

# Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, Steve Blum, Danny Lingo and Mary Vail were present. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Councilor Nancy Renner and Town Manager Brent Shull were absent. Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff was present. Attached is a list of audience members.  
\*\*\* All members present were wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

**Recognize Hamilton Police Department – Rank and Officers** – Council President Mary Vail read each of the 4 officers name and rank status. They are as follows, Jerney Warner, Marshal (1998), Frank Baldwin, Chief Deputy (2007), Tom Frederick, Sergeant (2009), James West, Corporal (2019).

The Council commended them for their service and commitment to Hamilton. They also gave a special thanks to Marshal Warner for his 22 years of service and the longevity of his employees; saying he must be doing something right for them to want to stay. The Council concluded the recognition time by saying they appreciate everything the officers do to keep Hamilton safe.

**Reading and approval of the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 minutes- budget and regular** – Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve the budget minutes as presented. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried. Steve Blum then motioned to approve the regular council meeting minutes. Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

- A. Claims – Steve Blum motioned to approve the claims as presented by the Clerk’s Office. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.
- B. Delinquent Accounts – Danny Lingo motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried. The Clerk mentioned that some of the delinquent amounts are increasing due to the inability to disconnect customers while still under the restraints of COVID. Some water users realize there is nothing the utility can do and are paying the minimum or sometimes nothing at all.
- C. Budget Public Hearing and Adoption – The public hearing will be scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 and the Adoption meeting will be held October 12<sup>th</sup> also at 5:30pm.

#### 4. Reports

A. *Town Manager* – Due to Town Manager Brent Shull being absent from the meeting, Council President Mary Vail reviewed his report with the Council. The water softener that was recently put in at the Town Hall will be removed and replaced at no cost to the Town.

Brent would like the Council to approve Wagler construction to put bollards in front of the Fire department. The Clerk mentioned concerns with the vendor and association with the Fire Chief since he is employed by the company. The Council agreed and will wait until Brent is back in the office to discuss additional quotes. This will be postponed until the 9/21 meeting or until more information is known. The Fire department wanted to purchase a hands-free CPR unit thru the CARES act. Town Manager Brent Shull voiced concerns due to the expense of the unit and not having a guarantee of being reimbursed thru the CARES act. The Council agreed and said they would talk further with Brent when he was back in the office. Marshal Warner said a hands-free CPR unit is expensive (\$15,000), but valuable to 1<sup>st</sup> responders. He offered available LOIT money to purchase the unit and share it between the 2 departments. More discussion will take place upon Brents return. This will be back on the agenda during the 9/21 meeting.

With Community Crossings money coming available again, the Town Manager, Clerks office and Street Department will work together to ensure the information is submitted as soon as the grant opens. The money would be awarded in 2020, but projects would not start until the Spring of 2021.

Council President Mary Vail said they are continuing to work with DNR and ERI on the beach project. This will include updated drawings to show the modifications required by DNR. The process has been slow, but Mary said they are making progress.

*Please see attached report*

B. *Street Department* –The department would like to replace the bed on the 6500 truck with a steel bed. This will help extend the longevity of the truck. Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve the upgrade if the expense does not exceed \$5,000. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried.

*Please see attached report*

C *Police Department* – The department has purchased new guns for each officer. The retired guns will be available by each of the 4 officers. The Town Manager has shown interest in the 5<sup>th</sup> gun. They will purchase the guns thru the department and Clerks office.

*Please see attached report.*

D. *Water Department* – The department worked on overflowing water towers and may try and do it twice a year to avoid any problems. Water Assistant Superintendent, Brad Haskins will be taking his water test soon as the testing

sights reopen. He has been in contact with the facility but does not have a formal date yet.

*Please see attached report.*

#### **5. Old Business –**

A. Review 2021 Budget – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder reviewed the 2021 budget with the Council showing them where the money was for the various projects they approved. She noted the 5<sup>th</sup> officer in the LOIT fund instead of the General Fund. Marshal Warner, who was present at the meeting asked that it be included in the General fund instead of LOIT. The Clerk said she will move that expense. After completing the review, the Council had no other changes or questions. The Clerk will put the remaining numbers in and send a completed copy to the Council prior to the public hearing and adoption meetings.

#### **6. New Business –**

A. Abandon the Sewer tap at the Denmart Property – The Council agreed to abandon the sewer tap at what is known as the Denmart property across from the public beach and boardwalk area. Councilman Steve Blum motioned to abandon the sewer tap at the Denmart property. Council President Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Danny Lingo and seconded by Steve Blum, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

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Hester Stouder, IAMC - Clerk Treasurer

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Mary Vail –Council President