

June 8, 2020

Due to COVID 19, The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a virtual meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020 by Zoom. Dan Swafford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mike Cornman led the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a prayer by Jimmie Durnil.

Roll Call: Members present were Dan Swafford, President; Scott Oldham, Vice President; William Ellis, Trevor Sager, Pamela Samples. Sandra Hash, Clerk-Treasurer; Darla Brown, Town Attorney and Mike Farmer, Town Manager and were also present.

Supervisors present: Mike Cornman, Jimmie Durnil, Kevin Tolloty and Danny Stalcup.

Approval of Minutes

Dan Swafford entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the Zoom meeting on May 26, 2020. Trevor Sager so moved. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

Dan Swafford entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. Scott Oldham so moved. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion carried.

Ordinances on Second Reading

Ordinance 2020-19 Amendment to the 2020 Salary Ordinance 2019-22 Fixing of the Salaries for 2020

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer explained that after starting the budget year 2020, two Utility employees earned certifications which adds an additional \$250.00 to their salary. Those were not accounted for in the salary ordinance, so she is requesting an adjustment to their salary to include the certification pay. She also mentioned the Department of Justice, who administers the OPO (Operation Pull Over) and DUI (Driving Under the Influence) grants, changed their grant payment policy from the time and a half rate of the lowest paid patrolman to time and a half of their your own personal rate. Dan Swafford entertained a motion to approve the change in wordage to reflect the adjustments for additional salary earned for certifications and rate change of time and a half of your personal rate for Police Officers for grant work. Pamela Samples so moved. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion carried.

New Business

ECS Communications Tower Lease

Mike Cornman, Fire Chief explained there are 2 spots on the antenna tower and 1 spot on the Radio barn at the fire station on Curry Pike that have been recently vacated by another radio service provider. Electronic Communication Systems (ECS) would like to lease the spots on the tower. They will provide their own electric utility meter and will assist on any maintenance needed on the tower per the agreement. The agreement is similar to the Mid America agreement who operates WCLS radio station and several other local stations. If approved, there will be a resolution at the next meeting for the lease payment of \$350.00 per month to be deposited to the Fire Department Telecommunications account. William Ellis made a motion to approve the lease agreement from ECS Communications. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor

Valerie Dewar inquired on the progress of the study for the property on Vine Street. Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained there is litigation between the property owner and the Town. The Town filed suit to acquire the property through Eminent Domain. Currently the court has appointed appraisers to appraise the property and they will move from that point on. Darla Brown estimated a report should be given within 30 to 45 days.

Council Comments

Scott Oldham clarified some issues with the resolution that was presented for the time off during COVID-19. He explained the Paid Time Off (PTO) was to be awarded to those coming in and working during that time as a normal work week without any time off. It is based on a percentage of physical time spent averaged in the office. Maximum award set at 48 hours PTO.

William Ellis suggested that the Town needs to proceed with what is best for Ellettsville and not necessarily by the Board of Health guidelines. He feels that Bloomington is not following with the guidelines and not being enforced allowing gatherings of more than 50 people on the courthouse square during the recent protests. He is frustrated that we were following the standards for COVID-19 and they are not. Per Darla Brown, Town Attorney, the governor issued an executive order to extend municipalities to conduct Zoom meetings through July 4, 2020. They are not required but can continue. It was discussed whether the next Town Council meeting be in person or by Zoom. The next Planning Commission meeting scheduled for June 11, 2020 is going to be in person so it was felt Town Council should be held in person. Since there was a range of opinions it was advised to vote. William Ellis made a motion to have the next Town Council meeting in person. Pamela Samples seconded. Kevin Tolloty, Planner clarified the reason for the Plan Commission meeting to be held in person was because of various blueprints and information that he needs to share is difficult by Zoom. Also, public hearings held are by state code and he does not know how that works with a Zoom meeting if a case later would be challenged in court. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – no; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Comments

Mike Farmer, Town Manager, expressed his concerns about an in-person meeting but stated they will do everything they can to still comply with Health guidelines in social distancing. He is on the fence, with the current conditions as they are, about in person meetings being held unless necessary.

Kevin Tolloty, Planner mentioned the state approved the Building Code Ordinance so they will be able to accept Building Permit applications the last week of June.

Adjournment

Trevor Sager made a motion to adjourn. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried. Dan Swafford adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Dan Swafford, President

William Ellis

Pamela Samples

Scott Oldham, Vice President

Trevor Sager

Sandra C. Hash
Sandra C. Hash, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC, MMC