

# Town of Fowler Newsletter

## January 2016

### Meeting Minutes

**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 cost 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

**December 21, 2015**  
The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met in the Town Hall, Fowler, Indiana, on the 21st 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

**Approval of Prior Minutes**  
Pat Claire motions to approve the minutes with Steve Rettig seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**  
The 2016 Salary Ordinance will be table until the final meeting of the year.

**New Business**  
Shirley Barker was in attendance regarding the traveling memorial wall. Boswell Alumni is trying to get the traveling wall in Boswell to honor veterans. It will be there April 28th to May 2nd. They are having a meeting on January 6th and they would like a representative from the Town Council to be there. A fund has been set up with the Benton Community Foundation if anyone would like to donate. She asked if anyone had any questions. Linda Brouillette and Pat Claire volunteered to be at the meeting on the 6th.

**Miscellaneous Business**  
Bill and Kathy Burton's water softener had a leak and were asking for an adjustment. Pat Claire motioned that they pay the water and 2 units above the average waste water usage with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

A termination letter was sent to the Benton County Commissioner's regarding the recycling contract. The letter stated it would terminate on January 31st but per a phone call from Patty Clouse, Brian Berry said they would like to terminate it on December 31st. The Council was in agreement. Linda will email the Benton Review and ask them to put something in the paper. She also said she will have something in there making

sure that people can still and are encouraged to continue recycling.

Pat Claire motioned to change the 2016 salary ordinance for the water superintendent pay to be \$23.31 an hour. Steve Rettig seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

The Benton County EMS director asked the Council to purchase 2 new radios for EMS from Motorola in the amount of \$4,922.71. Kathy Schwartz motioned to purchase the radios with the exception that we receive an invoice from Motorola. Steve Rettig seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Steve Rettig said that the park board met today for their yearend meeting. He said that they would like to encumber \$7,367.86 for the fencing around the ball park. It is part of the 5 year plan. He also said that the only thing not accomplished on the plan was the Frisbee golf course. Steve Rettig motioned to encumber \$7,367.86 for the ball park fence. Pat Claire seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Department Head Updates**  
Brad Lane would like to make some changes to the fines in the ordinances. The Council would like him to bring the changes to them first. Nate Besse sad the plant has had a few small issues but he is getting them resolved.

Ryan Whybrew said that he should have the new quotes to the state engineer tomorrow. He gave the Council a quote for an aerial survey. Kathy Schwartz motioned to move forward with the aerial survey and to pay for it out of Economic Development Fund. Pat Claire seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Melissa gave the Council a quote on the umbrella insurance. Bob Kirkwood said that we have been at 2 million for the last 15 years and suggested that we increase it. Linda Brouillette motioned that we increase it to 3 million with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

It was brought up that the Prairie Preservation Guild is doing the final phase of the theater and they asked if the Town could donate. The Council agreed that tax payer money can't be used to donate.

**Claims**  
Pat Claire 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

**December 28, 2015**  
The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met in the Town Hall, Fowler, Indiana, on the 28th day of December, 2015 at the hour of 12:00 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, Laura Lee**  
**ABSENT: None**  
Meeting called to order by Linda Brouillette

**Unfinished Business**  
After some discussion regarding cell phones Steve Rettig motioned to pay for 1 phone for each department (sewer, water, street) and each other employee will receive a stipend. Pat Claire seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Steve Rettig motioned to approve the 2016 (2015-7) Salary Ordinance with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**New Business**  
Pat Claire motioned to accept Resolution 2015-7 regarding meeting times, with Laura Lee seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned to accept Resolution 2015-8 regarding credit cards. Steve Rettig seconded the motion. All in favor and

## February 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.	2	3 Garbage pick up	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Garbage pick up Water bills due	11	12	13
14	15 Town Hall Closed—President's Day	16 Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.	17 Garbage pick up	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Garbage pick up	25	26	27
28	29	To keep up on events and other important information.  Find us on Facebook				



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motion carried.  
Kathy Schwartz motioned to encumber the monies for the rate study out of the Clerk's Professional Services Fund. Pat Claire seconded the motion. All in favor and 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 Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.  
Approved:  
Linda Brouillette, Presiding Officer  
Attest:  
Melissa Kidwell,  
Clerk-Treasurer

**January 4, 2016**  
The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met in the Town Hall, Fowler, Indiana, on the 4th day of January, 2016 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 Melissa Kidwell, Clerk Treasurer. 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, Laura Lee**  
**ABSENT: None**  
Meeting called to order by Melissa Kidwell, Clerk-Treasurer

Kathy Schwartz motioned for Linda Brouillette as President, Linda declined. Linda Brouillette motioned for Steve Rettig as President with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried. Pat Claire motioned for Kathy Schwartz to be Vice-President with Linda Brouillette seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Disconnects**

seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**  
Kathy Schwartz motioned to amend the cell phone stipend for the Sewer Department in that they should keep both phones. Linda Brouillette seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**New Business**  
Kathy Schwartz motioned to retain Jud Barce as the Town attorney with Laura Lee seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned for Bill Burton to be the Fire Chief with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned for Dave Eberhardt to be on the ABC Board with Linda Brouillette seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Linda Brouillette motioned for Alan Leuck to be on the Planning Commission with the term being from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. Kathy Schwartz seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned for Pat Claire to be on the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. Laura Lee seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned to be on the Planning Commission with a term of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. Linda Brouillette seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Kathy Schwartz motioned to keep all of the current Superintendents with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried. The liaisons are as follows:

Linda Brouillette said that she would like to keep the appointment to the Northwest Solid Waste District.

Anthony Morin asked Linda if the Town would like to have internet and wi-fi at the Park. After some discussion it was decided that as of now it isn't needed but Linda said that she would keep his card in case we wanted it in the future.

**Department Head Updates**  
Alan Leuck informed the Council about charges for shipping the meter to be calibrated. He said that he was going to check and see if there was anyone that could come here to have it calibrated.

Brad Lane asked the Council about changes to the Ordinances. The Council was in favor of him sending those changes to Jud for review.

Ryan Whybrew said that the fly over has been done for the storm drain project but they were looking into doing another one because of all the flooding.

Kathy Schwartz motioned to pay \$3,667.86 for the ball park fence to Green Star Fence. Linda Brouillette seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Linda Brouillette motioned to approve the ad for the Benton County Fact Book with Pat Claire seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Claims**  
Linda Brouillette motioned to approve the claims with Kathy Schwartz seconding the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

**Adjournment**  
With no further business Steve Rettig motioned to adjourn with Linda Brouillette seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.  
Approved:  
Steve Rettig, Presiding Officer  
Attest:  
Melissa Kidwell,  
Clerk-Treasurer