

JULY 3, 2019

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Chalmer Tobias	Adam Penrod	Craig Walters	Eric Christiansen
Tom Dale	Carrie Mugford	Steve Shumaker	Kent Coble
Jim Smith	Matt Mize	Cam Kissinger	Tony Delaughter
Allen Miracle	Jim Kirk	Brandon Whitcraft	Jerry Egolf
Laura Rager			Deb Chalk

Those absent: None. A quorum was attained.

The July meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana, on July 3, 2019 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 Chalmer Tobias, who presided.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 06/05/19 regular meeting and 05/01/19, 05/13/19, 06/19/19 special meetings were presented for approval. Motion to approve: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Council President Chalmer Tobias read a prepared statement responding to last month's comments regarding EMS and stormwater funds. Tobias acknowledged that the current Parkview contract started less than a year ago and requires less input from the town in the amount of about \$50,000 per year. The council could reduce the monthly EMS fee by \$1 per month. However, there are other possible uses for that money and no decisions have been made at this time. One possibility is that the town could start its own EMS service but that won't be considered until closer to the end of this current contract. One of the expressed concerns was Parkview's extended response time. Tobias noted that Parkview changed their staging protocol to a plan commonly used in an urban setting. They have since reverted back to staging at the Public Safety Building. Parkview is openly communicating with the town manager and things are working better.

Regarding stormwater. Tobias explained that in 2002 the town was ordered to reduce the amount of stormwater going into the sanitary sewer and reduce sewer overflows into the river during rain events. At the time, the price tag to remove all stormwater from the sanitary sewer was 16 million dollars. The town chose a plan to reduce stormwater where it was most substantial at a cost of 9 million dollars. This is the long-term control plan and it is an unfunded mandate from the state. If stormwater fees are removed from the monthly utility bills, then wastewater fees would have to increase. The money for the LTCP has to come from somewhere. Stormwater fees pay for stormwater related projects, therefore without stormwater fees wastewater would have to pay for projects. Tobias noted that excess stormwater funds are accrued to allow the utility to pay for improvement projects without loans or bonds which saves money. There are 13 miles of stormwater lines in town and 5 miles of combined stormwater/sanitary lines. Approximately \$130,000 per year is set aside for projects or to save for a bigger project.

Tony Delaughter, 608 W Fourth Street, asked if the sewer is backing up in front of his house is that for him to pay for or should the town. Delaughter stated that Parkview had a twenty-seven-minute response on Monday for a fall incident. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger explained that the ambulance came from Huntington and Kissinger was aware there would be a delay. Delaughter

remarked that Parkview should be notifying dispatch if they don't have an ambulance close to an accident and let another entity take the call so that residents are suffering while waiting. Parkview is paying rent to be housed in the Public Safety Building, but what is the cost. North Manchester residents are paying \$2.50 per month for EMS on their utility bill plus county taxes. Delaughter feels residents are paying two and three times for the same service. The EMS fee shouldn't be imposed on residents, unless the council wants to have our own ambulance service. Delaughter suggested making a combined fire territory and putting an ambulance at each station. In finishing, Delaughter asked what is going on with the housing addition. Town Manager Adam Penrod noted that he would talk about housing later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Additional Handicapped Parking in Town Parking Lot, GO #3, Second Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read general ordinance #3 by title only. Motion to approve on second reading: Smith/Rager. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water Softening Salt Bids – Town Manager Adam Penrod discussed the annual bid process for water softening salt. Penrod explained that North Manchester is one of the few communities that continues to soften its water to provide the best quality product for residents. Town Attorney Matt Mize confirmed that two bids were received on time and complete. The bids were as follows: Midwest Salt - \$119.00 per ton, Cargill Salt - \$140.00 per ton. The bids were taken under advisement and will be awarded at the next council meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – None at this time.

Police Dept. – Report included in packet. Police Chief Jim Kirk reported that the department received a nice compliment from a citizen after Officers Burch and Hammons assisted him in fixing a flat tire alongside the road because he was unable to do it himself. The council extended their appreciation for the officers going above the call of duty.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger reported that the fire department has switched reporting software to better chart the department activity. Kissinger reported the department has had an unprecedented 337 runs in the first half of 2019. Kissinger continues to work with dispatch concerning the need for first responders on every call. The annual Fireworks show was a success.

Code Enforcement – Report included in packet.

Plan Commission – Report included in packet. Building Commissioner Steve Shumaker stated that Plan Commission met on June 24 to consider and approve a special use request. PC may meet in July for another special exception request but haven't seen the paperwork yet. The petitioner is rethinking the request.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Report included in packet. Building Commissioner Steve Shumaker stated that BZA met on June 24 to consider a special exception request. BZA did not approve the request at this time but will reconsider in the future.

Traffic Commission – Did not meet. Traffic commission may meet in July

Parks & Recreation – Minutes and reports included in packet. Town Manager Penrod reported that the canoe launch has not been installed because the river is too high. With the continual rain this spring the silt and debris have filled in the low area where the launch is placed. Penrod expects the launch to be installed next week if the river goes down. CMS Roofing should be at the pool on Monday to start the roof repair project.

Town Life Center – No report

Tree Advisory – Minutes included in packet.

Grow Wabash County – No report.

RDC – Did not meet. The Redevelopment Commission plans to meet in July.

Medcor – Did not meet

Solid Waste – Councilmember Tom Dale relayed information from an article in the Wabash paper stating that the Solid Waste District has been forced to close LaFontaine and Wabash south side recycling centers because of contamination. The hope is the centralizing the recycling drop off locations will decrease the amount of trash left at the site. Dale stated that the price of recyclable materials is down so much and contamination is part of the problem. The district has to be able to get rid of the materials it collects. There were 89,000 pounds of electronics, 47,000 pounds of chemicals, and 22,000 tires collected from spring clean-up. The district doesn't get paid for these items, but has to dispose of them. Anyone caught vandalizing the new drop off site at the Solid Waste District office will be charged.

Storm Water Board – Town Manager Penrod reported that the Storm Water Board did not meet in June but will meet July 10.

Public Works – Street Superintendent Craig Walters noted that barricades have been placed for the library fun run. Mosquito spraying will be done tonight (July 3). Town Manager Penrod reported that the wastewater project on Wabash Road is complete. The water project on Fourth Street is almost complete

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod gave project updates. Penrod has been in communication with housing developer. The wet weather in June prevented dirt work. That work should start in August and begin pipe work in September. We need good weather to be able to get the equipment on the land. Penrod reported that Phend & Brown should start July 15 on the 1100 N project. They are still working on routing truck traffic. That information will be released later. Penrod does not have an anticipated start date for the Community Crossing pavement work.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$495,439.56 and the Public Works docket totaling \$273,596.92 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Rager. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present.

3. Budget Forms and Schedule – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford reminded council that July is the month to meet with department heads to discuss next year’s budget. Each council member received a copy of the preliminary budget either on paper or electronically. Council agreed to meet July 23 at 4:00 at the Public Safety Building to discuss the 2020 budgets.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Kent Coble, 104 E Ninth Street, spoke about recycling. Coble commented that our town does a great job recycling and keeping stuff out of the landfill. However, there needs to be continued education. The town still needs to keep educating people. Coble asked if there are future plans for additional sidewalks or trails. Coble notices that lots of people walk on the train tracks from Clear Creek apartment to Lances. The future housing development would make a new sidewalk a nice amenity. Lastly, Coble asked if the council room could be upgraded for audio and video streaming.

Tony Delaughter asked if Funfest is still scheduled for the end of July and whether everything is ready. Tobias replied that Funfest is handled by the Funfest committee not the town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF N. MANCHESTER

Chalmer Tobias, President

Laura Rager, Vice-President

Tom Dale

Allen Miracle

Jim Smith

ATTEST

Carrie Mugford, Clerk-Treasurer