

JUNE 2, 2021

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle	Carrie Mugford	Keith Gillenwater	Maddie Schultz
Jim Smith	Matt Mize	Dianne Randall	Eric Christiansen
Gary Montel	Jim Kirk	Patty Grant	Rob Burgess
Laura Rager	Craig Walters	Larry Blocher	Kerry Coble
Adam Penrod	Cam Kissinger		

Those absent: Tom Dale. A quorum was attained.

The June meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W Main Street, on June 2, 2021, at 7:30 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 05/14/21 and 05/24/21 special meetings and 05/05/21 regular meeting were presented for approval. Councilmember Laura Rager asked that the 05/24/21 minutes be amended to include the fact that ARPA monies can be used for local entities if they can document losses due to the COVID pandemic. Motion to approve the minutes as amended: Rager/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Keith Gillenwater, Grow Wabash County, spoke in favor of providing financial support for Heartland Career Center and Manchester Community Schools. Gillenwater acknowledged the benefit these programs provide for local adults and students wanting to get marketable skills for the workforce. As our workforce continues to age the need for employees with knowledge of new technology will only grow. Council President Allen Miracle also expressed his support for the technical education programs offered to Manchester Community School students and the opportunities it provides. Miracle feels it is important for the Town of North Manchester to show support to the schools and their efforts to put our kids on a productive path.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Heartland Career Center Funding Request – Miracle confirmed that Heartland Career Center has asked for a \$10,000 contribution towards a new educational facility. Motion to approve: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Manchester Community Schools Funding Request, SACA Program – Miracle confirmed that Manchester Community Schools has asked for a \$25,000 contribution towards purchase of equipment for the new SACA program. Council Vice President Jim Smith expressed his concern about contributing money from one taxing entity to another. Smith stated that he has done a lot of reading and research and is now comfortable moving forward. Rager agreed with Smith but acknowledged the benefit this program will provide to the students. Motion to approve: Smith/Rager. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Animal Control Ordinance Amendment – GO#2, Second Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read general ordinance #2 by title only. Smith asked that the ordinance be amended to remove the 24-hour timeline before an animal is surrendered to the animal shelter and add a 36-

hour timeline to hold an animal locally before it is surrendered to the animal shelter. Motion to approve GO#2 as amended: Smith/Rager. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grow Wabash County Update – Keith Gillenwater, Grow Wabash County, and Patty Grant, Community Foundation of Wabash County, gave an update on the progress of the Imagine One 85 initiative. Grant invited everyone to hear the findings to date at the Imagine One 85 Growth Summit. The event will take place July 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Honeywell Center Plaza. This will be a family event to learn more about the countywide collaboration while enjoying food and entertainment. Gillenwater gave a synopsis of statistics that show the county is growing but at a rate slower than the national average. The Wabash County workforce is aging and our population is not replacing itself at a sustainable rate. Gillenwater underscored the importance of continuing to work to attract residents to our communities. The overall goal is to attract 85 people per year to live in our county. Gillenwater encouraged everyone to do their part to help grow Wabash County. Smith thanked Gillenwater and all those involved in this process for their work to better our communities. Gillenwater commented that not very often in Indiana can communities put down old basketball rivalries and truly work together for the betterment of each other. Gillenwater then remarked that the work isn't done once the plan is created, but actually only just beginning. The next phase is to implement the plan and see it through for years to come.

2. Manchester Public Library Update – Miracle introduced Diane Randall, Manchester Public Library Director. Randall gave statistics on the usage of the library through the COVID pandemic. The library implemented creative and innovative programming to engage the community at a time when the doors couldn't be open. Services including book delivery and online programming helped to keep the library "open" during a difficult time. Once the doors opened to the public, the utilization returned. The summer reading program has 400 participants. Randall shared the variety of services and programming available to the community at the library; including, a food pantry, DVD rental, ancestry research, and a new flat playground. Randall explained one of the newest library campaigns called I Love North Manchester designed to highlight all the amenities of North Manchester.

3. Manchester University Homecoming Street Closure Request – Mugford stated that Manchester University is making plans for homecoming and would like to have East Street closed from October 7th at 8:00 am to October 9th at 9 pm. Motion to approve: Rager/Smith. 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 –

Traffic Commission – Did not meet

Parks & Recreation – Report included in packet.

Town Life Center – No report.

Tree Advisory – Minutes included in packet.

Grow Wabash County – Nothing to report.

Redevelopment Commission – Will meet in May.

MEDCOR – Did not meet.

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board – Nothing to report.

Public Works – Reports included in packet.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that the 2020 Community Crossing Grant projects are finished and the final paperwork will be submitted later this month. The 2021 Community Crossing Grant projects will be bid in July and awarded in August. Penrod stated that candidates are still being accepted for the open wastewater superintendent position. Penrod has been working with MKS Engineers to develop a site plan for a large pavilion on South Mill Street. Hoped to have something to show council at this meeting, but it isn't quite ready yet. Penrod reported that on May 6 he and Mugford met with Andrew Forrester from the Governor's Affairs office. It was a good conversation about state agencies and how the town interacts with them. Penrod noted that it's always nice to have another contact in Indianapolis. Penrod wish Clerk-Treasurer Mugford a Happy Birthday today.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$669,809.30 and the Public Works docket totaling \$148,150.13 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Montel. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present. Mugford noted that the town docket includes paying the final community crossing payment.
3. Budget Schedule – Mugford reminded council that a special meeting will be needed in July to discuss budgets with department heads. That date will be set at a later meeting.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 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