

JANUARY 6, 2021

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle	Tom Dale	Aaron Popplewell	Cam Kissinger
Jim Smith	Adam Penrod	Craig Walters	Rob Burgess
Gary Montel	Carrie Mugford	Jennifer Hotchkiss	Alex Downard
Laura Rager		Ben Vineyard	

Those absent: None. A quorum was attained.

The January meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held via Zoom, on January 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Council. The meeting was called to order by Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 12/16/20 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Smith/Dale. Motion passes unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford opened the floor for officer nominations. Motion to retain the same slate of officers from last year: Dale/Montel. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present. The council officers for 2021 will be Allen Miracle, Council President, and Jim Smith, Council Vice-President.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Political Signs – Council President Allen Miracle read from the town codification: Section 156.407(E) Political advertisement signs on private property may be erected, with the owners' permission, no more than 30 days prior to the election and are to be removed within five days after said election. Such sign shall not be illuminated. Miracle is concerned about the number of political signs still in residential yards. Miracle would like to have this ordinance enforced and political signs from the last election be removed from front yards.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – Miracle stated that individuals serving in appointments expiring in January have agreed to continue to serve. Miracle read the list of re-appointments:

Park Board, Jack Vineyard
Plan Commission: Laura Rager, Gary Beck, Mel Sautter
Tree Commission: Dave Good, Ben Vineyard

BZA: Lois Karnof

Motion to approve the appointments as presented: Dale/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

Police Dept. – Report included in packet.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet.

Code Enforcement –

Plan Commission –

Board of Zoning Appeals –

Traffic Commission – Did not meet

Parks & Recreation – Report included in packet.

Town Life Center – Report included in packet.

Tree Advisory – Minutes included in packet. Ben Vineyard stated that the Tree Commission will be focusing on large, old, potentially dangerous tree removal.

Grow Wabash County – Nothing to report.

Redevelopment Commission – Did not meet.

MEDCOR – Bid on Property

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board – Nothing to report.

Public Works – Reports included in packet. Street Superintendent Craig Walters stated that Christmas trees will be picked up curbside on January 11 and 25.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that Dave McVicker has been sworn in as the new building commissioner and code enforcement officer.

Penrod has been working with Wabash County leaders Mayor Scott Long, Brian Haupt, Keith Walters, and Marilyn Custer-Mitchell to get a COVID vaccine clinic started. The Wabash County health department did not have the resources to get the clinic started on their own. The clinic will be located at the Wabash County Museum. The anticipated first day for shots is January 14. The state will release information on who can register first for the shots.

Penrod reported that Clerk-Treasurer Mugford swore in the new K9 Sarge today. Officer Isaac Adams and Sarge are eager to start patrolling together. The K9 was donated to the town by Matt Cox of Impact Dogs. Sarge will replace K9 Strider who is considering retirement in the future.

Penrod noted that INDOT has opened the window for Community Crossing grant applications. Applications are due January 29. Penrod intends to submit an application in this round.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$276,753.88 and the Public Works docket totaling \$102,932.86 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Montel. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present. Mugford explained that hydrant rental paid from the general fund to the utility is included in this docket.
3. 2021 Budget Order – Mugford explained that the 2021 budget was approved by the DLGF as submitted. With healthy operating balances the town will be in a better position moving into the 2022 budgeting season where the impact from 2020 will fall.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Allen Miracle stated that a council work session will be scheduled in January to discuss ongoing projects.

Miracle read a prepared statement into the record:

“These are my personal thoughts and I don’t mean to imply I am speaking for the council. I don’t want the events of today to go unmentioned. I want it noted in our record, that, today January 6th, 2021 the Capitol of the United States was stormed by rioters. Rioters who have been lied to by the President of the United States. The President of the United States who told those rioters the lie that the election was fraudulent and stolen from him and them.

Many elected politicians, who don’t even believe that lie, were never the less, attempting to take political advantage of the situation by trying to challenge the validity of the election for their own personal agendas. They shall reap the whirlwind.

At this time, I feel it is especially important to thank our elected officials. Carrie Mugford, Laura Rager, Tom Dale, Gary Montel, Jim Smith and Matt Mize from the Wabash County Council. Democrat, Republican, Independent. Elected politicians with an agenda to work together for the citizens of our community.

I would like to request a moment of silence, reflection and respect for our nation.”

Miracle thanked all the employees who work for and on behalf of the town without a personal or political agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF N. MANCHESTER

Allen Miracle, President

Jim Smith, Vice-President

Tom Dale

Laura Rager

Gary Montel

ATTEST

Carrie Mugford, Clerk-Treasurer