

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, June 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, June 20, 2022, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Patricia Freck, Gary Grant; Brandon Seifert (P) and Michael Stamets; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Town Manager Beth Shellman; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; David Hawk of Hawk, Haynie, Kammeyer & Smith; Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants; Mitch Hansell and Beth Johnson of USI Consultants.; fifteen (15) members of the public and zero (0) members of the media.

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

Brandon Seifert suspended the public meeting and opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2022-007, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-103, establishing rates, charges, and rules for the use and service of the municipal water system of the Town of Huntertown (URT repeal). Ryan Schwab provided an overview of the changes to state law removing the Utility Receipts Tax and what requirements municipalities had in reporting the change to its ratepayers. The floor was opened for public comment. None were brought forth. Brandon Seifert closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:02 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION

Gary Grant made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2022, Regular Meeting. Michael Stamets seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated June 20, 2022, in the amount of \$226,203.41. The motion passed, 5-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$5,000 to Riverside MFG to complete its façade grant application. Michael Aker seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2022-017, a Resolution for the conveyance of property. Patricia Freck seconded. Town Attorney David Hawk covered the details of the resolution and noted the town has agreed to take on some real estate taxes on the property in the amount of \$102.79. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to consider Huntertown Ordinance 2022-007, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-013, establishing rates, charges and rules for the use and services of the municipal water system of the Town of Huntertown. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to adopt Huntertown Ordinance 2022-007, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-013, establishing rates, charges and rules for the use and services of the municipal water system of the Town of Huntertown. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Mitch Hansell and Beth Johnson of USI Consultants gave a power point presentation covering the Woods Road Reconstruction project. The presentation covered the roadway needs, the scope of the project, utility relocation and tree removal, the detour route and local access to homes, and the

construction budget and timeline. Following the presentation, Hansell and Johnson allowed residents in attendance to ask questions and get more information on the project in the Town Hall meeting room. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023.

- Beth Shellman provided the council with a copy of Huntertown Resolution 2019-013, Criteria for the review of applications for economic revitalization areas in Huntertown. Shellman said that the town is not aware of a tax abatement until the County presents them to the council. She would like the town to consider taking over the process so that local businesses can be made aware of other options aside from tax abatements, notably TIF revenue bonds. Elissa McGauley of the Allen County Department of Planning Services noted that the county currently provides this service for four businesses for the town. She added that any changes to the current resolution need to be shared with the County. Patricia Freck asked for a draft of any changes before the council takes any vote. After no further discussion, no action was taken.
- Brandon Seifert opened a discussion about the desire for the Town to abolish the Utility Service Board and bring all utility matters back to the authority of the Town Council. He said that the topic was discussed between himself, Beth Shellman, Michael Aker, Utility Board President Brad Hite, Town Engineer Derek Frederickson, and Town Attorney David Hawk when they were meeting on another topic. All seemed to agree. David Hawk explained to the council the process to get the referendum question put on the ballot for 2022 General Election. Other topics of conversation included the reason the board was formed, the cost savings by abolishing the board and turning that savings into a raise for the council and elected officials, the effectiveness of past and present utility boards; the impact abolishing the board would have the town's agreement with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; the number of meetings the USB has each month compared to the council and its impact on developments; and the difficulty in finding people to appoint to the board. After no further discussion, council members agreed to seek the signatures needed on the petitions to get the referendum question on the ballot for the 2022 General Election.

OLD BUSINESS

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

- Brandon Seifert re-introduced a discussion on renaming Old Lima Road in downtown Huntertown to Main Street, and subsequently finding a new name for Main Street. Patricia Freck, who lives on Old Lima Road, said she is not in favor of the name change and said that people can put her address into their GPS and get to her location without confusion. Gary Grant suggested having the residents and businesses along the corridor take a vote on whether to rename the road or not. Beth Shellman said she would coordinate this with Utility Office Manager Rosemary Scheele.

REPORTS

Michael Aker had the following report:

- A meeting of the Perry Township Advisory Board was being held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, and the Huntertown Fire Department would be giving a presentation on the re-forming of the Northwest Fire Territory with the addition of the Washington Township Fire Department. The meeting would take place at 7 p.m. at the Huntertown Fire Station.

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- He continues to monitor children and teenage activity during the summer evenings and nights.

Gary Grant said he has received some complaints about dirt bikes on the roads and asked the officers to look into the complaints.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no report.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had the following report:

- She and utility employee Tim Schobert are meeting with the Allen County Surveyor's Office and plans to call local resident Dave Smith about issues he is having on his property.

Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants had the following report:

- The Carroll Road roundabout survey has been completed. The utility companies have been notified of the need for relocations and plans for the roundabout should be finalized in the next few months.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Smith, a resident at Hunter Road, said the town should invest in a better sound system for Town Hall. He cannot hear what is being said at meetings and that is not fair to him as he has a hearing problem.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Gary Grant made a motion to adjourn. Michael Stamets seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Attest:


Brandon Seifert
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer