

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle	Adam Penrod	Cam Kissinger	Eric Christiansen - NJ
Jim Smith	Carrie Mugford	Sabrina Kline	Maddie Shultz - TU
Gary Montel	Matt Mize	Nancy Alspaugh	Diane Randall
Laura Rager	Jim Kirk	Joyce Joy	Kent Coble

Those absent: Tom Dale. A quorum was attained.

The September meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana, on September 2, 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 08/05/20 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Montel/Smith. Motion passes. Laura Rager recused herself because she was not in attendance at the meeting.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Trash Fee Increase, GO #1, Second Reading – President Allen Miracle read general ordinance #1 by title only. Motion to approve the amended trash fee on second reading: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Center for History Request – Miracle introduced Nancy Alspaugh, Vice-President of the North Manchester Historical Society. Alspaugh noted that the Center for History has been downtown for many years and serves as a cornerstone for the downtown area. The Manchester Historical Society was thrilled to be able to open this year and host the Smithsonian exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. The exhibit brought approximately 450 people from all over Indiana into the community. The Center regularly brings people into town who then buy gas and food and support local small businesses. It is a great opportunity for people to see town. Alspaugh stated that the Center also partners with the schools, university, library, and parks department for educational programming. The Center would like to be able to continue those collaborative efforts and, in addition, is now being sought as a meeting space for clubs and organizations for monthly meetings. Alspaugh acknowledged that current times require adjustments and alterations to programming. During the past 5 years lots of resources have been spent on the building and the Center wants to continue to be an asset in downtown area. Alspaugh concluded by saying that the North Manchester Historical Society would greatly appreciate the council's support of North Manchester Center for History and requested \$10,000 annual funding. Miracle expressed his appreciation for what the Historical Society does for the community. Smith agreed noting his appreciation for what they bring to the community. Miracle thanked Alspaugh for filling out the new forms just created for these types of requests. The council will look at the material included with the request and bring a decision to next month's regularly scheduled meeting. Miracle asked if the Historical Society had heard a decision from Wabash County concerning their request for funding. Alspaugh replied that they are still waiting on a response

from the county and remarked that the Historical Society plans to apply for any and all grants they can. Alspaugh mentioned that the board appreciated the new request form because filling it out was an exercise that helped clarify their thoughts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 Budget Public Hearing – Miracle opened the 2021 budget public hearing. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.
2. 2021 Budget Approval, GO#3, First Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read general ordinance #3 verbatim. This ordinance sets the tax rates and appropriations for the listed funds for the 2021 fiscal year. Motion to approve GO#3 on first reading: Rager/Smith. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Additional Appropriation Request Public Hearing - Miracle opened the public hearing. Town Manager Adam Penrod explained that the OCRA Covid-19 grant is a reimbursable grant that was paid out of CEDIT funds and then reimbursed from the state. Even though the money is reimbursed the appropriations were expended. This additional appropriation will give permission to spend the reimbursed money. No further public comments were received.
4. Additional Appropriation, Resolution #6 – Mugford read resolution #6 verbatim. Motion to approve the additional appropriation request: Montel/Rager. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Library Request and Update – Miracle introduced Diane Randall, Manchester Public Library Executive Director. Randall explained to council the memorandum sent out concerning Senate Enrolled Act 410-2020. The Indiana Senate asked that public libraries have a statement from the entity that would be the binding budget review board should it become necessary. Binding review is necessary if the library requires a budget above the annual growth quotient, has a December 31 cash balance greater than 150% of the certified budget, or requires an additional appropriation. The town fiscal body (council) is the entity that would sign the binding review. Randall stated that the library board has already approved and signed the resolution. The next step is the signature of the town council president. This resolution will then get sent to the state library for record-keeping. Motion to approve acknowledgement of being the binding review board for the North Manchester Public Library: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously. Next Randall gave an update of activities at the library. The summer reading program just finished. In all, 255 kids, 105 adults and 41 teens read over 1,000 books. Lots of activities are planned for the near future to promote getting out in the community. Library staff are going to be working on outside programming to allow for social distancing. The library recently received a grant to promote and purchase resources for cultural diversity and awareness. The library contains over 67,000 books and has over 300 library card holders. Randall noted that the library annual report is due early in the year and she would like to come back in March to provide some statistics for council. Smith mentioned when he moved in 1984 the library was a neat amenity. In today's world of economic development and resident attraction, our library continues to be an incredible amenity for the community.
6. Harvestfest and Muralfest Street Closures – Miracle introduced Sabrina Kline, Manchester Alive Board of Directors Vice-President. Kline stated that Harvestfest is scheduled for October 3 this year. It will be more spread out and dispersed around town utilizing spaces including Ogan's landing, the library and the public safety building. Requested street closers include South Mill Street to protect children who may dart across road and Market Street which is normally closed. Rager asked if there is an evacuation plan for the festival in case of a natural disaster? Kline responded that there is a plan created for prior festivals. The mural for mural fest will be painted on the east side of Alan Selleck's building between September 8-16. The requested alley closings

are on the north side of Main Street. This will be a one-time event on September 17. Motion to approve closures for both festivals: Smith/Rager. Motion passes unanimously.

7. APEX Construction Administration Contract – Penrod stated that APEX Engineering and Surveying did the pre-bid design work for the latest Community Crossings Matching Grant. Tonight, the council is considering the contract to inspect and administer the Community Crossing project. APEX is not full-time inspectors but are on site a couple times a week. This contract is not too exceed \$17,380. APEX will monitor material quantities and review submitted pay apps. Penrod recommends APEX stating they have been very good to work with. Motion to approve APEX Engineering and Surveying for construction administration: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Constitution Week Proclamation – Miracle read the 2020 Constitution Week proclamation verbatim, proclaiming September 17-23 as constitution week. Miracle stated that he would happily sign the proclamation for the Francis Slocum chapter of Daughters of the Revolution.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – None at this time.

Police Dept. – Report included in packet. Police Chief Jim Kirk asked permission to move forward with replacing the rest of the flooring that hasn't already been replaced in the last few years. The building is over 20 years old now and some parts, including the lobby, still have the original floors. Council approves by consensus. Kirk also gave an update on the activity of the drug task force.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger stated that Monday evening Silver Lake Fire Department is doing some training at a house at Manchester University. Three Manchester firefighters will be in that class. Kissinger notified council that after testing a lot of fire hose was found to be faulty and will have to be replaced. Kissinger will order 2,100 feet of new hose for the fire trucks.

Code Enforcement – Report included in packet.

Plan Commission – Did not meet in August. Will meet later in September.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Did not meet in August. Will meet later in September.

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 – Nothing to report.

Public Works – Reports included in packet.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that Wayne Street is still closed for repairs and repaving. The work is moving along and should be done on schedule. The plan is to have the street open to traffic in the next month. Manchester University was able to accommodate the detour on move in day without much concern.

The One 85 group working on a county comprehensive plan will be requesting additional funding. The OCRA Covid 19 grant has money left to give out. Eleven applications will be reviewed tomorrow by the review committee. Penrod remarked that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has changed the grant rules once again. Some small businesses that didn't qualify before will now qualify. Penrod encouraged all businesses to apply for money to help keep employees working.

Penrod reported that INDOT is looking to replace the bridge over the Eel River east of town. A complete reconstruction is scheduled for 2024. The water main connected to the bottom of the bridge will have to be moved. The project is expected to take all summer and will take a tremendous undertaking to reroute traffic.

The north water tower interior repainting is almost done. The tank will be refilled early next week. The plan is to repaint the outside of the south tower later this fall. The water department is taking suggestions for paint colors.

Penguin Point is scheduled to open this week. The Healthy Hub opened for business last week. A new restaurant is in the works and plans to open soon. Penrod thanked all the new restaurants for opening in town.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$569,526.62 and the Public Works docket totaling \$167,242.14 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Smith/Dale. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of members present.
3. Annual Conflict of Interest Notification – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford presented council with her annual conflict of interest form for her ownership of Round Barn Metal Works. Departments of the town may sometimes use Round Barn Metal Works for repairs or supplies. This form will be submitted to the state via Gateway.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Kent Coble asked if any new sidewalks have been considered connecting the new housing development on Ninth Street. Coble asked if any sidewalks been installed in town in 35 years. Coble declared that there is a need to look at trails or sidewalks to the grocery store from the west side of town. Coble feels that Strauss Provimi Road is not a good road to use to walk to the grocery store from the new development or the rest of town.

Coble also remarked that the recycling is getting contaminated with trash. Coble feels that the town needs to do a better job educating residents on the proper way to recycle. Recycling is not trash and we need to keep information in front of residents.

Miracle responded saying that the council is working on plans for sidewalks and trails. Improving sidewalks is one of the top priorities of the council.

Miracle stated that recycling educational materials have recently been put out for the public in many formats. Miracle commented that the town needs other entities to help get the message out about proper recycling. Considering the rising cost of curbside recycling, Miracle is proud to be able to continue to offer recycling.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Smith thanked Allen Miracle for his work on the new forms that will help gather more specific information on requests being made.

Smith remarked that several people in town have started calling the railroad about the poor state of the Ninth Street crossing. Smith received notice that repairs will be coming soon. Fingers crossed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 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