

Topeka Town Council
124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana
General Meeting Minutes, August 23, 2021, 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, Ray Folk, Steve Schrock, Town Manager Stewart Bender and Clerk Treasurer, Naomi Miller

Others in attendance: Amy Oberlin, Butch Lehman, Mullhommand Abdulkmon, Jody Bauer, Marshal Stan Strater, Jr; Casey Erwin with DLZ

Attendance via Zoom: Council Member Adam Lambright; Bill Eberhard, Town Attorney

Minutes from previous meeting of July 26, 2021, for Common Council Meeting and August 4, 2021, Executive Session

Motion to Approve: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

Claim Register – APV 14407 – 14508

Motion to Approve: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Extend the advertisement for a Water Superintendent till last meeting in September.

- 2 applicants received so far
 - One wants a 10k more than advertised
 - Other was terminated from last position with another community

ARPA

- Half of the ARPA Funds were received totaling \$138,285.68.
- The intended use is on the wastewater plant.
- Bill and Naomi are working on the plan for the funds in written form required by the US Treasury.
- Total eligible for, \$276,571.36

Ron Eash has offered his resignation via email on 8/9/2021

- Naomi has spoken with Pat Brown the Republican Party Chair
 - Notice will be given when the caucus is scheduled

Motion to accept: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

A letter was received from JJ Egli with Topeka-Do-It-Best

- Request access to the old Fire Station property being sold to Westview
- Weekly deliveries are made via semi with limited space behind the store
- Attorney Eberhard has spoken with Westview's attorney, and they have agreed to work with the store.

The Republican Party is hosting a Lincoln Day Dinner on September 9th honoring Veterans and Police Officers.

Asking the council to pay for the officers to attend the dinner

Motion to approve: Steve Schrock

Seconded: Ray Folk

Vote: All Ayes

Write-Off for the Utilities

- 8 customers were presented with open balances under \$200.
- Attorney Eberhard recommends writing off these balances under \$200
- Accounts over the \$200 will be sent to small claims
- Going forward, a final letter will be mailed to the delinquent customer explaining small claims is the next option if payment arrangements are not made.

Motion: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Stewart Bender, Town Manager/Fire Chief

- 319 Todd Street, Lot 69
- Evangeline Harp, speaking on her behalf, boyfriend, Jody Bauer
- Resident has constructed a fence on the town property
 - Town property butts up to homeowner
 - Resident claims he built on the easement
 - The easement is there, however is a 14' easement on the homeowners property.
 - Resident refuses to remove fence without a court order and stormed out of Town Hall
 - Options given by Attorney Eberhard,
 - Street department remove fence
 - File a lawsuit for removal of fence and resident will pay for that plus attorney fees
 - Motion was made to have Stewart and Bill move forward with lawsuit

Motion: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Horizon Bank rezone

- Zoned residential
- Request to make it business zoned - B4
- Motion was made for a positive recommendation to the county

Motion: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Pay Ap 3 for Pulver Asphalt Paving

- Total \$131,459.94
- 25% is under TIF, \$32,864.99
- Remainder due for this council \$98,594.95

Motion to pay: Steve Schrock

Seconded: Ray Folk

Vote: All Ayes

Pay Ap 3 for FCI Construction

- Total is \$176,177.50 on the water plant

Motion to pay: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Stan Strater, Jr, Town Marshal

- Topeka Police Department June and July Activity Report
- Thanked council for allowing the officers to attend the Lincoln Day Dinner to be honored.

Bill Eberhard, Town Attorney

Residential TIF

- Inter local agreement between the Westview and Town of Topeka.
 - Westview has signed the agreement
- Motion for a positive recommendation to the RDC

Motion to accept: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Old Fire Station

- Inter local agreement to sell Westview old fire dept for the appraised value was signed by the board. Approval was made in a prior meeting.

Quitclaim

- Quit claim from Egli Investments
- Buy sell agreement between town and Westview to sell 8 x 18-foot square section behind old fire station for appraised value

Motion: Steve Schrock

Seconded: Ray Folk

Vote: All ayes

Other

Executive Meeting with the RDC and the Town Council, September 13th at 3pm where Zach Benedict will present Topeka's Site Concept.


- Ray recommended that each garage in the new development has a charging station for electric cars.
- Ron stated he would like the power placed underground and not above
- Ron asked Stewart if he had checked with Nipsco on new subdivision?
 - Stewart has emailed Nipsco

Adjournment

- 4:45 pm
- Next General Council meeting September 13, 2021, at 4p.m.



Ron Troyer, Council President

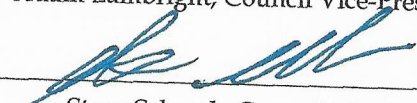


Ray Folk, Council Member

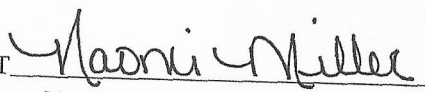
Council Member



Adam Lambright, Council Vice-President



Steve Schrock, Council Member

ATTEST 

Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

