

**Topeka Town Council**  
**124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana**  
**General Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2020 at 4:00pm**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Treasurer Naomi Miller called the meeting to order with Council Member Eash, Council Member Folk, Council Member Lambright, Council Member Geigley and Council Member Troyer present.

Also, in attendance was Stewart Bender, Stan Strater, Cyndi Sadewasser, Susanne Hogan, Michael Fitch, Ashley Mullett, Lavinnia Lantz, Skyler Hawk, Marjorie Thompson, Zoe Williams, Ethan Voris, Melayna Borg, Harold Gingerich, Dough Fought, Jeremy Sponseller, Rick Pharis and James McDonald and Bill Eberhard via phone.

Members of the Topeka Town Council were sworn in for 2020 by Clerk Treasurer Miller. The 2020 Nepotism forms were signed by Council.

Officer election for 2020 was opened for nominations. Ron made a motion for Council for President and Vice President to remain the same, President, Ron Troyer and Vice President, Ray Folk. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion. All members were in favor with one nay, Council Member Geigley.

The election of Commissioners for 2020 was opened for nominations. Council Member Eash made a motion to nominate Council Member Lambright for the Police Department Commissioner. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Eash made a motion for Council Member Geigley as Fire Commissioner. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Geigley made a motion for Council Member Eash to be the Employee Commissioner. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried with one nay from Council Member Folk.

Council Member Folk moved to accept the minutes from December 9, 2019 General Meeting Minutes as written and the 2 Executive Sessions on December 9<sup>th</sup> as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Geigley and passed unanimously.

### Clerk-Treasurer

Council Member Geigley moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Eash and passed unanimously.

Susanne Hogan and Michael Fitch, Recruiting Assistant with the US Census Bureau made a presentation to the council requesting assistance finding people of Topeka to help take the 2020 Topeka Census.

Adam Lambright's resignation from the Park Board and RDC was presented to the council. Council Member Folk made a motion to accept his resignation, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A letter from Yvonne Eash stating interest in the Topeka Park Board position was presented to the council. Council Member Lambright made a motion to appoint Yvonne Eash to the Park Board. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There are two vacancies on the Redevelopment Commission Board, one for a general resident of the town and one from the Council. Council Member Folk and Council Member Lambright stated interested in the Council position. A written vote was taken and Council Member Lambright won the vote.

#### Vote for Adam Lambright

Ron Eash  
Justin Geigley  
Adam Lambright

#### Vote for Ray Folk

Ron Troyer  
Ray Folk

Council Member Folk made a motion to appoint Doug Fought to the RDC Board. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Niblock Pay Ap 2 was shared with the Council totaling \$268,335.18. Half is to be paid out of MVH and the other half is to be recommended to the RDC Board. Council Member Eash made a motion to Pay the Council portion of the Pay Ap 2 and send the other half to the RDC for payment. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There was a leak at the Maple Grove Church, and they are requesting a credit for the sewer of \$141.72. The Water Superintendent confirmed the leak did NOT run through the sewer plant. Council Member Geigley made a motion to approve the credit, Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.



Bakertilly sent an engagement letter to cover the bond issue work. The agreement is set up on a time and expense basis and not to exceed \$70,000. Currently they have around \$23,000 of unbilled time on the books so far. Council Member Folk made a motion to sign the engagement letter, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Town Manager/Fire Chief**

The Wastewater computer is needing replaced as soon as possible. A quote for a new workstation from MapleTronics is \$928.32. Council Member Geigley made a recommendation to purchase the workstation. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Manager Bender recommended to the Town Council to reject the Wastewater bids. The cost is too high. A discussion was had on the bids and a motion from Council Member Folk to reject the Wastewater bids was made. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A letter to Triad was presented to terminate their services with the Town of Topeka on the Wastewater Plant. Council Member Ray made a motion to make it so, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A report showing the revenue/expenditures from 2019 for the town utilities was shared with the council. Both entities show a loss for 2019. Further discussion was had.

Region 3A is requesting a representative from Topeka to sit on the Board of Directors. Council Member Folk made a motion for Manager Bender to serve on the Region 3A Board of Directors on behalf of the Town of Topeka. Council Member Eash seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Manager Bender is requesting the CCMG Advertisement begin the week of January 21st. Council Member Eash made a motion to start the advertisement, Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The December Fire Activity and Financial report was emailed to the council.

#### **Town Marshal**

The November Activity Report was email to the council for review.

Marshal Strater is ready to begin advertising for a new Deputy Marshal. A motion was made to go with the free options to advertise for the posting on Facebook and the Town website by Council Member Eash. A second to the motion was made by Council Member Geigley and it carried unanimously.

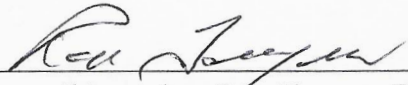
Carl Miller has applied for a Reserve Office position with the Town of Topeka. Council Member Geigley made a motion to accept Carl Miller as a Reserve Office for the Town. A second motion was made by Council Member Lambright. Motion carried unanimously.

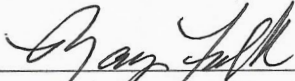
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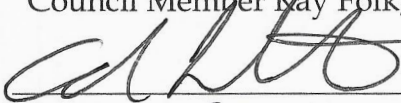
Rick Pharis with Triad requested a meeting with Stewart and the President of Triad. A meeting is being scheduled.

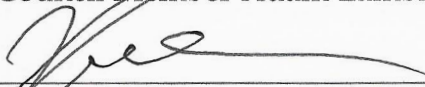
Next Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held at Topeka Town Hall on January 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. There being no other business to be brought before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

  
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Council Member Ron Troyer, President

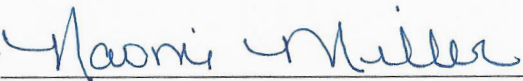
  
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Council Member Ray Folk, Vice President

  
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Council Member Adam Lambright

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Justin Geigley

  
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Council Member Ron Eash

ATTEST

  
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Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC