

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, August 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, August 19, 2024, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Patricia Freck (P); Brad Hite; Tina McDonald; and Brandon Seifert; Town Manager Hannah Walker; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Pedro Yaruchy; Mike Hawk of Hawk Haynie Kammeyer & Smith; five (5) members of the public and one (1) member of the media.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2024, regular meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brad Hite made a motion to approve the general, water, and sewer claims dated August 19, 2024, in the amount of \$510,832.40. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2024-004, a resolution regulating the use of irrigation systems. Michael Aker seconded. Patricia Freck opened discussion describing the resolution, which would limit a homeowner's ability to irrigate their lawns to certain days of the week; odd or even dates based on their house number being an odd or even number. Brandon Seifert shared concerns about the word "shall" in the resolution requiring residents to follow without any penalty being listed. He also shared concerns about who would be enforcing any penalty and did not feel a need for the resolution. Patricia Freck said that while the high service pump upgrades at the water treatment plant will be in place by November of this year and the need for this resolution is a short-term need, IDEM was still wanting the town to pass the resolution as a sign of good faith that the town is addressing the water capacity issues at its plant. Council has asked the attorney to remove the word shall from the resolution and only recommend the change in irrigation with no penalty for those who do not comply. The motion was tabled, and the resolution will be addressed at a future meeting.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2024-005, a Resolution accepting new streets into the Town of Huntertown for ownership and maintenance. Tina McDonald seconded. The streets included in the resolution are Skywalker Pass and Rey Cove in the Sonora Section II subdivision. After no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the Huntertown Redevelopment Commission annual report as presented. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Town Manager Hannah Walker provided information on the "I Am Allen" statue and asked the council to decide where they would like it to be located. The location must be determined in September. The artist has until October 21, 2024, to finish the sculptures which will be dedicated on November 16, 2024. Walker said the two most likely places to put the statue are at the Huntertown Family Park or next door to the Town Hall on town owned property at 15607 Lima Road. Discussion items included which spot made the statue more visible and accessible; if the land at 15607 Lima Road could be fitted for a more permanent display (Veteran's Memorial or other); and any other spots

in town the statue could be placed. Pat Freck noted that the statue must be placed on town owned property. After no further discussion, no action was taken.

- Hannah Walker shared a primary development plan for property at 1707 Gump Road, near the intersection of State Road 3 and Gump Road. Steppin' Up Physical Therapy is the property owner and is planning to take the development plan to the Allen County Department of Planning Services on September 12, 2024. Walker said the town has been asked to provide comments on providing sewer and water only, but she wanted to share the information with council to see what feedback it may have. Walker said that the owner would prefer to have its entrance to the property tied to the roundabout project with Parkview Health, however, it would collaborate with its neighbors to have access to the site if no such roundabout project is approved. Brandon Seifert said a meeting was planned to discuss the roundabout with Parkview Health officials in September. After no further discussion, no action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was brought forth.

REPORTS

Patricia Freck had the following report:

- She requested use of the town golf cart to assist volunteers in a downtown beautification project scheduled for the spring of 2025. Flowers will be placed throughout town and volunteers will need to use the golf cart to help keep the flowers watered. Randy Bailey said he would make the cart available at Town Hall.
- Patricia Freck asked Randy Bailey to speak about a pair of salt spreaders that have been donated to the town by the Allen County Highway Department. Bailey said the Highway Department was willing to part way with two unused Salt spreaders, estimated to cost \$18,000-\$20,000. The town would have to invest between \$3,000-\$4,000 to rehab some parts of the spreaders, but the equipment has not been used by the Highway Department. Freck signed an authorization form on behalf of the town, approving the acceptance of the donated items.

Brandon Seifert had the following report:

- He has been contacted by residents in the Carroll Oaks subdivision who are concerned about increased traffic on Bear Claw Lane as a result of the Carroll Road closure for the remainder of the year. Resource Officer Brandon Reichert suggested putting "No Parking" signs on the north side of Bear Claw Lane to allow for better flow for emergency vehicles. Ryan Schwab noted that the Homeowners Association has requested speed signs and speed bumps to be placed along/on Bear Claw Lane as well. Street Department Head Randy Bailey said the speed bumps could be a liability for the town but would look into how much it would cost to get one installed. Ryan Schwab added that an ordinance would need to be passed to approve the "No Parking" signs. Mike Hawk said an ordinance could be prepared for the September 3, 2024, meeting. In the meantime, Brad Hite said he would like to get the "No Parking" signs put in place immediately and get information out on the town's website and social media pages asking residents to refrain from parking on the north side of the road. Schwab said that nothing could be enforced until an ordinance is passed.

Brad Hite had the following report:

- He met with Wastewater Plant Operator Darren Dafforn to discuss the need for a second plant operator to be employed by the town. Currently, only one other town employee has tested for the operator's license and none of the other employees are interested. He would like the town's next hire to be strictly for that position and the applicant must agree to become licensed over time in order to get the job.

Resource Officer Pedro Yaruchy had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- He provided the council with a draft of the 2025 budget. He went over the details fund by fund and addressed questions. He plans to have his budget reviewed by the Department of Local Government Finance on Wednesday, April 21, 2024, at 10 a.m. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. and he needs to have a quorum from council to stay on schedule. Budget adoption is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6 p.m. Brad Hite asked about his eligibility to vote. Schwab said that if he is no longer a volunteer for the Huntertown Fire Department, which Hite confirmed he is not, then he will be allowed to vote.

Town Manager Hannah Walker had the following report:

- She reported that wastewater treatment plant operator Darren Dafforn has reported an excess ammonia violation to IDEM. He is working with Engineering Resources Inc. to get some testing done on what is causing the excess levels. He is also in communication with Northwest Allen County Schools as the testing of excess levels has coincided with the start of the new school year.
- She shared some handouts from the Allen County Department of Planning Services, who have noticed that the town's Comprehensive Plan and its Town Center Focus Plan have two different borders. The DPS is requesting the town inform them as to what boundaries it would like considered.

Town Engineer, Derek Frederickson was absent.

The town attorney's office, represented by Mike Hawk, had no further report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy Frick, a resident at 1518 Flint Lock Lane, representing Carroll Oaks as its HOA president, said she would like the "No Parking" signs on Bear Claw lane to be permanent. She is also requesting speed bumps to be placed on the roadway. She asked for information on when police patrol the area and suggested it do so during school bus pick up and drop off as well as before and after hours for services at neighboring Pathway Church. She also expressed concern about the median being placed on Carroll Road that will not allow residents to turn left into the addition from Carroll Road, instead will have to either make a U-turn after the barricades or use the roundabout when its construction is complete. Council members said they fought for the removal of the median, but INDOT had safety concerns near the intersection of Carroll Road and State Road 3 and strongly requested the medians be included in the project. Frick said that the real reason is that the town wanted grant money to help pay for the project and added that if a homeowner were to lose their life because the emergency response teams were late trying to get to the scene because of the increased time it would take to go past the entrance, through the roundabout and back to the entrance, the town would have to own those losses. Freck disagreed and noted that while the construction is going to be inconvenient now, the end result will be good for all traffic when complete.

Jennifer Ledger, a resident at 12129 Mossy Oak Run, expressed concern that the Carroll Oaks entrance sign is being damaged as part of the construction project and requested information on how it was being replaced. Pat Freck said that it should be a part of the project to replace it if damaged. Brad Hite said that if it is torn apart during the project, the town at the very least will make sure it is replaced. She also said she was in favor of permanent "No Parking" signs on Bear Claw lane as well as a speed bump for the duration of the Carroll Road reconstruction project.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Brandon Seifert seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Attest: Patricia Freck
Patricia Freck
President

Ryan Schwab
Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer