

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, March 2, 2021, 6:30 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

President Rush called the meeting to order with Vice President Kauffman, Council Member Doll, Council Member Colanese and the Clerk-Treasurer present. Council Member Budreau was absent.

Also in attendance: Andrea Halpin, Jared Huss, Tom Baker, Perry Hinton, Jill Doll, Dana Groves, Stephanie Murphy and Dan Caruso.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Doll moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 General Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Vice President Kauffman and passed 4-0

Employee Reports

- Chief Tom Baker

They have repurposed three laptops for the Clerk's Office and will be scrapping out 10. Applicant Brent Croymans took his final test in the hiring process today with results expected tomorrow. Installation of the cages in vehicles has been scheduled.

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Reported that she has worked primarily on employment issues since last meeting.

- Town Crew Supervisor Perry Hinton

Perry reported that the hiring committee interviewed four applicants for the open town crew position and selected one and person is on the agenda for approval by the Council in the salary ordinance tonight. The Cemetery Board received five bids for mowing and has made a recommendation that is also on the agenda for Council approval tonight.

- Engineer Jared Huss

Reported that he has worked with Perry, Sue and others in meeting with Baker Tilly for capital planning, met with Perry on sanitary sewer and will be bringing that to board, Field Gate Subdivision updates and working with Marcy on the splash pad to try to keep those things in order. Started preparation of the sidewalk project for this year which is the next block of Front Street and we are waiting to hear on CCMG notification of funding.

President Rush reported that she spoke with Jason Quirk this afternoon and he has nothing to report.

New Business

- Approval of employee termination

Council Member Doll moved to approve the employee termination as recommended by the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor. The motion was seconded by Vice President Kauffman and passed 4-0.

- Cemetery Board's recommendation for the mowing contract

Council Member Doll reported that five bids were received for cemetery mowing. The Cemetery Board recommends that the bid by Lawn Scape Services be accepted. A motion to approve the Cemetery Board recommendation to accept the bid from Lawn Scape Services was made by Council Member Doll and seconded by Council Member Colanese. Motion passed 4-0.

- Discover New Carlisle

Dana Groves gave a brief description of Discover New Carlisle as a non-profit Main Street Group that supports businesses through fund raising events including Christmas in New Carlisle and the Beer and Wine Walk. They also maintain the flower pots downtown and get wreaths ready for the Town crew to put up each year. Dana explained that Discover has also developed a façade grant program that received a start-up donation from 1st Source Bank in 2019 that provided the seed money for the program. Discover New Carlisle has committed \$5,000 every year to this program as well. Their goal is to provide \$7,500 each year, \$5,000 for façade upgrades and \$2,500 for smaller projects like signage. To date, Robinson Financial has completed their project with the \$5,000 grant they were awarded. Andy's Furniture was also awarded a \$5,000 grant and has started work. Unfortunately because of COVID there was not a Beer and Wine Walk or craft show last year, which are their main fund raisers. They are asking if the Town will commit \$5,000 annually if Discover will do that too.

Council Member Colanese asked how much Discover nets from their fundraisers and Dana replied that the net for the Beer and Wine Walk was \$10,000 and that funds from the Christmas craft show are put into their expense account for various things.

President Rush met with Dana and feels this could be very beneficial. Sue explained that, should the Council decide to participate, there are several options available for funding. She would recommend using either CEDIT or CCD funds. The Town could provide the funding directly to Discover but would need copies of all of the documentation regarding the grant and recipients. That information would be kept on file and would be available for review by State Board of Accounts.

Council Member Doll asked if SJEC has a grant that might be available. Jared responded that Cleveland Cliffs is now Tek and they do have some funding and SJEC has some funds available for grants as well. Vice President Kauffman expressed support for participating but will abstain from

voting as she is both a business owner and a member of Discover. She feels this goes a long way in supporting local businesses for façade enhancement or signage and it is very tangible. Discover serves basically as a pass through and the funds go directly to the local businesses. President Rush asked that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dana also proposed purchasing appropriate ornamental street trees to add greenery and height to the concrete planters downtown and to then plant perennials and spring bulbs around them in place of placing and removing the flower pots. There was some discussion on trees and issues such as utilities in the concrete planters. Sue stated that the original downtown beautification plan included trees in each planter but at least one of the business owners objected and requested that none be placed in front of their business and so the plan was changed. Council Member Doll reported that he was on the committee that selected the trees that were planted and they were chosen from a list of appropriate trees specifically for sidewalk planting. Jared stated that he began working with the town after the beautification and one conversation that no one agreed on was the trees. He feels that it is workable but does remember business owners who did not want any trees. He suggested that maybe this could be looked into as they are doing the façade grant. Vice President Kauffman explained that the façade grant is available to businesses on Michigan Street from welcome sign to welcome sign and also those one block north and one block south. President Rush stated that the general consensus expressed is yes, please come back with a plan.

- Utility payback, penalties & disconnects

Following brief discussion, Council Member Colanese suggested continuing to waive penalties and disconnects until the stimulus checks go out again.

A motion to extend the moratorium on penalties and disconnects until April 1 was made by Vice President Kauffman and seconded by Council Member Doll. Motion carried 4-0.

- Request for adjustment- 204 N Meridian St.

The homeowner submitted a letter requesting an adjustment to the sewer portion of their bill. Perry explained that the town crew had been called to shut off the water because of a pipe that had broken. He was able to confirm that water was running down the wall and into the crawl space and did not go into the sewer system. Tonya had prepared a twelve month average for sewer and the corresponding adjustment would be \$469.94.

A motion to approve the requested adjustment in the amount of \$469.94 to the wastewater portion of the bill was made by Council Member Doll and seconded by Council Member Colanese. Motion carried 4-0.

- Outstanding Checks

Sue presented a list of all checks outstanding for two years as of December 31, 2020 and requested that the Council accept them as presented so that they can be removed from the outstanding check list and receipted back into the funds they were originally drawn from.

Vice President Kauffman moved to accept the list of outstanding checks totaling \$42.70 as presented and that those checks be removed from the outstanding check list and receipted back into the appropriate funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Doll and carried 4-0.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- Resolution #21-03-02-01

Tabled.

- Ordinance #1409 – a salary ordinance for employees of the Town of New Carlisle

A motion to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1409 on the day of introduction was made by Council Member Doll and seconded by Council Member Kauffman. Motion carried 4-0.

President Rush read Ordinance #1409 by caption only for the first reading.

President Rush read Ordinance #1409 in entirety for the second reading.

President Rush read Ordinance #1409 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Council Member Doll moved to adopt Ordinance #1409 as written. The motion was seconded by Vice President Kauffman and passed 4-0.

Council Reports

Vice President Kauffman

Spoke with Nancy Taplin, president of the park board and she mentioned that she had spoken with Perry about placing a library box in Memorial Park. Stephanie Murphy was in attendance and explained that there was a project in January and February and they read enough to earn three boxes that will be placed at the park, Joe's Grocery and the Community Reserve. Olive Elementary will take care of the one to be placed at the park and other groups will take care of the others. The boxes will look like the food pantry box currently at the Community Reserve. Vice President Kauffman explained that the site at Memorial Park hasn't been designated yet but Nancy will get with Perry to look at and select an appropriate place to put the box.

Council Member Colanese asked Stephanie if the library is banning Dr. Seuss. Stephanie responded that the people that own the Dr. Seuss Foundation have decided not to continue printing six books due to the racist tones that are contained in them. She said that news came out this afternoon and

they haven't had the opportunity to review and determine what they will do with the titles included that they currently have at the library. She explained that the six books were Dr. Seuss' earlier work and some things that were acceptable in the early 1900s are no longer acceptable and she understands why they will no longer publish them.

Council Member Doll

Council Member Doll reported that the Cemetery Board has discussed the new cemetery addition and Perry will be meeting with Marbach Palm to look at layout and design.

Council Member Colanese

Council Member Colanese reported that he took a tour with Jason Quirk to look at all of the electric in town and it is a lot. As far as rates, he feels we are like anyone who lives around us but when the power goes out here in town, we are right back on way quicker than anyone around us. He expressed kudos to Jason and Perry and everyone involved.

He reported that back in the 80s the fire department started something to offer a pension to volunteers based on years of service, with a max of \$30K for older the older volunteers but that has changed now to a different amount. They are concerned that promises such as this will be lost if we no longer have active volunteers. Their idea is to put some money in a mutual fund and draw annually. They will need \$150,000 to fund it from the fire territory. Council Member Colanese said that this hasn't been voted on but if anyone has any feedback to please get with him.

President Rush

President Rush reported that tomorrow at 1 PM is the NCBCA meeting which will be Zoom again. She reminded everyone of the 11 AM work session on Thursday at 11 that will include lunch and that time changes on March 14th. She and Vice President Kauffman will be meeting with Dr. White again tomorrow.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Sue presented copies of the Clerk-Treasurer's Annual Financial Report that was filed through Gateway on February 22nd. She reported that the meeting with Baker Tilly and the department heads went very well. It was the first time that Perry and Robert participated and they had great input and it led to some really good discussion afterward.

We have discussed the necessity for updating our capital asset inventory for several years and Sue would like to get quotes from a company recommended by Baker Tilly for this.

Bills to be Paid

A motion to pay all bills as presented on the Claim Docket was made by Council Member Doll and seconded by Council Member Colanese. Motion carried 4-0.

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Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Doll and second by Vice President Kauffman the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Samantha Rush, Council President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer