representatives from both Starke County and the City of Knox are enthusiastically pursuing Stellar Communities, and with both entities along with the SCEDF being located in Knox there is some concern that North Judson would be left on the sidelines. The Town would need to make its presence felt in order to get the most from the initiative. Part of the application process includes the demand for the Town to have a comprehensive plan which would cost around \$50,000.00 but the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) provides \$45,000.00 in funding for such an endeavor which would leave \$5000.00 that the Town would need to pay. Felchuk noted that a list of organizations who could perform the plan would be provided to the Town, and it would be great for the Town to have such a plan for the future. Council Vice-President Rowe mentioned that the Town needs a road map and Council Members and officials will need to put in the time to make it beneficial to the Town, and not just Starke County or Knox. Council Member Young noted that the three main points of Stellar Communities is 'Live, Work, and Play,' and this would allow us access to grant funding we might not otherwise be able to obtain in order to help move our community forward. Council Vice-President Rowe said we would put together a list of projects we as the Town would like to complete through the program and those would be whittled down throughout the process to what would be the most impactful.

Donna Henry noted that there's been a big push towards quality of life and the Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to include all of Starke County in their activities, and this is a huge step in the right direction.

Jacque Ryan noted that North Judson had the most attendees from any community and having the Trail in our Town is something which could serve as an asset to develop and exploit when applying in 2019.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to join Starke County and the City of Knox as a regional entity in pursuit of the Stellar Communities Program in 2019. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Recognition of Guests

Marsha Horstmann, Jacque Ryan, Alan Cheseck, Teena Hittle – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Betty Chesak thanked the Council for getting the brush half-way cleaned up as requested at a previous meeting. Chesak spoke about how much work needs to be done in order to spiff up our Town. She inquired as to whether or not our Code Officer is doing his job and Council Member Felchuk let Chesak know that he's very committed. Chesak noted that the area around the water fountain will need more trimming as weeds and trees continue to grow in that area. Chesak thanked the Council for getting the vehicles away from the highway at the intersection of Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 39 but inquired as to whether or not the junk on the property could be cleaned up. The Council informed Chesak that Ben Osinski owns the property and the business owner just rents or leases the property.

Donna Henry presented a report on the Mint Festival following the event on Father's Day weekend. Henry thanked Council Members who attended the open ceremony, Town Marshal Fisher and deputies, Peggy Bohac, and Town Superintendent Horstmann for all the work they did to get the Town ready. The festival review meeting will be Thursday, July 19th. Council Vice-President Rowe commented that Norwayne Field looked amazing and couldn't have been better. He wondered about the cables running through the downtown area and whether or not those could be covered, and also about one gentleman who was riding down the middle of Lane St. on a gator-type vehicle. Council Member Brown noted and accommodated the involvement by Marshal Fisher in the parade. Council Vice-President Rowe mentioned how many participants there were in the parade and commented positively on how long it went on.

Peggy Bohac commented on the positivity of having Town representation at the festival's opening ceremony and at the festival in general.

Sur Dolezal is a representative for the committee doing the high school memorial going up where the old high school was previously. The organization is hoping to break ground over the next month. They're planning a year out for an event on June 8, 2019 to have a 'Senior Cruise Night' and dedication to the new memorial where they'll be opening the time capsule originally in the cornerstone. The 'Cruise' route includes Lane St. and ultimately they'll end up at Norwayne for the dedication. Dolezal asked if they might be able to use the Firehouse in the event of rain as a backup. It's the same night of the fish fry and they might be cleaned up by then, but something could be coordinated. Council President Hoppe noted that it shouldn't be a problem. Dolezal asked whether or not some of the stop signs could be covered to cruise the street and Hoppe mentioned we couldn't do that by law, but they could work with our police department to figure something out for the event.

Department Reports:

School Board – Town Representative Akers: Not Present

Building Inspector – Building Inspector Abrams: Not Present

Code Enforcement Officer - Joe Leszek: Not Present

Unsafe Building Hearing Authority – Not Present

Board of Zoning Appeals – Not Present

Planning Commission – Not Present

Railroad Advisory Committee – Council President Hoppe: Nothing to Report

Park Board – Nick Radtke: Not Present

Police Dept- Town Marshal Fisher: Not Present

Fire Dept – Chief Leszek – Not Present

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann: Utility Dept. Report for 18 June 2018

1. I would like to present **P.O. number 1467** to Central Paving for \$565.25 for 6.65 tons of cold mix, which was used to fill in around the manhole casting we replaced and filling potholes.
2. Completed hanging the banners on Lane St.
3. Completed Mint Fest preps (painting curbs, cross walks, stop lines and the green mile, using leaf blowers to blow off the sidewalk along Norwayne field and Hwy 10, setting out barrels and barricades, weed eating the downtown, 10 and 39 and installing Hydrant manifolds) and clean up.
4. Made up 10 new sets of barricades, painted stenciled and applied reflective tape.
5. Mounted the side mower on tractor and tried to mow sides of roads. Was not able to mow due to electrical issues which we have narrowed it down to a couple of connections and a linkage broke for the throttle. The linkage has been replaced.
6. I would like to present **P.O. number 1468** to Blue River Technologies for \$973.00 for a barrel of Polymer.
7. Cut down the tree growing in the Lilac bush by the water fountain at the corner of Central and Lane Street and applied Tardon to the stumps to prevent it from growing back.
8. I have still not heard anything from GE Marshall as far as submitting a quote to replace the sewer line by the Railroad Museum.

Council Member Felchuk moved to pay **P.O. number 1467** to Central Paving for \$565.25 for 6.65 tons of cold mix, and **P.O. number 1468** to Blue River Technologies for \$973.00 for a barrel of Polymer. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Vice-President Rowe inquired about the issue with the water meter pit behind Burger King. Horstmann informed Rowe that a new riser has been ordered and will be repaired. Rowe also detailed his recent visit with Horstmann and his tour of the Towns utilities facilities. In expressing his gratefulness for the opportunity to meet and see all that goes on behind the scenes, Rowe noted his positive impression of the experience and how well-organized Horstmann has the departments and facilities.

Clerk/Water Department - Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the following:

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented PO 1469 to 1st Source Insurance for \$1112.00 for updates and endorsements to the Town's insurance policy; PO 1470 to Collins Septic Service for \$2025.50 for work done at 612 Laurel St., 706 Laurel St. and 605 Cherry St. related to the recent hydrant/water line issue in the vicinity of Sheridan Ave.; PO 1471 to Mark's Body Shop for \$5610.35 for Claim #186890 - repairs to the Town's 2014 Dodge Charger VIN #7897 – which includes a total of \$5110.35 from Tokio Marine (insurance) already received in and the \$500.00 deductible.

Council Member Brown made a motion to pay PO 1469 to 1st Source Insurance for \$1112.00, PO 1470 to Collins Septic Service for \$2025.50, and PO 1471 to Mark's Body Shop for \$5610.35 for Claim #186890. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Vice-President Rowe inquired how many homes are left to be fixed in terms of the hydrant/water line issues in the vicinity of Sheridan Ave. There are potentially three or four more bills coming regarding these repairs.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Council with Sewage Works and Water Works Revenue Bonds 2019 parameters and financial terms received from H.J. Umbaugh to be included in the bond ordinance authorizing the Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of 2019 and Water Works Revenue Bonds of 2019. Town Attorney Schramm mentioned that these parameters will be included in the ordinance to be presented at the July 16, 2018 Regular Council Meeting.

Rowe informed the Council about a recent meeting with Pete Callan from Republic Services who is working to inform the Town's citizens about ways in which they could limit the contamination of recycled goods. Callan brought some information regarding the problems Republic and other waste management entities have had since China moved their contamination limitations from 3% to .5%. This has created issues related to the return of recycled materials and losses on their part in this regard. Republic is working to put together a flyer or pamphlet of some sort to help educate residents about decontaminating recycled materials. Rowe mentioned that he would invite Callan to come to an upcoming meeting to speak more in-depth on the topic with the Council.

In regards to the recent Golf Cart/UTV/Gator discussion, Clerk-Treasurer Rowe provided the Council with Donna Osborne and George Paulsen's vehicle specifics. It was decided to wait until the next Council Meeting when Marshal Fisher is present to discuss.

Legal Updates– Town Attorney Schramm:

Attorney Schramm informed the Council that we'll be looking to close on our Sewer and Water Bonds by December. Schramm also informed the Council that he's waiting on the Council's decision one way or the other regarding expanding the Golf Cart Ordinance to include UTV's. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that Tim Cummins had provided some insight into what some towns may do in the way of dictating what's allowed and what is prohibited. Schramm mentioned that many communities are taking a "wait and see" approach.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council:

Council Member Felchuk commended Billing Clerk Jennifer Vanek for completing the U.S. Census Report on behalf of the Town.

Council President Hoppe noted that O.T.E.S. has been in the community for a year and they'll be hosting an open house on June 20, 2018. Council Members and Officials have been invited and Hoppe mentioned that we, as a Town, should present them some gift as we do other businesses when welcoming them to Town.

Claims for Payment – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$276,136.17. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 6/5/2018 – 6/18/2018. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council Member Jane Ellen Felchuk moved for adjournment, Council Vice-President John Rowe seconded the motion and all council members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, July 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer