

Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 15, 2019

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, July 15, 2019 in a Regular Meeting at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Steve Buzzard, Carrie Miller, Ethan Stivers, Julia Glessner; Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, Dennis Spitler and others.

President Glessner announced the opening of the meeting at 5:00 and opened a public hearing related to condition of a property at 614 N. Nancy Street. Marla Stambazze of the Huntington County Department of Community Development gave an overview of the department's inspection and recommended action. Asking for public input and hearing none, the hearing was closed. Glessner moved, seconded by Buzzard to uphold the recommendation to demolish the structures on the property. The motion was approved unanimously. Stambazze solicit quotes for the demolition and submit to Council at the Regular Meeting of September. Updates were given on the properties at 90-7 N. Main, 313 N. Matilda, and 312 W. Eleventh with no additional action taken by Council. Submitted for consideration of Ordinance 2019-1, an Unsafe Building Ordinance, which would remove the Commissioners as the Hearing Authority and replace with the Town Council. Buzzard moved, seconded by Glessner, to adopt Ordinance 2019-1. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, the Executive Meeting of June 17, and the Special Meeting of June 17 were approved as submitted.

Owners of property affected by backups into basements were present to discuss possible solutions. As the Town Engineer had previously been notified and had been on site with some of the owners but had not issued any statement or provided information, it was determined that a request be made as to the result of his inspection. Discussion would continue following that report.

Morrison submitted the surveyor's report requested by Council for a property on Eleventh Street being considered for purchase to allow access for a storm water drain for the properties in the area of First Merchant's Bank. Acquisition would allow direct access to the area from a storm drain newly installed on Eleventh Street. Council, by consensus, approved the next step of having appraisals done on the property.

Morrison gave an update on the LARE Grant which would supply eighty percent funding for the removal of the dam and one of the interurban pillars on the Salamonie River stating that the Town Application had been moved forward to the next step and notification of award could be made as early as the end of the month. The project is a joint effort of the Town and of Salamonie Mill. If awarded, DNR will appoint a project manager to oversee the project which must be completed by December, 2021. The permitting process was part of the grant application.

Marshal Spitler supplied no further information on control of the feral cat population noting that the County did not currently have an Animal Control Officer.

Morrison presented information given by an REMC representative in response to a request for installing a light at the corner of 900S and SR 5 – Salamonie School. Noting that the area was not in the Town Incorporation and that the area was in a traffic control area and following review of other information from REMC, by consensus, it was determined that the Town of Warren would not assume the cost REMC rental to install a light.

Reported was that removal of existing handicap ramps and construction and placement of new ramps should be underway by INDOT by the end of the month.

Morrison reported that the final invoice had been received for the INDOT Community Crossings Grant project on Eleventh Street. Submitted for Council consideration was a request to release the retainage held on the project in the amount of \$40,531.18. Following discussion, and by consensus, it was determined that retainage be held pending the addressing of the seeding in the area and a final inspection walk through by the Utility Manager.

As submitted to Council by a person in attendance who demanded that hydrants which had been painted as part of the Salamonie Summer Festival be repainted immediately as the original color represent pressure. After discussion it was determined by Council that the hydrants would not be repainted. As it was reported that hydrant pressure testing had not been done for several years it was determined, by consensus of Council, that the Utility Manager pressure test every hydrant, starting with those which had been painted and that proper pressure designation be done in a way other than painting.

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Notice has been received from the DCD that the Warren Board of Zoning Appeals has a meeting scheduled on July 17th to review and possibly act on variance requests from Troy Surfus for use of two lots on Eleventh Street.

Morrison reported that the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance has scheduled 2020 budget meeting for August 8th at which time initial review of the proposed budget will be done to make sure all State Required parameters are met. The budget has been prepared and is ready for that review. Morrison submitted documents explaining and reviewing a proposal from GOVcard as a vehicle for online payments of utility bills. More review and a meeting will be scheduled for more review.

Marshal Spitler submitted the June Activity Report.

Poulson, as Fire Marshal, submitted the June Activity Report. Also reported was that a fire fighter had been suspended for one year due to action(s) in noncompliance to policy.

Poulson, as Utility Manager, submitted the June Activity Report. The amended proposed street paving list was reviewed and accepted by consensus. Also reported was the Third Street Water Main Project was going well. In response to requests by citizen's to have trees cut down by the Town, discussion was held about existing policy on tree removal. Council, by consensus, directed that policy as has been in place be followed in that trees will only be topped if in electric lines and that the property owner would be responsible to remove the tree if wanted. In further discussion related to replacement of the Tower Park Water Tower, Miller moved, seconded by Glessner, in install a 200,000 gallon tower which would give an additional 50,000 gallons of water storage. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussed, from a previous meeting, was the locating of an additional Warning Siren in the Tower Heights area. Estimated cost would be \$20,000. No decision made.

The next scheduled meeting of Council is August 12th.

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

General Discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President as _____ Member
Julia Glessner Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member as _____ Member
Carrie Miller Ethan Stivers