

March 11, 2024

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 West Guy McCown Drive. Scott Oldham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Kip Headdy led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer by John Samples.

Roll Call: Members present were Scott Oldham, President; Dan Swafford, Vice President, William Ellis and Pamela Samples. Trevor Sager was absent. Michael Farmer, Town Manager and Darla Brown, Town Attorney were also present. Denise Line, Planner was present for Noelle Conyer, Clerk Treasurer.

Supervisors participating: Kevin Patton, Kip Headdy, George Robinson, Denise Line.

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting February 26, 2024

Scott Oldham entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting February 26, 2024. William Ellis so moved. Dan Swafford seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

Scott Oldham entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. Dan Swafford so moved. William Ellis seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Distinguished Service Award Presentation by Town Council to Matthew Siebott

Kevin Patton, Fire Chief explained there are 14 different awards available to be given to first responders or civilians. Those can be nominated by a civilian, a fellow first responder or Town Council and only 3 are awarded by Town Council and are the highest honor. Kevin Patton read the following details that led to review and award of the nomination. While taking his family for a day at the Children's Museum he came upon a vehicle accident that rendered a vehicle inverted and the victim entrapped, pulseless and breathless. Matt freed the victim from the wreckage and began life saving measures. He was able to restore the pulses, respirations and care was turned over to the awaiting EMS personnel. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded by Town Council to any Ellettsville Firefighter who, while serving in any capacity with the Ellettsville Fire Department, has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility. The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service, which is clearly exceptional. Exceptional performance of normal duty will not alone justify an award of this decoration. Scott Oldham presented Matthew Siebott the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Town Council. This award was the first in many years to be awarded to a first responder.

Open Bids for Starnes Road Water Project

Darla Brown, Town Attorney opened the following bids:

Core & Main submitted electronically \$133,856.50.

Utility Supply Company \$140,466.46

Team EJP Solutions \$137,552.96

The award of the bids will be moved to the bottom of the agenda instead of to the next meeting to allow a quick review and to begin work as soon as possible.

Ordinance of First Reading

Ordinance 2024-07 to Amend Multiple Sections of the Police Personnel Policy

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained at the last Town Council meeting council discussed Ordinance 2024-04 that is up for second reading and there were sections of the personnel policy that were not being changed that might be inconsistent with 2024-04 so 2024-07 encompasses several other sections of the Police department policy with suggested changes to make it mesh with 2024-04. There were changes to the definition section, the work week hours and how paid sick leave is calculated. George Robinson, Deputy Chief commented that it is all following in line after review on how overtime is calculated which wasn't the case recently that also follows in line with the Fire personnel policy.

Ordinance 2024-08 to Amend the Fire Personnel Policy to Clarify the Town's Policy on the Supervision of Relatives

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained the state does not permit nepotism. The purpose of this Ordinance is to take into consideration what could happen in the future. She gave the example of a firefighter that starts as a volunteer or part time and doesn't intend to work full time and ends up working full time and another relative gets hired full time and then ends up in the chain of command. In the event that the new member is a relative of the deputy chief or other intermediate supervisor that new member's direct line of supervision shall circumvent the deputy chief or other immediate supervisor. This has always been the way it was handled but this just formalizes the policy. Kevin Patton, Fire Chief stated they have never had an issue with this but he is just trying to allow them to spell out the chain of command more clearly.

William Ellis made a motion that since there are a lot of people present to speak that time be allowed to 3 minutes. Dan Swafford seconded. Scott Oldham believed this had been ratified years ago in case they were not carried over through the years. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries.

Ordinances on Second Reading

Ordinance 2024-04 to Clarify How Overtime Pay is Calculated for Police Officers

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained there were some questions about the wording of this Ordinance at the last meeting so this draft hopefully will answer those questions and eliminate any issues. Scott Oldham made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-04 to Clarify How Overtime Pay is Calculated for Police Officers so that Ordinance 2024-07 can be heard at the same time on Second Reading to avoid overlap and conflict since they both pertain to Police personnel and pay related. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries.

Ordinance 2024-06 Water Rate Increase as Approved by the IURC

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained that the Town petitioned the Indiana Utility Regulatory (IURC) Commission for an increase in the water rates. The IURC on February 7th approved the rates but did not approve the rates that the Town requested and were slightly lower. This Ordinance is the rates that were approved. The rates have been posted on the website. Michael Farmer, Town Manager explained this is Phase 1 of the increase. Phase 2 will be implemented once they start construction of the new Department of Public Works Building and that will phase in and add an additional 8.5 percent to the bill. He explained the current rate is \$18.72 for water for minimum bill and the approved rate is \$23.94 with Water, Sewer and Stormwater it will increase from \$58.97 to \$64.96. For an average user of 4500 gallons will increase \$27.30 to \$34.97 for water and add Sewer and Stormwater it increases from \$78.62 to \$87.23 effective on the April billing. The 8.5 percent has been approved but will not be implemented until the construction begins on the new building. Dan Swafford made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-06 Water Rate Increase as Approved by the IURC. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries.

Envision Ellettsville

Dan Rarey, President thanked the Town on the continued support. They are finishing the design standards and should be complete after the UDO process is finished. Next will be Branding, Streetscapes, Signage and Guide Signs. After Spring Break, they will resume talking about these.

New Business

DPW – Wastewater Request to Finance 2025 Model T880 Tri-Axle Dump Truck

Kip Headdy, Street Commissioner discussed they had a Tandem truck that went down and needs replaced. They have found a truck through Sourcewell and is requesting approval for

financing the truck through The Peoples State Bank. The price is \$228,104.00 and will be paid for through the Wastewater line. The vehicle needs to be financed due to some other equipment that needs to be replaced and it wasn't expected. They will eventually sell for surplus and will be able to salvage some of the parts. William Ellis made a motion to approve the request for DPW – Wastewater Request to Finance 2025 Model T880 Tri-Axle Dump Truck. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries.

Old Business

Rural Transit Discussion

Trent Deckard, Monroe County Council At Large member on behalf of Monroe County Council in efforts for funding of Rural Transit dollars. He is grateful that the Town is considering contributing the remaining portion of this effort. He stated that in this ongoing discussion they want to make sure they take care of all the residents in the community and the mobility issues they have. The County has come forward with \$88,000.00 to contribute along with the Town's portion for the first few months of the year and thanked them for that. He made a compassionate plea for the Town to consider funding the remainder of the year. He feels mobility is vital and a necessary thing. Residents have made the decision to live in our community based on Rural Transit being available to them. As a County Council member, he will do everything possible to make this happen. This was not a choice handed down by the County but the state and feels we should do everything possible in order to fund this.

Julie Thomas, Monroe County Commissioner explained that the community depends on this program and if the Town can fund it through the end of this year it will give them time to figure out what they will do in 2025. She begged that we consider the residents and that there is no other way to serve them. The sooner we can handle this part, it will allow them to move forward to figure out the future.

Chris Meyers, Area 10 on Aging updated the council on trips based on January and February and the funds left should carry them over into April. This will not be enough to carry through to the end of 2024, January and February are low trip months. She believes around \$43,000 would be needed to finish the year and buy them time to cover Ellettsville until 2025. She read 3 testimonies from residents that use the service and were unable to attend the meeting.

Doug Owens - Needs Rural Transit for medical needs.

Stormy Dugan - Needs Rural Transit for grocery trips, doctors and has no extra income to use Uber to get places.

Susan Younger - Handicapped, no additional funds to get around any other way for medical needs.

George Lin Jean Pierre – Used Rural Transit as an IU Law Student, it was very affordable and was greatly appreciated.

From the public:

Ken Stevens – Has no one else to help get him to doctor appointments and the Town needs to figure out how to get it funded.

Mary Haik – Has counted on Rural Transit for years for medical needs. It will affect her independence to live on her own. Bloomington Transit is available across the street from her and is approved for it but is unable to even cross the street to use it.

Di Robertson – Lives with 2 disabled people, we need this service and is willing to help in any way she can to get the funding.

Paul White – Driver for Rural Transit, he enjoys his job and serving the people who need help. He thanked the council for what they have done so far.

Herb Ault – Rural Transit driver, he moved to the area as a single grandfather raising his grandkids and Rural Transit helped him a lot over the years. The passengers are his family and he appreciates any help to keep it going.

Janet Smock – Rural Transit is her only way of getting to town. Strongly urge the council to find funding.

Misty Demoss – On disability and needs to get to the YMCA for therapy and doctor appointments. Please find funding.

Hank Baugh – Adopted 3 autistic children that uses Rural Transit to get to work. They stand to lose their jobs if it doesn't continue. It would be a huge loss to them.

Alisa Foster – Has appreciated everything the Town has done but really needs it to continue.

Debbie Michael – Can't use regular buses and needs Rural Transit. She won't be able to get herself or her daughter out without it.

Dylan Parks – Volunteers at Area 10 and understands how important Rural Transit is to the citizens of Ellettsville.

Evelyn Stephens – She recently started using Rural Transit and never thought she would have to but desperately needs it for therapy appointments. She thanked the council for their support.

Valerie Dewar – Business owner in Ellettsville and has many patients who use the service. She understands what an impossible task that has been laid on the council and is angry they are put in this position; they don't deserve that.

Dan Swafford – He feels this is one of the most important decisions the council has had to make, he urged the council to fund for the rest of the year.

William Ellis – Stated the council hasn't been standing still on this since it started. He did receive a call back from INDOT to try to pause the rule. Apparently we had been considered an urban area since 2000 and hadn't enforced the rule since then. Senator Houchin's staff is trying to help along with Representative Bob Heaton. The reality is, it wouldn't happen until 2026 with the legislative's help. He suggests once we know what our portion of the LIT money using that to fund it. The original MOU expires at the end of the month so he suggested also extending that until the funding is out. Scott Oldham asked Chris Meyers of Area 10 for Aging for an explanation of 5311 Funding. FTA, Federal Transit Administration, the federal agency that administers grants to states and urban providers. The 5307 is for Urban Funds and the 5311 is for Non-Urban funds. Monroe County Commissioners receive from INDOT because the 5311 funds come through the INDOT and get divided up by formula based on service population to areas in the state of Indiana and Monroe County is the grant recipient for the Rural Transit grant and we have been the sub recipient for decades. The Urban funds go from FTA directly to Bloomington Transit Public Corporation. Ellettsville is caught in the middle under the service area of Bloomington Transit grant funds even though we don't have a Bloomington Transit service.

Ideally if they could get the Bloomington Transit board to use that funding from the 5307 funds to help pay for the service that is urban to urban. There is still a 30% local match needed to make the whole transportation cost. She estimates \$43,000 to get to the end of the year. The Town set aside \$33,000 at the beginning of the year. Scott stated it is a very hard matter to take up. Basically, the Town does not run a transportation service, the City of Bloomington does, but they get funding for it. The Town does not have a bus service and doesn't have a funding stream for it. Finding a solution for this year is something he is interested in but it doesn't mean the Town is going to start a bus service, it is just not something feasible the Town can maintain year after year. He is in favor of lifting the moratorium on the date and running the rest of the money set aside until they get firm numbers on ED LIT. William Ellis made a motion to extend the date that expires at the end of the month until the depletion of the funds. Dan Swafford wants a date for the deadline and further discussion. They should have the numbers on LIT by the next meeting and with the current money left it should give them time to re-appropriate money and come up with an appropriate funding solution. William Ellis made a motion to have the extend the MOU to have an indefinite date but to be able to extend an end when the funds are depleted. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries. Scott Oldham explained the council will revisit once they get firmer ED LIT numbers and determine whether they can offer a grant or if the council desires to go another direction.

Revisit Bids for Starnes Road Water Project

Michael Farmer, Town Manager requested to take the bids under advisement. Dan Swafford made a motion to table to take quotes under advisement for the Starnes Road Water Project. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carries.

Privilege of the Floor

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce discussed great programs coming up available to everyone on Thursday there is an audition technique for the business world at the Bloomington Library. March 19th is full day of Rise Mastering Leadership Essentials to gain professional development in leadership and Business After Hours at Lee Supply next Thursday, March 21st at 5:30. Also the Valor Awards will be on May 8th honoring first responders.

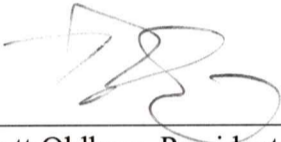
Chris Clouse, Deputy Fire Chief explained that the Solar Eclipse planning was sent out and asked if there were any questions or comments to address them to himself or Zach Michael.

Supervisor Comments

Kevin Patton, Fire Chief thanked Town Council for recognizing Matt Siebott.

Adjournment

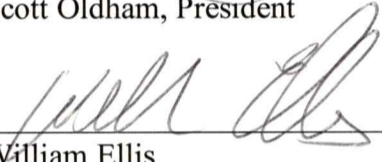
Scott Oldham, Council President adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Scott Oldham, President



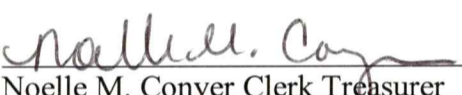
Dan Swafford, Vice President



William Ellis

Pamela Samples

Trevor Sager



Noelle M. Conyer Clerk Treasurer