

Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

November 2nd, 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, Nancy Renner, Danny Lingo and Mary Vail were present. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting.

Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff was present. Attached is a list of audience members.

Reading and approval of the October 19th, 2020 minutes-

Councilman Gerry Martin motioned to approve the 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 – Danny Lingo motioned to approve the claims as presented by the Clerk’s Office. Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried.

B. Delinquent Accounts – Steve Blum motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Nancy Renner seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. Reports

A. *Town Manager* – Town Manager Brent Shull will be conducting employee reviews in November. The review for the Town Manager will be in executive session at 6pm, prior to the December meeting.

Brent is working with a developer to annex their property. They would like to have the property zoned R3 to allow for multi family housing units.

Progress is being made with DNR in regard to the proposed restrooms that are part of the new Beach Project.

Please see attached report

B. *Street Department* – The departments new truck is in and will be going to WA Jones for the equipment to be installed. New gravel was spread on Fish Creek Trail. Leaf collection has begun, and the department is working with the County to resolve the number of beaver dams along Fish Creek Trail.

Please see attached report

C. *Police Department* – The Police departments boat is being winterized. Officers are doing their training online due to COVID. Drone programs will likely continue once the school opens back up.

Please see attached report.

C. *Water Department* – Brad is scheduled to take his exam in November. Brad is working with Ben to identify and reduce the water loss. Hydrant flushing is completed for the year. Brad received a plant alarm for the high surface pumps. When he investigated the problem, he found the breakers were blown. He called Clear Lake Electric to evaluate the problem. Everything is now working as it should and Brad, Brent, Clear Lake Electric and AEP are working together to make sure it won't continue to happen.

Please see attached report.

5. Old Business –

A. Salary Ordinance 2020-2 – 2nd & 3rd reading – Gerry Martin motioned to suspend the rules and adopt Salary Ordinance 2020-2 on 2nd & 3rd reading. Nancy Renner seconded the motion, motion carried with unanimous approval.

B. 2020 Bonus Pay – Council President Mary Vail said she would abstain from voting due to her son being employed by the Town. However, she encouraged the Council to consider a bonus and hazard pay related to COVID. As the Council discussed various amount, Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve an amount of \$250 per employee. As the discussion continued, Steve then amended his motion to increase to \$500 per employee and to call it a bonus, not hazard pay. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried with Mary abstaining.

C. 2021 Raise – The Council then went on to discuss raises for employees beginning in 2021. Marshal Jermey Warner and Town Manager Brent Shull provided recommendations for the Police Department as they are looking to hire a 5th officer. Brent provided new pay amounts for each officer; Jeremey suggested a flat \$2500 increase for each officer. The Council discussed the pros and cons of each amount. Councilwoman Nancy Renner motioned to approve \$2500 pay increase for each officer, starting in January of 2021. The motion died, as no one seconded the motion. Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to approve the pay amounts as recommended by Town Manager Brent Shull. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Those amounts are as follows; Marshal Warner - \$56,000, Frank Baldwin - \$52,000, Tom Frederick - \$48,000 and James West - \$46,000. The new hire pay will range from \$38,000 to \$57,200 annually.

Councilman Steve Blum motioned for the Police Department pay increases to start January 1st, 2021, Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried.

The Council moved to the Street and Water departments and what type of raise for “cost of living” would be appropriate. The Council reviewed the history provided by the Clerk Treasurer. Councilman Steve Blum motioned for a 2.5% raise. The Council discussed the percentage and without getting a 2nd, the motioned died. Councilman Danny Lingo asked for Brent's input, to which he replied a 3-4% raise would be in line with the County. He went on to say the suggested merit based raises would be between .50 and .75 per hour, but not exceed the 5% cap previously approved by the Council. Steve Blum then motioned to approve a 3% raise for employees for 2021. (Excluding the Police Department). Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried. Councilman Danny Lingo opposed.

D. 2021 HSA Contribution – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder asked the Council to formalize the amount they would like to contribute to employee’s HSA accounts, stating last year’s contribution was \$1,000.00. Councilman Steve Blum motioned to make the 2021 contribution \$1,100 in consideration of the deductible also increasing by \$100. Without a 2nd, the motion died.

Nancy Renner then motioned for the 2021 contribution to be \$1250 per employee. Gerry Martin seconded the motion, motion carried with a majority voicing aye votes. Councilman Danny Lingo opposed.

6. New Business –

A. Ordinance 2020-3 – Amending Town Code Section Title 53 section 153.58 – Town Manager Brent Shull introduced the Ordinance, explaining that contractors would need to get a permit every time they excavate below grade. Gerry Martin motioned to introduce Ordinance 2020-3 on 1st reading. Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried. 2nd & 3rd reading will be on the December agenda.

B. Councilwoman Nancy Renner brought up a concern from a neighbor, indicating they were not being credited the correct amount on their bill. Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder and Deputy Clerk Jenna Steigerwald both explained what was happening and how it was being resolved. The customers payments were being posted after bills were printed due to the bank bill pay sites switching servers, resulting in some pay files not coming thru as timely. Because of this delay the bill was not reflecting the correct amount owed. The Clerk mentioned she spoke with the Customer and explained the breakdown and showed how the payments were being applied to their account. After the Council heard the explanation, they agreed there was no error and appreciated the explanation.

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 Nancy Renner, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Hester Stouder, IAMC - Clerk Treasurer

Mary Vail –Council President