

Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

October 8th, 2020- Town Council Meeting
7:00pm

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

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

Public Hearing for 2021 Budget - Opened at 7:01pm. Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder read the 2021 budget totaling \$3,151,384 with a levy of \$937,642.00 This is slightly down from the 2020 levy of \$939,939.00. The Clerk asked if the Council or audience members had questions. None were asked. Council President Mary Vail closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 pm.

The adoption meeting will be October 19, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Reading and approval of the September 8th, 2020 minutes-

Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to approve the budget minutes as presented. Nancy Renner seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

- A. Claims – Nancy Renner motioned to approve the claims as presented by the Clerk’s Office. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried.
- B. Delinquent Accounts – Gerry Martin motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Nancy Renner seconded the motion, motion carried.
- C. Approve Insurance Rates and plan – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder explained the deductible did go up \$100, from \$4,000. The network and coverage stayed the same. After the deductible is met 100% of the employee’s medical expenses are covered. Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to renew the Health Insurance plan as presented. Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. Reports

A. *Town Manager* – NIPSCO and the Steuben EDC are working together on the gas shortage.

Multiple Counties from Bluffton to Angola are working together on grants to expand the trail system.

The Park department will be working on the dog park and taking a sidewalk from the existing bathrooms at Fish Creek Trail to the new dog park area. They will be removing 4 large pine trees to make room for the fencing that will be installed. More than likely the sidewalk and watering/drinking fountain areas will have to wait until 2021.

Someone has complained about the sidewalk in front of the Water Department. Brent said the sidewalks on the East side of 427 might be removed or repaired when State Rd 427 is redone. This would include the area of concern. The Town is reapplying for the Community Crossings Grant. In this year's application there are roughly 12 miles of road included that go from the South side of the railroad tracks, Lane 150 J and other miscellaneous roads. The grant should be awarded in the Fall of 2020. Projects would be put out for bid and start in Spring of 2021.

Please see attached report

B. *Street Department* –The departments new truck has been ordered and came in under budget. The truck may not be delivered until 2021 but will be invoiced and paid in 2020.

The Streets were striped this year and look great.

Leaf collection will start soon, and the department is getting equipment ready.

Please see attached report

C. *Police Department* – The Lucas 3 CPR unit has been purchased and received. It is currently in the possession of the Fire Department.

The Council would like to discuss the departments need to cover shifts when someone takes time off. Should overtime, part time or paid reserves be considered?

The Council would like information gathered with how other communities handle this topic and will discuss it more at the November meeting.

Please see attached report.

D. *Water Department* – Meters are being changed. IDEM did an inspection and the department passed without any problems. Councilmember Danny Lingo asked about the 15% water loss. Town Manager Brent Shull attributed it to the hydrant flushing the department has been doing. Danny suggested to meter one of the hydrants when it is being flushed to get a better idea of how much water loss can be accredited to hydrants.

Town Manager Brent Shull said they have had problems with new meters not lasting very long. Luckily, they are under warranty, but still causing more work for the department. Brent would like to have a representative from the meter company come and answer questions regarding the quality and accuracy of the meters they are buying. He will send a letter beforehand and discuss if further or have a representative come to the November Council meeting.

Please see attached report.

5. Old Business –

A. Bollards in front of the Fire Department – The Fire Department opted to pay for these themselves. The Town no longer needs to consider this expense.

B. CARES Act opportunities – Police Department, CPR Unit – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder said there are opportunities to apply for payroll reimbursement for the

Police Department. Reimbursement can be retroactive to March of 2020 thru September 2020. Now that the CPR unit has been purchased, the Clerk will apply for CARES funding for both items. She will update the Council during the process.

C. Disconnects for Water Utility – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder said the mandate regarding disconnects was lifted August 14th, 2020. She asked the Council if they would like to start the 60 day count from August 14th or now. Her concern with starting the count now was it would take the disconnects into December and historically the Council does not like to disconnect around the Holidays, especially Christmas. She did note that her office has been in regular contact with the delinquent account holders, posting reminders and allowing for payment arrangements.

Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff said he would prefer getting Darrick's input on the as he has been the one following the Governors orders more closely and in case there were any stipulations he was unaware of.

6. New Business –

A. Lane 282 repairs – Street Superintendent Mark Gerardot obtained quotes for road repairs on Lane 282. Having only received 2, they were presented to the Council as follows; M&M came in at \$29,850. However, this bidder was found to be unresponsive as they quoted a thickness of only 2 ½" instead of the 3" requested. T&E came in at \$30,500.00. Due to M&M being disqualified, Danny Lingo motioned to approve the quote from T&E for the road repairs on Lane 282. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried.

B. Water Heater at Gnagy Park concession stand – Town Manager solicited 3 quotes to repair/replace the water heater at Gnagy Park. Auburn Heating & Cooling came in at \$1,000, Gillen Mechanical came in at \$835.00. Councilman Gerry Martin motioned to approve the quote from Gillen Mechanical. Nancy Renner seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Community Member Randy Hile asked the Council when the Tennis Courts at Gnagy Park were scheduled to be redone. The Town Manager explained they were in the budget for the 2021 year. The Clerk said \$65,000 had been set aside based on the Town Managers research and recommendation.

Mr Hile said he also heard they were going to serve as dual purpose courts; for tennis and pickleball. Mr. Hile wanted to know if there was any truth to that.

Mr. Shull said the Recreation Board was inviting members from both groups to attend their next meeting and discuss the pros and cons before the Recreation board decided. Mr. Hile thanked the board and will plan on attending the meeting.

Another Community member asked how Marine Patrol was funded. Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder said it was funded thru LOIT, a fund that is specific to Police and Fire departments. This fund has a healthy cash balance and said Marine Patrol does not compromise the departments road patrol or other essential services.

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Danny Lingo and seconded by Nancy Renner, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Hester Stouder, IAMC - Clerk Treasurer

Mary Vail –Council President