

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, February 1, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A virtual meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. The meeting utilized the Zoom App. Present at Huntertown Town Hall was council member Brandon Seifert and Resource Officer Anis Softic. Present using the Zoom app were council members Patricia Freck, Gary Grant (P) Brandon Seifert, and Michael Stamets; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Town Manager Beth Shellman; Bill Etzler of Engineering Resources Inc; and two (2) members of the public and one (1) reporter.

Gary Grant called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Gary Grant asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of former Perry Township Trustee Roger Gump who passed away over the weekend.

Gary Grant suspended the regular meeting at 6:01 p.m. and opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2021-003, additional appropriation ordinance. Ryan Schwab covered the details of the ordinance, which is adding \$79,480 to the general fund budget for police protection. The town has an agreement with the Indiana Finance Authority and Allen County to use the county's public safety payroll records as a way to recoup expenses to the Allen County Sheriff's Department for the town's resource officer contract in that amount. Per the agreement, the town is going to forward that money to the Sheriff's Department as a credit for future payment on the resource officer contract and no new tax money is involved in this additional appropriation. Gary Grant opened the floor to public comment, and none were brought forth.

He closed the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. and opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2021-001, an amendment to Huntertown Ordinance 14-004, as amended for metered rates and charges for services of the Huntertown Sewage Utility (the sprinkler credit). Ryan Schwab explained that these changes were voted on by the council in December. Beth Shellman added that the proper advertising requirements were met. Gary Grant opened the floor to public comment. Patricia Freck, a Huntertown Town Council member, stated that she would not support this ordinance without knowing its financial impact on the town. After no further public comment was brought forth, Gary Grant closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m.

At 6:07 p.m., Gary Grant opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2021-002, an ordinance to amend Huntertown Ordinance No. 15-006, deleting all Fort Wayne Utility treatment, pass through, and related charges for services of the Huntertown sewage utility, and to establish a system development charge for new sewer connections to the Huntertown Sewer Utility. Beth Shellman said that the proper advertising requirements were met and that the proposed system development charge is advertised at \$1,700 and can be lowered if the council desires. Gary Grant opened the floor to public comment, and none were brought forth. Gary Grant closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the public meeting at 6:08 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 regular meeting. Michael Stamets seconded. The motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the general, water, and sewer claims dated February 1, 2021 in the amount of \$653,104.21. Brandon Seifert seconded. Brandon Seifert questioned invoices from Hawk Haynie Kammeyer & Smith in the amounts of \$10,353 and asked to give those invoices back to the Utility Service Board, whom they were billed to. Patricia Freck said that since the Utility Service Board approved payment at its meeting earlier in the night, that the council should follow suit. Gary Grant agreed, adding that since this issue involved that contract terms between the Utility Board and its attorney, the council should follow the USB directive. After Gary Grant asked for

a vote on the motion, Brandon Seifert continued to lobby for a change in the motion. Ryan Schwab said that since a vote was called, that Seifert needed to vote for the motion on the floor. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-1 (Freck – Aye; Seifert – Nay; Stamets – Aye; Aker – Aye; Grant – Aye).

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$2,000 to the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality for educational materials needed. Michael Stamets seconded. Matt Jarrett, MS4 Program Manager/Water Quality Hydrologist for Allen County and Jackie Buck, part-time water quality educator, gave the council a presentation about the history of the partnership and the need for educational materials. Ryan Schwab said that CEDIT funds could be used to account for the payment if approved. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2021-003, additional appropriation ordinance. Michael Stamets seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to consider Huntertown Ordinance 2021-003, additional appropriation ordinance. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to adopt Huntertown Ordinance 2021-003, additional appropriation ordinance. Michael Aker seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2021-003, a Resolution accepting for ownership and maintenance “Copper Mine Passage” and “Cuprum Pass” located in the Rapids at Copper Creek – Section I Subdivision. Michael Aker seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2021-004, a Resolution accepting for ownership and maintenance “Andina Trail,” Cuprum Pass,” and Kidd Creek Crossover” located in The Rapids at Copper Creek – Section II Subdivision. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve the council signing a letter of support to Allen County for a Covid-19 grant application to OCRA. Michael Aker seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to move the Town Council meeting advertised for March 15, 2021 to March 22, 2021. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman said that moving the meeting works better within a timeline for approval of the Bethel Road project through the Community Crossings Matching Grant program. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following New Business was brought forth:

- Discussion was held on Huntertown Resolution 2021-005, a Resolution in opposition to a Food and Beverage Tax increase or transfer in the administrative unit of government for the use and collection of the existing Allen County, Indiana tax. Allen County Council member Kyle Kerley and Fort Wayne City Council member Russ Jehl each spoke about the resolution and why they oppose the tax. Discussion topics included the limited impact the tax has on Huntertown; the need to involve the town so early in the discussion of the tax; the likelihood the tax is discussed at the Statehouse; the need to get feedback from Huntertown residents on the topic; and Huntertown’s participation on the County Tax Board, which could be asked to weigh in. After no further discussion, no motion was made on the Resolution.
- The council gave voice approval to allow guided tours of the Wastewater Treatment Plant during the Indiana Water Environmental Federation’s Annual Conference, to be held in Fort Wayne, August 25-27, 2021. Council members want to ensure that masks are worn and that proper social distancing measures are in place for those taking the tour.

OLD BUSINESS

The following Old Business was brought forth:

- Brandon Seifert made a motion to consider Huntertown Ordinance 2021-001, an amendment to Huntertown Ordinance 14-004, as amended for metered rates and charges for services of the Huntertown Sewage Utility (the sprinkler credit). Michael Aker seconded. Patricia Freck re-stated her position from the Public Hearing that she would not support this ordinance without knowing its financial impact on the town and asked Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab to provide detail on why a financial impact is unknown. Schwab said that a report in the town's software system is not turned on and would cost the town \$500. Without that report, the town would have to calculate the financial impact on moving the sprinkler credit on a customer-by-customer basis which would be too time-consuming for the utility office staff to undertake. Council decided to table the motion and agreed with a voice vote to pay the \$500 to have the report installed on the town's software system.
- Huntertown Ordinance 2021-002, an ordinance to amend Huntertown Ordinance No. 15-006, deleting all Fort Wayne Utility treatment, pass through, and related charges for services of the Huntertown sewage utility, and to establish a system development charge for new sewer connections to the Huntertown Sewer Utility, was re-introduced for discussion. Council members chose not to make a motion to consider the ordinance as they are still undecided on the amount the town should charge for the proposed system development charge.
- No action was taken on Huntertown Resolution 2021-006, a Resolution regarding extension of water and sewer service for an 88-lot subdivision known as Preserves at the Quarry, as the Utility Service Board must act on its end prior to getting council approval. Ryan Schwab said the item will continue to appear on the agenda until the USB has acted.

REPORTS

Council Member Michael Aker had the following report:

- He provided the council with an updated quote from Simplex for updated security systems at multiple buildings and would like the council to review and decide at its next meeting.

Huntertown Resource Officer Anis Softic had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- Senate Bill 369 has been discussed at the Statehouse and would allow municipalities to continue to have virtual public meetings during normal situations, and not limit virtual meetings to cases of emergency. He asked council members to consider how they would like council meetings to be run in the future if this bill is passed.

Town Manager Beth Shellman handed out a copy of her monthly report and detailed the following items:

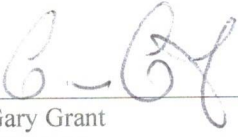
- She provided information on different options for a potential system development charge.
- She asked council members about any interest in a Rotary Club for Huntertown.
- She has begun the request for survey work on Woods Road and those proposals would be considered at the March 1, 2021 meeting. That report also included a list of street projects being discussed for future years.
- She reviewed the timeline for the Bethel Road project bidding, which includes advertising on February 24, 2021, bids being due by March 17, 2021 and the awarding of bids on March 22, 2021. The deadline to award is April 8, 2021.
- She thanked Michael Stamets for helping town employees plow snow during the Winter Storm event the previous weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENT


None were brought forth.

Michael Aker made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest:



Gary Grant
President



Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer