

Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

DRAFT – NOT YET ADOPTED

March 5th, 2018- Town Council Meeting

7:00pm

1. Council President Tina Bosse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll call: Councilors Mary Vail, Tina Bosse and Danny Lingo were present.

Councilwoman Sandra Biegas and Councilman Steve Blum were absent. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff and Town Manager Brent Shull were both present. Attached is a list of audience members.

Reading and approval of the February 5th, 2018 minutes – Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

2. Clerks Report - *The clerk has submitted financial EOM statements and payroll to the Council.*

A. Claims – Councilman Danny Lingo made a motion to approve the claims.

Councilwoman Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

B. Delinquent Accounts – Mary Vail motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

C. Insurance Quotes – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder presented the board with 2 quotes for the Town's liability insurance. One from Carper Koeppel, a local agent and the other from a larger firm in Fort Wayne. The representative from the larger firm, Josh Armstrong, was present. The clerk went thru both bids stating the total cost of the one from Fort Wayne was \$31,594.00 after the Workmans comp insurance amount was removed. Carper Koeppel total was \$31,525.00, also without workman's comp. The Council discussed the differences between the two companies and was pleased to have 2 quotes to compare. Ultimately, they chose to stay with local agent Carper Koeppel stating they have not had bad experiences and have always been treated very well as a customer. Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to accept the bid from Carper Koeppel. Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried. The council would like to see the policy bid out every couple of years to ensure they are get the best rates.

D. Abatement – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder presented the compliance forms for Triton's abatements. Both her and the Town Manager Brent Shull would provide a recommendation to approve them as presented. Brent said he has worked with them closely over the last year or so and they are doing very well as a company and are well within compliance for their abatement requirements.

Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to approve the compliance forms as presented. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

- E. Dekalb Income Tax – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder provided the Council with an overview of a meeting regarding a new income tax for DeKalb county. Dekalb County is asking each unit that would receive revenue from a rise in income tax to donate it back to the County for a period of 10 years to help fund a new work release building. Hamilton’s portion would equal a little more than \$1900 per year. The Council and Clerk agreed the Town’s decision wasn’t so much about the money but more so about the message that would be communicated. They asked how other units were responding. Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff stepped in and said no other units had made an official decision yet and he would recommend the Council table any decision until more information was available. The Council took his recommendation and tabled the discussion.

4. Reports

A. *Town Manager* – Town Manager Brent Shull has updated a snow/ice policy that would be used in his absence. Ultimately the Street Department will have discretion about coming in to clear the roads in the Town Manager’s absence.

Brent is working with the Police Department about possibly getting a generator for their building. They will also discuss this with the Fire Department to see if they are interested in a shared unit.

Blue Heron Ministries provided a 5-year contract to maintain Fish Creek Trail.

Because the budget has already been approved for the year without this expense included, the Council agreed to split the cost with the Park Authority for 2018 only. Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to approve the 5-year contract and pay for ½ of the expense for 2018. The remainder of the contract will be paid for by the Park Authority. Councilman Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

Town Manager Brent Shull and Utility Superintendent Justin Stouder have been working with Zip Spider on using the water towers for their internet service. They would use the base previously occupied by the County. They will occupy space on the water towers in conjunction with Alliance internet. The Council wanted to make sure they wouldn’t conflict with each other’s signals and cause problems for customers. Del Smith was present and represented Zip Spider. He assured the Council they would not interfere with each other, as that wouldn’t benefit anyone involved. He said they are in active tower agreements with the City of Angola and Orland and have had no issues with others occupying space on these towers.

After further discussion from the Council, Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to Approve the agreement with Zip Spider subject to the terms approved by the Council. Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried. The agreement will be finalized with the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Water Superintendent and Zip Spider. The length of the agreement will be for a term of 2 years and then will be revisited by both parties.

Please see attached report

B. *Street Department* – The Street department will be using much of their \$55,000 road repair budget to patch streets such as Lane 282, Lake Street, Church, Zion, Beecher

and 221C. They will also purchase a product and do some crack sealing in house. Other major road projects will be dependent on the department obtaining the community crossing grants. *Please see attached report*

C. *Police Department* – Marshal Jerme Warner reported that 2 reserves were now able to patrol, Richard Lineberry and Danny Concus. The department is still looking for a boat and will update the Council should they find one. The new Durango has been ordered and should be available in April.

Based on the recommendation from Titan's vet, Marshal Warner is requesting the Council approve retiring Titan as an official K-9 officer. He would also like the Council to approve the sale of Titan to his handler, Officer John Geyer for \$1.00 with the agreement that the Town would pay for Titan's annual vaccinations until they are no longer needed. Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to retire Titan, sell him to his handler for \$1.00 and provide his annual vaccinations at the Town's expense.

Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

The retirement of Titan will also mean that the K-9 benefits of a take home vehicle, K-9 day and other such benefits will stop for his handler. *Please see attached report.*

D. *Water Department* – The department discussed moving forward with several capital improvements to include; Rehabbing Well #3, \$50,000 in new meters, \$8,000 for a sonar line locator, \$20,000 to replace the roof on the water plant and \$3,000 for an enclosed trailer. Because the Utility has been forecasting and saving for these items, the Council had no objections. *Please see attached report.*

5. Old Business –

A. No old business was brought before the board at this time.

6. New Business –

A. Consideration of Merit Based Raises – Councilman Danny Lingo and Steve Blum will meet with Town Manager Brent Shull to discuss this concept further. In order to maintain discretion, they will not be involving employees.

B. Ordinance 2018-2 – UTV/Golf Carts – Clerk Treasurer and the Town Manager presented the revised ordinance on Golf Carts and UTV's. They said the changes previously discussed by the Council were all included and a provision prohibiting driving during fog and other inclement weather was also added. The Council made no other changes and Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to introduce Ordinance 2018-2 on 1st reading, Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

Councilwoman Mary Vail then motioned to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2018-2 on 2nd & 3rd reading. Councilman Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

With the passing of this ordinance, the clerk's office will reach out to those who have registered golf carts and utv's to notify them of the changes.

C. Brad Stevens – Fish Creek Trail Signs – Hamilton Resident and pioneer of Fish Creek Trail presented the board with background information on Fish Creek Trail and the early settlers of the Hamilton Area. He did this to better explain why he would like the Council to approve the location of a Fee- Howard Wetland Preserve sign. The County and Howard family have each agreed to pay for a sign. Mr. Stevens would like the Council to approve the placement of one of the signs near the entrance on Homestead road.

The Council thanked Mr. Stevens and Mr. Chuck Howard, who were both present, for their commitment and dedication to such a beautiful trail in the heart of Hamilton. However to preserve the integrity of the advisory boards in place, the Council would defer the decision of the sign placement to the Part Authority, as this is their jurisdiction. Once the Council had written approval from the Park Authority they would have no objections regarding the sign.

Mr. Stevens and Howard thanked the board for their time and looked forward to when the new signs could be featured on the Trail.

Public Comments/Questions concerning ADA or other items of Business –

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Mary Vail and seconded by Danny Lingo, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Hester Stouder - Clerk Treasurer

Tina Bosse –Council President