

JULY 1, 2020

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle	Tom Dale	Carrie Mugford	Eric Christiansen
Jim Smith	Gary Montel	Cam Kissinger	Times Union
Laura Rager	Adam Penrod	Karen Fawcett	Tami Hoagland

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 1, 2020 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 06/24/20 special meeting and 06/03/20 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Rager/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manchester Alive Contribution Request Approval – Council President Allen Miracle stated that the council heard the request for funding from Manchester Alive at the June meeting. Miracle asked for any further questions or discussion. Motion to approve \$15,000 contribution to Manchester Alive for 2020 and to be considered in the 2021 budget: Dale/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Community Crossing Bid Award – Town Manager Adam Penrod confirmed that the 2020 Community Crossing grant bid opening was held June 24. The town has been awarded a \$563,000 grant from INDOT to finish the north end of Wayne Street and repave West Main Street and crack sealing on various streets. The bids were received from Phend & Brown (\$728,995), E&B Paving (\$697,264) and Gaunt & Son Asphalt (\$632,567). Gaunt & Son is the lowest, responsive bid. Penrod confirmed that the bid has been reviewed and is complete. With approval from Apex Consulting & Surveying, Penrod recommends to approval of the 2020 Community Crossing contract. Motion to approve Gaunt & Son contract: Rager/Dale. Motion passes unanimously. Penrod noted that the project estimates are less than anticipated because asphalt costs are lower.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Car Show Street Closing Request – Karen Fawcett, Eel River Cruisers, asked for the closure of Market Street on August 8 for a car show. A map of proposed event space was provided in the council packet. Miracle asked what the event will entail. Fawcett responded that only local service clubs will have food booths and the library wants to do some activities for kids. There is no plans for rides or other activities. Cars will be placed 4 feet apart on both sides of Market

Street to allow for adequate distancing. Tami Hoagland acknowledged that they are keeping the event simple so it can be canceled if need be. Fawcett remarked that she has solicited sponsors for all expenses. Crossroads Bank is sponsoring the advertising on the oldies station and live broadcasting on event night. Penrod observed that some residents will be blocked from using their driveways and asked if they will be notified. Fawcett confirmed that any effected residents will be notified and every attempt will be made to keep those driveways open. Fawcett commented that there will be lots of volunteers helping on the day of the car show to make sure things go well. Fawcett reiterated that the event can and will be canceled if circumstances in the state change. Fawcett is watching for changes in the executive orders and collaborating with the governor's office. Jim Smith expressed his appreciation for Eel River Cruisers making the effort to carry on a summer event. 1-7 on Saturday. Motion to approve closing Market Street on August 8 for a car show from 1:00-7:00: Smith/Dale. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Water Softening Salt Bids – Penrod opened two bids received on time at town hall. The bids for water softening salt were received as follows:

Cargill - \$118.50 per ton

Midwest Salt. \$129.00 per ton

Penrod stated that the current price is \$119.00 per ton. The bids were taken under advisement to be reviewed and will be approved at the budget special meeting later in July.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – None at this time.

Police Dept. – Report included in packet.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger stated that Fourth of July fireworks are still planned. The weather should cooperate even though it will be hot. Designated parking areas around the high school should allow everyone to stay in their cars and still get a good view of the fireworks. Kissinger also noted that the 8 sets of new gear have arrived. This was an expensive purchase but very much appreciated. The volunteers have added two new firemen to the roster for a total of 34.

Code Enforcement – Report included in packet.

Plan Commission – Did not meet.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Did not meet.

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 – Did not meet.

MEDCOR – Did not meet.

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board – The Stormwater Board met and approved the docket.

Public Works – Reports included in packet.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that the Community Crossings road work will cause traffic to be redirected at the north end of Wayne Street. Appropriate signs will be placed when necessary.

Penrod stated that trash and recycling charges are higher than the current fee can support. Penrod will talk to Town Attorney Matt Mize about a new ordinance for increased trash fees. The current fee for trash and recycling was implemented 17 years ago and has not been increased since. Penrod plans to inform the public through a mailer, social media and any other necessary means.

Penrod reported that checks for the first round of OCRA grant awards were given out two weeks ago. Recipients received \$70,000 toward business expenses during the economic downturn. Ten more local business applications will be reviewed tomorrow. There is still around \$170,000 left to give out to qualifying applicants. Penrod would like to get the money distributed as soon as possible. Grow Wabash County is applying for round 2 of COVID relief funds on behalf of Wabash County. Councilmember Tom Dale asked if the qualifications have changed as the program has evolved. Penrod responded that the requirements have not changed and not-for-profits are still not allowed to qualify.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$603,294.17 and the Public Works docket totaling \$122,553.74 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Rager. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present.
3. Budget Meeting Date – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford requested council set a date in July for budget discussions with department heads. Council agreed upon July 21 at 5:00 for a special meeting to discuss 2021 budgets.
4. Budget Update – Mugford explained that the state released the maximum levy growth quotient increase at 4.2%. This is very surprising in a time of economic uncertainty. Mugford suggested moving forward with the budgets in a cautious manner while cognizant of the approved levy increase.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Laura Rager expressed her appreciation of the Street Department. A tremendous storm came through town knocking down limbs during spring clean-up. Rager thanked the guys for getting the storm damage cleaned up while finishing spring clean-up.

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