

Topeka Town Council
124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana
General Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2020 at 4:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Call to order by Council President Ron Troyer – Common Council Meeting

Roll Call

Present: Council Member Ron Troyer, Adam Lambright, Ron Eash and Justin Geigley, Town Manager Stewart Bender, Town Attorney Bill Eberhard and Clerk Treasurer, Naomi Miller

Absent: Council Members Ray Folk

Others in attendance: Casey Erwin with DLZ, Fritz Helmuth, Deputy Marshal Tracey Persing and Bill Bradley with LaGrange County RDC

Attendance via Zoom: Buddy Miller

Minutes from previous meeting of September 28, 2020

Motion to Approve: Ron Eash Second: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

Stewart Bender, Town Manager/Fire Chief

Freedom Steel Works Site Plan

- Discussion on the drawings for a positive recommendation from the board

Motion to give a Positive Recommendation: Justin Geigley Second: Ron Eash Vote:
All Ayes

The hearing on the S & H Metal Products tax abatement was opened

- Bill Bradley with the LaGrange County RDC gave support and recommendation to the tax abatement citing normal circumstances
- S & H Metal Products is relocating to rainbow drive to build a larger facility
- Plan to hire 5 people within the 10 years

Motion to approve 10-year tax abatement: Adam Lambright Second: Ron Eash Vote: 2
Nay - 2 Ayes

Clerk-Treasurer is the tie breaker by casting a vote of Nay

- Fritz Helmuth asked what could be done differently in the application for approval
Justin Geigley made a motion to bring back the abatement in 2 weeks Second:
Vote:
Motion died

- Ron Troyer recommended an abatement with a 5-year term
 - o This was agreeable to Fritz

Motion to approve 5-year tax abatement for S&H Metal Second: Ron Eash Vote:
All Ayes

- Fire Department financials and incident reports emailed to council prior to meeting

Casey Erwin with DLZ

- A request to submit a Site plan to the LaGrange County Planning for approval
- A design of 30% was shared with the council
- The November meeting is the intended plan to meet with the planning commission
 - Payment of \$150 for submission

Motion to pay the \$150 and submit the plan: Justin Geigley Second: Ron Eash Vote:
All Ayes

Appraisal for old Fire Station and lagoon

- One received and still waiting on the 2nd

Clerk-Treasurer

Claim Register – APV 13269 – 13323 with the exception of \$51.96 for sales tax on APV 13291

Motion to Approve: Ron Eash Second: Justin Geigley Vote: All Ayes

New Employee Handbook

- The final Employee Handbook was shared with the council.

Motion to Approve: Justin Geigley Second: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

A grant from the Department of Justice was submitted and a granted for a total of \$794.97

The new bookcase for the minutes, ordinance and resolutions was installed in the back-conference room.
Board encouraged to view it after meeting.

Attorney

- Resolution 2020-18
 - Establishing a Pandemic leave Policy

Motion to adopt: Justin Geigley Second: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

- Ordinance 2020-9
 - Provide reimbursement of Public Health and Public Safety Payroll costs with CARES Act Funding

Motion to adopt: Justin Geigley Second: Ron Eash Vote: All Ayes

- Ordinance 2020-10
 - Establishing FUND 150, Covid/Cares Provider Relief FUND

Motion to adopt: Ron Eash Second: Justin Geigley Vote: All Ayes

Town Marshal

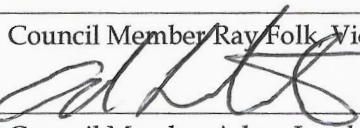
- Marshal Strater is out of the office due to illness for a time
- Tracey Persing is next in line and recommended to be interim Marshal

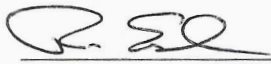
Motion by: Justin Geigley Second: Ron Eash Vote: All Ayes

Adjournment

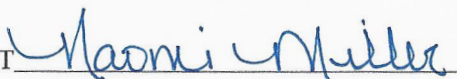
- 5:41pm
- Next General Council meeting: November 9, 2020 at 4p.m.


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