

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
June 17, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were council members Mike Aker, Patricia Freck, Brandon Seifert (P), and Mike Stamets. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab and Town Manager Beth Shellman. Also in attendance were four (4) guests and one (1) reporter. Absent was council member Gary Grant and Huntertown Resource Officer Kevin Surface.

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

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mike Stamets made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2019 regular. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 4-0.

Mike Aker made a motion to approve the general claims dated June 17, 2019 in the amount of \$48,918.06. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed, 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 19-005, an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances and Huntertown Ordinance 05-004 regulating traffic within the Town of Huntertown. Mike Aker seconded. Beth Shellman informed the council that representatives from both Allen County and Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) recommend changing the intersection of Carroll Road and Hand Road from a two-way stop to a 4-way stop. Topics of conversation included signage to indicate to drivers that they are approaching a four-way stop; using LED flashing stop signs; and the likelihood of a traffic light being installed at the intersection as development in the area progresses. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Mike Stamets made a motion to approve a right-of-way deed transfer from Northwest Allen County Schools for Tax Parcel 02-02-19-400-002.000-058. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman stated that Town Attorney Dave Hawk would file the deed following council approval. Patricia Freck asked about the tax impact on the town for adding the parcel. Ryan Schwab said that if the parcel joins with another parcel under the town's jurisdiction, it could be combined to that parcel at no additional cost to the town. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve a quote from API in the amount of \$12,960.00 for roadwork improvements at Twin Eagles Blvd. Mike Aker seconded. Mike Aker asked about getting other quotes. Beth Shellman said that since API was the low bidder on other projects the town has undertaken in 2019, they were continuing to use API for all projects. Patricia Freck asked if it was a common practice to pick one company to do roadwork for the entire year. Shellman said that the pricing from companies traditionally holds for an entire year and the town didn't need to seek multiple quotes for the work. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Mike Aker made a motion to apply for a grant through the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program for repairs to the Lima Road Bridge and the approaches to said bridge at an estimated cost of \$105,739 for the bridge and \$112,878.75 for the approaches. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman said that the call for projects runs from July 1-August 2, 2019 and that funding for the projects would come from the bridge fund established with Allen County. The fund would total \$220,000 by the end of 2019. Patricia Freck asked if this money could be allocated for another project if the grant application were denied. Ryan Schwab said that the Community Crossings Grant timeline likely wouldn't leave much time to do another project if the town were denied and that the money in the bridge fund could only be used for a bridge project. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to proceed with the Communities at Talon's Reach annexation. Mike Aker seconded. Beth Shellman said that certified mailings would be sent to residents beginning July 3, 2019. Mike Aker asked about prioritizing other annexations. Shellman said that this annexation is top priority since it is an involuntary annexation. Most of the other annexations are voluntary and a priority list for those will be compiled and presented to the council in the future. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Outside of items listed under Council Action, no new business was brought forth.

OLD BUSINESS

Including items listed under Council action, the following old business was presented:

- The Code of Conduct was re-introduced. Mike Stamets said that Patricia Freck has provided him with a list of updates. He plans to edit the document and send it out to council members on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

REPORTS

Mike Aker reported the following:

- The town received a letter in the past from a young resident named Bailey, inquiring about updating welcome signs for the town. He reached out to Bailey and her mother and the young girl will work with Beth Shellman on presenting artwork for the signs. Shellman said the goal is to get quotes for signs soon with hopes of having signs completed for a reveal at the Huntertown Heritage Days Festival, which is celebrating 150-years since the town was founded.

Patricia Freck reported the following:

- She is finished with reviewing and updating the town's existing ordinances on junk/weeds/noxious plants in hopes of bringing homes in the downtown Huntertown area into compliance with those ordinances. She will bring them into the office to have them converted into the proper format before presenting them to council.
- She would like to see the dates/times for allowable fireworks displays to be made public. She stated that fireworks have already started in the area and the public should be made aware of the law on fireworks.

Huntertown Resource Officer Kevin Surface was absent.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- He asked council members to look at their schedules and keep Monday, October 7, 2019 open for adoption of the 2020 budget. He provided a verbal timeline of the budget process. Patricia Freck asked when the council would see the budget. Schwab said he would provide those documents in early August, ahead of his meeting with the DLGF.

Outside of items listed under Council Action, Town Manager Beth Shellman had no further report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Lockhart, a resident at 15409 Maple Street, addressed the council about people parking in his yard during the Lions Club's little league/t-ball season at Huntertown Elementary School. The parking is damaging both his yard and the streets. There is a no parking sign on Park Street, adjacent to his home, which is also being ignored. He stated that police is slow to respond when he calls and that he does not see Huntertown Resource Officer Kevin Surface on site. Mike Aker agreed to speak with Lockhart after the meeting, exchange information and raise his concerns with Surface and Councilman Gary Grant, both employed by the Allen County Sheriff's Department, as well as town employee Randy Bailey about the condition of the street.


Betty Lavachek, a resident at 2127 Myers Drive, asked about Resource Officer Kevin Surface's hours and if they had been cut. Mike Aker said that the council had not cut his hours or the agreement with the Sheriff's Department and would follow up with the Sheriff's Department on this topic. Aker did note that Surface has been training a new K9.

She also suggested to the council to put some pressure on the Lions Club to address the parking situation at the ball diamonds. She stated that reducing the number of programs participating at a given time could improve the parking situation for everyone.


She also said that the Lions Club's trash bins at the ballpark need to fall under the same ordinance as every other resident and be removed from the curb at the proper times.

After no further public comment, Patricia Freck made a motion to adjourn. Mike Stamets seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Attest:



Brandon Seifert
President



Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer