



Topeka Town Council
124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana
General Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2020 at 4:00pm

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also, in attendance was Town Manager, Stewart Bender, and Town Attorney, Bill Eberhard, Town Marshal Stan Strater, Kerry Sprunger, Doug Fought, Harold Gingerich, Kenny Fry, Jared Wingard, Fritz Helmuth, Fritz Schlabach with Rock Run Industries, Scott Zeigler with Hand to the Plow Surveying and Via Zoom is Greg Marta with GM Development.

Council Member Folk moved to accept the minutes from July 27, 2020 General Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Eash and passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer

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

The Clerk-Treasurer requested an addendum to Ordinance 2014-5-12, Establishing Rules and Regulations for Peddlers and Vendors. Attorney Eberhard created Ordinance 2020-6. An annual license fee of \$500 shall be paid to the Town before a street vendor license is issued. This will become effective 1/1/2021. Council Member Folk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-6 with a waiving of the 2nd reading. Council Member Eash seconded the motion. 4 Ayes - 1 Nay

The contracts with the Townships for Fire Protection Services was presented for renewal. Council Member Eash made a motion to renew the contract as the previous year; Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The contract for fire protection services between the town and the volunteer firefighters was presented to the council. Council Member Folk made a motion to accept the contract. Council Member Eash seconded the motion and it carried with one abstention, Council Member Lambright.

The 5-year personal protection permit fee has changed to a free status as of July 1, 2020. Attorney Eberhard presented Ordinance 2020-7 reflecting this change. Council Member Eash made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-7, waiving the 2nd reading. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A request for reimbursement for the Medical exam required for CDL license on behalf of James Lambright was given to the council. Council Member Folk made a motion to pay for his exam, Council Member Eash seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The prohibition on disconnecting utility services and penalties Governor Holcomb had in place expires on August 14th. Council agree to send a letter to residence whom are late and allow them 10 days to set up payment plans. After that, we can disconnect service. Penalties will resume on the 18th of August.

Town Manager/Fire Chief

A variance is requested at 513 S. Main Street. Current zoning is a U-1, not allowing a large animal. Jared Wingard is interested in purchasing the home if the zoning would allow him 1 horse. The property for grazing meets the town standards for 1 horse. Council Member Geigley made a motion to give the County a positive recommendation for rezoning. Council Member Lambright seconded the motion. 4 - Ayes and 1 - Nay

A quote for a new Fire Chief/Town Manager truck with laptop and accessories was presented to council from Kelly Chevrolet and Copsgear for \$41,130.03. Manager Bender would like to trade in the Town Manager blue truck, and it is included in the quote. Another Fire Department is interested in purchased the Fire Chief vehicle. Council Member Eash made a motion to make the purchase with the trade in; Council Member Justin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member Lambright abstained; he is a volunteer Firefighter.

Scott Zeigler with Hand to the Plow Surveying, Kerry Sprunger and Fritz Slabaugh with Rock Run Industries presented a sight plan for the old Jayco property. Ideally the plan is for 3 - 4 business in the 7 different buildings on the property. Council Member Folk made a motion to give a Positive Recommendation to the County for the sight plan. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Pay Ap 2 with HRP for \$192,747.97 was presented to the council for review. Council Member Eash made a motion to proceed with Pay Ap 2 and to recommend to the RDC for payment, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Greg Marta with GM Development discussed an option with the council to do a BOT (build, operate, transfer) for future builds.

The July Fire Reports were emailed and received to all council

Manager Bender gave an update on the current street projects.

Police Department

Ordinance 2020-8 was presented to the council pertaining to the first three parking spots on the South side of North Street, East of the intersection with North Main shall become loading zone, no parking. Council Member Folk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-8, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

An interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Town of Topeka and the Town of Wolcottville to purchase the used dog kennel from our K9 for \$50. Council Member Folk made a motion to enter into the agreement, Council Member Lambright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The bid opening for the 2011 Dodge Charger commenced.

Marcus Eash \$3,162.00
Parker Fought \$1,230.00
Yousef Dabbagh \$1,678.00

David Sprunger \$1,400.00
Isidro Reyes \$1,200.00
Shawn & Sherry Cox \$2,100.00

Council Member Lambright made a motion to accept Marcus Eash bid of \$3,162 for the 2011 Dodge Charger. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Other

Manager Bender shared with the council the town received the call that other communities have fallen off the PPL and Topeka has now moved up within the fundable range. In addition, the town qualifies for loan forgiveness which could replace the OCRA grant. To accept the SRF the town would have to raise the water bills to \$45 a month. Much discussion was had. Council Member Folk made a motion to accept and move forward with the SRF loan. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Folk asked for an update on the selling of property behind our wastewater plant. Manager Bender and Attorney Eberhard are working on the appraisal and getting it rezoned.

Council Member Folk asked for the status of developing the property the town purchased. Manager Bender stated he is waiting to hear back from Granite Ridge.

Next Meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held at Topeka Town Hall on August 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. There being no other business to be brought before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.



Council Member Ron Troyer, President



Council Member Ray Folk, Vice President



Council Member Adam Lambright

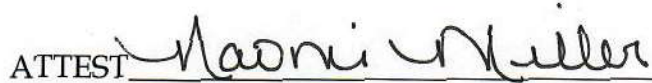
Council Member Justin Geigley



Council Member Ron Eash



ATTEST



Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC