

August 8, 2022

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 8, 2022, at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 West Guy McCown Drive. William Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Jimmie Durnil led the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a prayer.

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

Supervisors participating: Jimmie Durnil, Kip Headdy, Denise Line, Kevin Patton and Jeff Farmer were present.

Approval of the Minutes

William Ellis entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting July 25, 2022 and the Budget Work Session July 27, 2022. Scott Oldham so moved. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

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

Open Bids for UV Lights at the Sewer Plant

Darla Brown, Town Attorney requested the bids be tabled. The information should be published in the paper. Due to the amount of the replacement UV lights exceeding \$150,000. Scott Oldham made a motion to table. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried.

Ordinances on First Reading

Ordinance 2022-09 Certifying Ward Boundaries

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained as discussed at a previous meeting according to Indiana Code there is a section with regard to certifying wards that allow the Town to certify the wards as they currently are after the 2010 Census. This Ordinance allows the Town to certify the wards without redistricting. She has shared this with the Monroe County Clerk's Office Election Division, they will need a copy after it is passed.

Ordinances on Second Reading

Ordinance 2022-08 to Modify Water Rates deleting the Utility Receipt Tax

Darla Brown, Town Attorney requested Ordinance 22022-08 be tabled to do some additional calculations to add in the water tracking factor. She feels it will be easier for the customers to see the actual rate on the Ordinance after the water tracking factor is figured in. Trevor Sager made a motion to table Ordinance 2022-08 to Modify Water Rates deleting the Utility Receipt Tax. Scott Oldham seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Comprehensive Plan (Unified Development Ordinance)

Michael Farmer, Town Manager explained he asked this be put back on the agenda. It was discussed at the last meeting. The plan is one of two Task Orders that Envision Ellettsville produced that have not been acted on. The updating of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and to combine it with an updated Comprehensive Plan. Plan Commission discussed this at their last meeting and William Ellis confirmed that this Plan will not do away with the Planning Department and Plan Commission. The plan was also discussed a year ago and nothing happened with it so he is trying to move it along. He feels it is perfect timing while

partnering with the Taylor Group that they can assist with it. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer stated the Envision Ellettsville Plan is now on the Town website and on the Chamber of Commerce website. William Ellis asked Sandra to email it to the Plan Commission as they were out of the loop and wanted to see the Plan. Ron Taylor from the Taylor Group stated he would be glad to speak to the Plan Commission if that would be helpful but he has no plans to omit them. He explained that the comprehensive plan is not being re-written, but when the Envision Ellettsville process began they dove into the comprehensive plan and all the recommendations they advanced through the Envision Ellettsville process are based on the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan, they are just more detailed with a great deal of public involvement. The part that is missing is the land use component. Envision Ellettsville wasn't charged with developing land use for the whole community but looked specifically at five targeted areas of redevelopment and the rest is filling in between those spaces. The proposal will not be a complete rewrite the comprehensive plan, just those land use components not included in the Envision Ellettsville, repackaging it and bringing the Envision Ellettsville Plan as the new comprehensive plan to be adopted basing the UDO on the Envision Ellettsville Plan. The fee discussed is a small portion to bring it up to speed but the majority of the cost is doing the UDO portion of the project. They are trying to update the land use portion and the adoption of the Envision Ellettsville as the new comprehensive plan in 6 months or 270 days and then it will be a 12-month process to the UDO. Scott Oldham doesn't want to keep pushing it out and suggested doing an additional appropriation. Sandra Hash explained she has already spoken to Mike Farmer about an additional appropriation out of the General Fund for approximately \$125,000.00. This will take about a month to accomplish. Council agreed we shouldn't wait until next year's budget to get this done. Sandra Hash confirmed there is adequate funds in the General Fund since this is a one-time purchase and won't build like personnel. Sandra explained the LIT money is coming in a little over projected for next year's budget. She explained for an additional appropriation, she has to advertise at least 10 days before the required public hearing. Darla Brown advised that since there is a general consensus between council to allow Sandra to do her additional appropriation and advertising it can be brought to council for a vote at that time in Ordinance form. For clarification, voting on Task 3, which includes the comprehensive plan update and Development of the UDO, after the additional appropriation and until they have a full board.

Flood Report

Michael Farmer, Town Manager explained he received a verification letter from Army Corp of Engineers that gave the notice to proceed for flood remediation on Vine Street. He is still waiting on one other permit and they will be ready to put it out for bid.

New Business

Bloomington Economic Development Corporation Economic Vitality Project

Jennifer Pearl, president of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation shared information about an initiative they are working on named Economic Vitality Project (EVP) and provide an invitation to everyone to participate in the engagement survey. She explained that the project aims to improve life for our neighbors across Bloomington, Ellettsville and all areas of Monroe County. They hear from employers and local organizations across the community that we face a lot of shared challenges. They are dealt with in different portions of the community and in different sectors. The project was created to bring people together across sectors, what can they tackle together as a community, support the existing initiatives to address these issues and what additional steps are needed to fill in the gaps. Focus areas include workforce, jobs, housing, infrastructure and quality of life which intersect with key elements of Envision Ellettsville and Town plans. More information is available and the engagement survey is available at on the website at <https://www.bloomingtonedc.com/evp>. She explained it is not a study, but something to convene people across the community from now until the end of the year to say what actions they are going to take together towards addressing these issues. She encouraged everyone to participate and share the survey.

Envision Ellettsville

Christa Curtis, Ellettsville resident, member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Co-chair of Envision Ellettsville and employed with Cook Medical thanked the Town for their leadership. Their goal is to support the Town and to support the vision of the community to take the next steps forward. She is grateful that we are open to the work they have done so far and that they can leverage it. She stated there were rumors and questions from the community that she would like to discuss. First, she explained that Envision Ellettsville is not a power play by any one individual or any organization. That was never the intent and it is a group of volunteers who is passionate about the community, want to engage the community and get the momentum gathered in one place. She believes that collaboration is key and that is the only way to get things done. Second, she has heard people say they are feeling rushed. While there is an urgency, there is a difference between urgency and panic and feeling rushed. She knows there are people knocking on the door of our community that want to have a business here, build homes here and Envision Ellettsville to take charge of our own destiny as residents of this community. We have to find a way to work through the urgency and keep the emotion out of it and be logical and collaborate. She encouraged if anyone has questions and needs information, just ask. There is an Envision Ellettsville website. The plan is published there, community comments and results of the survey. They want it to be our plan and not their plan and came to the council before they presented it to the community. They will do whatever they can, walk shoulder to shoulder to take this community in to the future. Council thanked her for her leadership.

Agreement with Monroe County and City of Bloomington for Animal Control Services for 2023

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer explained this was only a draft to review. If there are comments she feels it needs to go back to them or give them the ok. There were 92 animals picked up/surrendered at \$283.00 each so cost increased from \$19,000.00 to \$26,000.00 for next year. She explained, according to national news, during the pandemic and everyone wanted animals. Now that people are returning to work, they are unable to care for them like they were while at home so they are surrendering them. This isn't the sole reason but a big part of it. She did not receive the official breakdown of addresses and names this year but they have always been accurate in the past. She explained that she has always felt we are double paying because we are all residents of Monroe County and we all pay in the same tax rate as everyone else in Monroe County. Jeff Cockrell explained to her in an email that the fees go to the Bloomington Animal Shelter. Monroe County pays for the officers that pick up the animals. Scott Oldham made a motion to approve the Agreement with Monroe County and City of Bloomington for Animal Control Services for 2023. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried. Permanent documents will be available to sign at the next meeting. Scott Oldham mentioned the shelter is packed right now and they need to get some of the animals moved so he encouraged anyone who was interested in adopting an animal to visit the shelter.

Police Promotion

Jimmie Durnil, Town Marshal explained that in July 2022, Sergeant Eric Chaudion retired and moved to Florida. He was the lab technician and investigator since 2017. He was pleased to request Zachary Michael be promoted to Lieutenant. Zach has been with the Ellettsville Police Department since June 2010, graduated from Indiana University with a 3.636 grade point average in Environmental Affairs, Hutton Honors college member, Blackford high school graduate with academic honors, member of Monroe County Animal Management Commission and Monroe County Cares Board, a police officer with Indiana University and a great IT coordinator. Scott Oldham made a motion to promote Zachary Michael to the position of Lieutenant effective immediately. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried. Jimmie Durnil allowed his wife, Katey Michael to pin on his Lieutenant bars. Jimmie Durnil presented Zach with his new badge. Zach thanked everyone for the promotion. Scott Oldham commented that the promotion just presented was in the role of the board's role as the board of Safety for the Town. This differs from when the deputy chief was hired, that is an appointment by the board, this was a recommendation of the chief. It was not an appointment, but a decision made by the chief and was ratified and agreed with. The top two ranks in Police and Fire are direct appointments by the board and not a recommendation by anyone. Ranks below those are recommended by the Chief.

Ellettsville Parks and Recreation Department Special Non-Reverting Operating Fund

Scott Oldham discussed this is a culmination of a 4-year on again, off again effort between the Town, a volunteer organization, Richland Township Trustee and the Richland Bean Blossom School Corporation. There has been a lot of positive things from the volunteer organization and also a lot of gaps. It behooves the Town to step up and partner with the Parks Department to use it as a Parks Department to move forward. It has always been parent volunteers putting a league together on a shoestring and this has worked for many years because they have been volunteers. The Town has always had a Parks Department but no employees, just a Parks Board and they have done their best to provide parks equipment but no programming behind it. The partnership he refers to isn't a "everyone has a say at the table" but for Ellettsville to form a recreational league for baseball, softball, football and whatever else becomes of it and will take the place of the current volunteer organization. Where the partnership comes in is that it exists between the Town and the school corporation for the use of their facilities and the Town and the Township Trustee for the use of his facilities but those folks have seeded the use of their property and are cooperating for the betterment of the whole Town. The Parks department will run the entire thing and will not hold money for someone else. It will be funds coming to the Town of Ellettsville, vended out by the Town of Ellettsville where appropriate or holding money for a third-party organization that may or may not be a not for profit. Hundreds of hours have been put into this over the years and have done a phenomenal job of keeping the leagues going. It has become unmanageable due to popularity and also expensive. A lot of families can't afford it because there are no underwriters but we as a Town have that capability to gets these kids involved. He feels if we don't give people places to recreate and things to do they will go elsewhere and corporations won't come in. It has been an incredibly successful program and it keeps moving forward. It is a great time to partner with the school and the Trustee, they bring a lot to the table and the Town brings management and stability. He requests to establish the Ellettsville Parks Department special non-reverting fund. This fund at the end of the year will not revert money back to the general fund but will carry money forward and will build up to eventually be able to invest in more things like more fields, equipment and personnel. It will require seed money but will become self-funding eventually. It's time for the Town to step up and do this. He feels if we don't we will have to watch it fail and end up putting money other places. He explained the Town will start at zero, no money will change hands from the previous organization. It will be run by the Parks Department with the help of volunteers. Now is the time to move since basketball season is rapidly approaching and with the resurgence of Covid and the economy it's important we have a plan in place and rolling so the kids have something to do as we get into the fall season. Scott Oldham hushed speculation of talk from a recent meeting with RBBY youth sports where they discussed the league being run through the school. Scott explained that was null and starting today, it starts with Ellettsville at zero. Sandra Hash explained there is no additional appropriation money in the Parks fund, there is some cash available but there has been a lot of recent expenses for trails and things. Scott explained it would just have to come from somewhere else. They discussed \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to start and \$35,000.00 for next year's budget to hire a part time person. William Ellis stated we would receive \$10,000.00 for the Opioid settlement so we should check into using that money. Scott Oldham stated he will leave finding the money to Sandra Hash and Michael Farmer, but the money will eventually come back to us. Sandra Hash expressed concern that there is a lot of questions that need to be answered. Scott Oldham explained that tonight is only to establish a non-reverting fund, he only wanted to give background on the situation. Sandra Hash inquired about a job description for the new employee and expectations from them. Scott Oldham explained this is our program and not any different than hiring any other employee in her office, they will be just specifically for Parks. Sandra Hash explained she needs to understand it more and hopes to have things in writing. She also explained she feels it will change the dynamics of the board because they will not only be handling Town matters but now issues with parents from things that happen at the ballpark. Scott feels it is the same as handling issues with citizens. William Ellis inquired about creating a Parks Department it has its own

taxing authority above the levy. Darla Brown, Town Attorney felt that is true, but is unsure. There was a lot of questions, opinions and concern. Scott Oldham explained, this is not a giant leap, other cities and towns are doing it so it can be done. Sandra Hash expressed from her research it wasn't handled that way and was handled through a volunteer group. Scott Oldham explained again, this is where it's at and all we are doing is creating a non-reverting fund and that doesn't depend on having a Parks Department or board. Valerie Dewar from the audience had a misunderstanding of where this was going, it started with brainstorming and ended with finances. She feels it is important to understand where money is going to come from but to start you have to have something worthwhile to have the money for. She felt we have outgrown volunteer and we have to establish consistent success. She expressed, we have the plan, we have the board, there is nothing wrong with making sure they have the authority to schedule events and do what they need and then worry about the finances. Scott Oldham understands her concerns and only wanted to give a global aspect that will come eventually. Christa Curtis spoke and thanked Scott for the background and felt that was missing from last time and was very helpful. She feels it is a very exciting conversation and stated the surveys with Envision Ellettsville show the community wants Parks and Recreation. She also said the community wants a complete community and not have to leave Town to get what they need. This ties into it and what people want. She stated however it gets done, it starts with our youth, we need to embrace change, be open, be creative and see where it goes and it will grow. William Ellis asked Darla Brown, Town Attorney to check into the Opioid settlement, he feels the restricted part can be used for Parks. Sandra Hash expressed she just wants a plan in place so she clearly knows what is going to entail and the impact it will have. Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained she has already started on the Ordinance with Sandra Hash and will be available at the next council meeting with a scope of how the taxing authority will work.

Supervisor Comments

Kevin Patton, Fire Chief discussed 2 open part-time positions he would like to fill. They have completed testing and is in his budget. He explained Dakota Hawkins and Austin Chaudion have applied and will need to complete physicals and get a favorable review. Trevor Sager made a motion to hire Dakota Hawkins and Austin Chaudion as part-time firefighters. Scott Oldham seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Scott Oldham – yes; Trevor Sager – yes. Motion Carried.

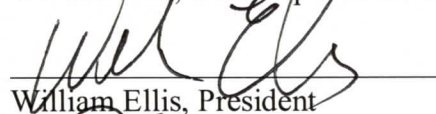
Kip Headdy, Street Commissioner explained that all the 2021-2022 Community Crossings work has been completed. He further explained the liquid road project was cancelled due to expected rain and will be rescheduled.

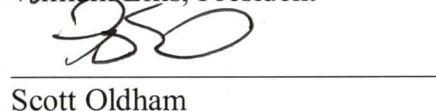
Jimmie Durnil, Town Marshal stated he is excited and looking forward to taking on the RBB Youth Sports in whatever capacity will be approved.

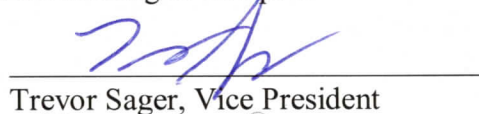
Jeff Farmer thanked Kip Headdy and Jimmie Durnil for assisting with the sale of the Ellettsville Utilities Jeep. It brought \$11,800.00 on the Gov Deals site. He also stated he is in support of the Parks Department and feels we are way behind in that department compared to other communities.

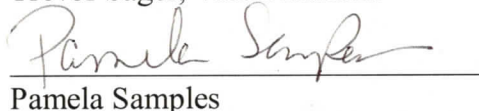
Adjournment

William Ellis, Council president adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.


William Ellis, President


Scott Oldham


Trevor Sager, Vice President


Pamela Samples


Dan Swafford


Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer, IAMC, MMC