

Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

DRAFT – NOT YET ADOPTED

November 4th, 2019- Town Council Meeting
7:00pm

1. Council President Mary Vail called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll call: Councilors Mary Vail, Gerry Martin, Steve Blum, Danny Lingo and Nancy Renner were present along with Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Town Manager Brent Shull was absent. Attached is a list of audience members.

Reading and approval of the October 7th & 21st, 2019 minutes – Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve the October 7th minutes as presented. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried.

Prior to approval of the October 21st minutes, Council President Mary Vail requested clarification in the minutes, saying the part where it showed her quoting the rate for Services By Stouder as \$75, needed to be changed to reflect she couldn't remember if the rate was \$50 or \$75.00. With that change, Councilwoman Nancy Renner motioned to approve the minutes for October 21st, Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

2. Clerks Report - *The clerk has submitted financial EOM statements and payroll to the Council.*

- A. Claims – Councilman Steve Blum made a motion to approve the claims. Councilman Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried.
- B. Delinquent Accounts – Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried.

3. Reports

A. *Town Manager* – With Town Manager Brent Shull being absent, Council President Mary Vail went thru his report. No additional comments or questions were made by the Council.

Please see attached report

B. Street Department – Leaf pick up has started, Park restrooms are closed for the season, compost site will close towards the end of November, the culverts on Lane 150 and the paving on 282 are both completed and the catch basin on the corner of Wayne and Railroad was scoped to see why it wasn't working well. The Scope with camera showed the states drain is holding water and causing the problem.

Street Superintendent Mark Gerardot is schedule to return to work November 5th, 2019.

Please see attached report

C. Police Department – Marshal Jerme Warner presented quotes for the new police vehicle from several dealerships. He recommended going with Vanwert Ford’s interceptor, as it came fully equipped and road ready. Therefore, the price was higher than the others. The Council discussed the options and how the purchase would take place in the 2020 budget, and approving a quote now would minimize their wait time in the new year. Steve Blum then motioned to approve the interceptor from Vanwert Ford. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried. Marshal Jerme Warner said the department received training on firearms by fellow office Richard Lineberry. Councilmember Nancy Renner asked if those training are open to the public? Marshal Warner said at this time they are not. But should the Council want him to pursue opening them to the public, he would look into what it would entail. At this time, no direction was given.

The Council would like the request for take home vehicles to be added to the December agenda. Marshal Jerme Warner, Clerk Hester Stouder and Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff will work on the amendment to the Personnel Policy, to include no personal use and how 2 vehicles will remain in Town for reserves and emergency response. Final approval will be on the December agenda.

Please see attached report.

D. Water Department – Water Department Assistant Superintendent Brad Haskins submitted a monthly report and said he would continue to provide more information as he got more familiar with his responsibilities.

Please see attached report.

4. Old Business –

A. Curbing and work on Lane 221 with Highlands Association – Street Department Assistant Superintendent Tom Platter spoke up in Brent’s absence saying everything was at a standstill until Brent gets estimates for cost. The Highlands association Approved an amount, then it was increased when additional work was added. The Highlands association doesn’t necessarily agree with the extra work that was added. And are waiting to approve additional funding until they can see what the difference will be.

The Council will wait until the December meeting to see if Brent has any new information or updated quotes for the project, to include the additional work.

B. Public Beach Project – ERI will have a rendering of the Beach project by November 18th, 2019.

C. Contract for Water Services – This was back on the agenda due to the Town Attorney being present to answer any questions. Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder didn’t have any questions but did read a prepared statement that is attached.

D. Pay Raises for 2020 – The Council approved a year end bonus during the October Council meeting. However, a range up to 5% was allowed for raises during the 2020 year. Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder said the current Salary Ordinance would allow

for the range without any adjustments and then Brent would need to advise on any increases within the departments for rank or class advancement.

With Brent's absence the Council wanted to wait for his input and asked the Clerk to provide a spreadsheet with the proposed raise amounts for them to review. It will then be back on the December agenda for the Council to finalize for the 2020 budget year.

E. Board Appointments – please see attached list – These will be finalized in December when Town Manager Brent Shull is back. It was noted that Herb Howard, a County appointment for the Plan Commission will need replaced for the upcoming year.

F. Ordinance 2019-4 – Amending Title VII – Chapter 73 parking schedules – 1st reading for the ordinance will be presented at the December 2nd Council meeting.

5. **New Business –**

No new business was brought before the board at this time.

Public Comments/Questions concerning ADA or other items of Business –

Community resident Tina Bosse addressed the Council, saying she understood in prior practice that the Council would look at qualifications, local preference and similar things when making decisions for contracts, how then did the Attorney advise to go with an outside vendor at a higher rate with the most recent Water Contract for services. She also asked why the Contract was signed prior to the approval in an open meeting.

Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff stated that, maybe not in Hamilton, but other places it can be common practice to sign a contract and later bring it to a meeting for approval.

Council President Mary Vail responded to the other comments saying she acted fiscally responsible by approving Mr. Krafft at \$60 per hour for 10 hours a week versus the previous superintendent at \$20 per hour for 29 hours a week. She said the previous Superintendent told Town Manager Brent Shull all he was doing was “keeping them legal.” In her opinion, with the choice they made, they were “getting their money’s worth”.

Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder asked Council President Vail if the same responsibilities were being done by the new contractor for 10 hours a week that were done by the former employee in 29 hours?

She responded yes; they were. The Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder asked if she was sure. To which President Vail responded and said, according to Town Manager Brent Shull it was the same work being done.

Councilman Danny Lingo said 2 ½ years ago the Superintendent came to the Council regarding a contract and they instead agreed on a memorandum of understanding. Now the Council has decided a full -time employee is what they would like to see and didn't want a " gray" area with employees.

He also stated the current contract for water services was only temporary, they were still looking for a full -time employee.

Councilman Steve Blum said the Council wanted to make sure moonlighting was written into the personnel policy. Street Department employee Tom Platter asked what they meant, if they could clarify moonlighting.

Mr. Blum responded saying if an employee mowed outside of their Town responsibilities, they wouldn't care. However if the Town is paying for a certificate, then the Town has to look out for the best interest of the Town.

No Additional comments were made regarding this topic or others.

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Steve Blum and seconded by Danny Lingo the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Hester Stouder, IAMC - Clerk Treasurer

Mary Vail –Council President