

Meeting of the Town Council of Hometown, Indiana
Monday, January 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Hometown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Hometown Town Council was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at Hometown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Hometown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Patricia Freck (P); Brad Hite; and Tina McDonald; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Water Plant Operator Gabriel Brindle; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; six (6) members of the public and zero (0) members of the media. Board member Brandon Seifert was absent.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2024, special meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024, regular meeting. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated January 22, 2024, in the amount of \$307,434.36. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to accept the preliminary conceptual drawing of the Gump Road roundabout as presented. Tina McDonald seconded. Derek Frederickson presented the council with the preliminary conceptual drawing for the roundabout, to be constructed at the intersection of Gump Road and Hunters Ridge Lane. The concept would include a concrete median at the western most point of Gump Road, from State Road 3 to the roundabout. This would allow right-in and right-out access to the businesses on the south side of Gump Road only. He also indicated that some private property could present some economic challenges for the project. The Parkview medical building being constructed on the north side of Gump Road would need temporary access before the end of the year as well. Other topics of conversation include the cost and who is paying; whether a traffic light was considered; access for the current businesses in the area; purchasing of right-of-way; access for the neighbors to the east of the roundabout and including them in conversation; and a potential sale of the town's water plant property south of the current Farmers & Merchants Bank location. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Brad Hite asked that the job opening advertisement for the Town Manager position be extended until Friday, February 2, 2024. There were no objections from council members and Ryan Schwab agreed to re-post the job on the town's website and through the AIM.
- Patricia Freck said that Town Manager Beth Shellman had turned in a PTO request for Thursday January 25 through Wednesday, January 31, 2024. With her retirement effective Thursday, February 1, 2024, Freck asked if the council had any objection to shutting down the email address in Shellman's name and turn over the email address in the town manager's name to the clerk-treasurer until a replacement is hired. Freck said that if Shellman was on PTO, the town couldn't expect her to continue to check email and would like someone with the town to take that over immediately. Also discussed was PTO eligibility and pay out for employees. No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS

Outside of items listed under Council Action, no other Old Business was brought forth.

REPORTS

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no report.

Town Manager Beth Shellman was absent.

In addition to items listed under Council Action, Derek Frederickson had no further report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Hobson, a resident at 12612 Winding Vine Run, addressed his concern with the Ravenswood Extended subdivision plan. He said that he was notified of the plan and the rezoning petition by mail on the same date the council approved the rezoning (January 8, 2024). He shared concerns about how the project will impact flooding in his neighborhood and in adjoining neighborhoods; the limited access to the new subdivision and the increased amount of traffic on the current entrance; the resistance from the builder to add another entrance because it would cause them to lose sellable lots; the traffic increase on the Hathaway Road at State Road 3 intersection; the growth creating a burden on Northwest Allen County Schools; and his desire to stay in communication with the town about the project. Patricia Freck said that the next step for the town would be to approve the utility connections for the project, which would go to the Utility Service Board. Hobson closed by stating that he had a personal interest in the corner lot there he lives.

After no other public comment was brought forth, Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Michael Aker seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Attest: Patricia Freck
Patricia Freck
President

Ryan Schwab
Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer