

MARCH 3, 2021

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle	Adam Penrod	Aaron Popplewell	Maddie Schultz
Jim Smith	Carrie Mugford	Craig Walters	Rob Burgess
Gary Montel	Matt Mize	Jennifer Hotchkiss	David Gee
Laura Rager	Jim Kirk	David McVicker	Matt Brinkman

Those absent: Tom Dale. A quorum was attained.

The March meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held via Zoom, on March 3, 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 Council President, Allen Miracle, who presided.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 02/03/21 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Montel/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Learn More Center Request for Funding – Council President Allen Miracle stated that the Learn More Center presented a request for funding at the February council meeting in the amount of \$6,150. Questions and discussion were heard at that meeting. Motion to approve the Learn More Center request: Rager/Smith. Vote was 3 ayes, 1 abstain, 1 absent.
2. Manchester Early Learning Center Request for Funding – Miracle stated that the Manchester Early Learning Center presented a request for funding at the February 16 special council meeting for \$25,000. Miracle explained that the town has worked with MELC in the past by providing funding in 2019. MELC has had changes in the board and staff and were headed in a better direction when COVID hit. The center is asking for funding to help them regain momentum. Rager asked if MELC might rescind the request for local funding if they are awarded funds from an anticipated county grant focused on early childhood development. Miracle noted that the county grant is not assured, but will reduce the likelihood of a future request if awarded. Town Manager Adam Penrod confirmed that MELC has been in contact with the group applying for the grant. There are some guidelines and stipulations regarding using the money for tuition purposes for low income families. Motion to approve the MELC request for \$25,000: Smith/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing, Finalize OCRA Business Relief Grant – Council President Miracle introduced Dave Gee, Grant Administrator from Region 3A. Gee opened the public hearing and gave a short overview of the grant program. The grant was to assist businesses in retaining low to moderate income employees. In total the town was able to give funds to 33 businesses who employ 196 individuals. No written comments were received by the town concerning the grant. Penrod thanked Region 3A for their help in assisting local businesses. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

2. Jones and Henry Engineering, Annual Fee for Service Contract – Town Manager Penrod explained that this is an hourly fee for service contract for any utility that may need engineering assistance throughout the year. The contract is not to exceed \$20,000. This is a contract we have had for almost 10 years and is nice to have when we need an engineer's advice. Motion to approve: Rager/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Street Department Request to Purchase New Wood Chipper – Street Superintendent Craig Walters explained that the old wood chipper is 19 years old. It has been used more frequently recently because the street department can't burn the limbs so they have to chip everything. The engine went out for some unknown reason. To replace the engine is around \$15,000 but the rest of the machine is still old. A new gas engine wood chipper from Morbark is \$30,335.88. Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford noted that Walters did get three quotes to verify this is a good price for this machine. Motion to approve purchase of the Morbark wood chipper: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – See Schedule

Police Dept. – Report included in packet.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet.

Code Enforcement – Report included in packet.

Plan Commission –

Board of Zoning Appeals – Building Commissioner Dave McVicker commented that he was able to get through his first BZA meeting with the help of Rager and Penrod.

Traffic Commission – Did not meet

Parks & Recreation – Report included in packet.

Town Life Center – Report included in packet.

Tree Advisory – Minutes included in packet.

Grow Wabash County – Nothing to report.

Redevelopment Commission – Nothing to report.

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 thanked the Sewage Department employees for their help plowing snow.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod expressed his condolences to the family of the young girl lost in a house fire last night on North Market Street. There are debriefing services available tonight for emergency services personnel involved in the incident. Penrod thanked all personnel involved in the tragic event.

Penrod reported that the Imagine One 85 public meeting will be held in North Manchester tomorrow night at the Manchester Community Schools administration building. Penrod encouraged everyone to stop in and give their feedback on the countywide comprehensive plan. Penrod announced that Grow Wabash County is looking into a countywide OCRA grant for funding for childcare facilities. The funding should be awarded in April and will benefit two facilities in town.

Penrod noted that the portion of the South Mill Street storage building that burnt will be torn down later this week. The concrete will also be removed to allow for future development.

CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT

- 1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
- 2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$422,902.32 and the Public Works docket totaling \$201,669.59 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Montel. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Smith asked about the increased number of water main breaks happening recently. Smith asked Penrod if he is concerned about the number of breaks and what those breaks are telling us about the condition of the system. Penrod responded late fall and early spring are common times for main breaks as the ground shifts. The water department is keeping track of where the breaks are to determine the best places to start replacing mains. Penrod does not feel the five recent main breaks are out of the ordinary.

Laura Rager remarked that bed sheets and towels were found in the sewage system. Wastewater Superintendant Aaron Popplewell confirmed that the Beckley Street lift station, which takes wastewater from Peabody Retirement Home, was clogged with linens. Peabody has been made aware of the situation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 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