

December 7, 2015

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met in the Town Hall, Fowler, Indiana, on the 7th day of December, 2015 at the hour of 6:00 P.M., for a meeting pursuant to call in accordance with the rules of the Council. The meeting was called to order by Linda Brouillette, who presided. On call of the roll the members of the Council were shown to be present or absent as follows:

PRESENT: Linda Brouillette, Pat Claire, Steve Rettig, Kathy Schwartz

ABSENT: Laura Lee

Meeting called to order by Linda Brouillette

Disconnect Hearings

No one present for the disconnect hearings. Pat Claire motioned to proceed with the disconnections with Steve Rettig seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Kathy Schwartz motions to approve the minutes with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Laura Burton informed the Council on how the stroll went this year. She said that there were about 85 people who ran the race, 280 kids visited with Santa and 175 people went to the movie. She said donations were down a little bit this year and the Town's portion of costs was \$731.72 out of the \$1,000.00 budget approved.

The Salary Ordinance for 2016 was reviewed. The Council added the Code Enforcement Officer position at \$3,000.00 per year with a \$40.00 a month cell phone stipend. They also approved a \$40.00 a month cell phone stipend for other full time employees. Pat Claire motioned to approve Ordinance 2015-5 with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. Steve Rettig opposed. All others in favor and motion carried (3 yays 1 nay). Steve said that he is opposed to paying a Code Enforcement Officer when we have 4 full time police officers.

New Business

Colleen Caldwell was in attendance and explained to the Council what her new business (Inspire Studios) does and asked about bringing alcohol into the business. The Council explained that they can't tell her yes or no and suggested she talk to Chief Rice and see if there was any problem with it.

Joh Berry was in attendance asking the Council for an adjustment on the Methodist Church sewage bill. They had a leak and used 77 units of water that went into storm drain and not down the sewage. The Council agreed to adjust the sewer to the average of the last 3 months of sewage usage. After some discussion of the procedures Steve Rettig motioned to change the procedure so that any adjustments will automatically revert to the summer sprinkling credit procedure. Kathy Schwartz seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Christine Dewitt with Umbaugh was here to present to the Council the procedure for doing a rate study and the costs associated with it. She said that typically it costs about \$7,500.00 per utility and that there are credits for doing them all at the same time. It would costs around \$12,000.00 to do both water and sewer at once. Kathy Schwartz motioned to move forward with the rate study with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried. Kathy Schwartz motioned to pay for it out of the Clerk's Professional Services budget.

Rod Green asked if the Council had any questions for him regarding the demolition of the buildings uptown.

Miscellaneous Business

The Town decided that they would not be renewing the contract with the County for Recycling pick-up. Linda Brouillette said that she will send a letter to the County Commissioners.

Department Head Updates

Ryan Whybrew explained to the Council what he needed to do to obtain the additional funds from the loan. He said he was told that he needed to get 1 more quote. The Council agreed that he should proceed with it.

Bill Burton gave the Council a list of things that he would like to purchase for the fire department for a total of \$8,774.00. Kathy Schwartz motioned to allow the purchase of the items on the list with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

John Budreau said that the park board met today for a meeting. He said that there is about \$45,000.00 left in the budget after encumbering \$3,400.00 for playground mulch. John said that the park would like to encumber the whole \$45,000.00 for repairs to the pool. After some discussion it was decided that the park would just ask for an additional appropriation next year. The Council would like for John to go ahead and schedule the plastering. He also asked the Council for permission to purchase 5 new tires for the snowplow truck at the cost of \$955.84 and to purchase salt at the cost of \$78.91 per ton. Steve Rettig motioned to approve the purchase of the tires and the salt with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the cell phone stipend. It was agreed that the superintendents could keep their cell phone plan with the Town and that the other full time employees would receive a stipend of \$40.00 per month.

Pat Claire motioned to hire Brad Lane as the Code Enforcement Officer with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. All in favor except Steve Rettig, motion carried.

Claims

Kathy Schwartz motioned to approve the claims with Steve Rettig seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business Linda Brouillette motioned to adjourn with Pat Claire seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Approved:

Linda Brouillette, Presiding Officer

Attest:

Melissa Kidwell, Clerk-Treasurer