

Topeka Town Council
124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana
General Meeting Minutes, September 13, 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, Adam Lambright; Town Manager Stewart Bender and Clerk Treasurer, Naomi Miller

Others in attendance: Amy Oberlin with Hurd Media Group; Deputy Clerk, Cyndi Sadewasser; Fritz Helmuth; Sydney Pettigrew; Doug Fought; Fritz Schlabach; Leroy Helmuth; Henry Miller with Photon Electric; Eric B. Henion; Project Engineer with JPR; Marshal, Stan Strater, Jr.; Casey Irwin

Attendance via Zoom: Wastewater Superintendent, James McDonald

Minutes from previous meeting of August 23, 2021, for Common Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Ray Folk Seconded: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

Claim Register - APV 14511 - 14602

Motion to Approve: Adam Lambright Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: All Ayes

Hearing on Ordinance 2021-21 for Additional Appropriations for 2021 was opened

- Fund 101 General
 - Hazard Pay \$9,000
- Fund 101 General
 - Community Crossing Grant, \$964,671.75

No comments from the floor

Motion to adopt and waive 2nd reading: Steve Schrock Seconded: Ray Folk
Vote: All Ayes

Bid Opening for 2012 Chevy Tahoe

- 1 - Terry Bontrager \$6,500
- 2 - Ashley Volunteer Fire Dept \$10,000
- 3 - Ben Wickey bid of \$4,500
- Stewart recommends taking it to auction and rejecting all bids

Motion to reject all bids: Steve Schrock Seconded: Ray Folk Vote: All Ayes

July Financials shared with the council

Motion to accept: Ray Folk Seconded: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

2022 Premiums through the AIM Medical Trust

- 2022 Premium for the Town decreased 6.2%
- Vision, Dental and Life stayed the same

Holiday Schedule for Town of Topeka

- Complaints from residences on the scheduling for holiday celebrations
- Police Officers recommend Halloween on the last Saturday of October each year
- Council recommends a discussion with the Topeka Chamber of Commerce to get everyone on the same page
- The Clerk-Treasurer will reach out to the Chamber for a discussion

Long-term/Short-term Disability Programs

- Minimum of 7 employees required for each plan
- Plans may be obtained separately or jointly
- Centralized billing from AIM Medical Trust
- Motion was made to to not offer the long- or short-term disability to Town employees
Motion: Steve Schrock Seconded: Adam Lambright Vote: All Ayes

GOP Caucus to fill the vacancy of Ron Eash's is set for September 29th at 6pm at the Town Hall.

Longevity Pay

- Spreadsheet shared with council from different communities in the State who offer longevity pay
- Ron Troyer recommends \$100 after 5 years of employment with a cap at 30 years, \$3000
- Motion was made to not offer the longevity pay to Town employees.
Motion: Adam Lambright Seconded: Steve Schrock
Vote: All Ayes with 2 Nays - Ron Troyer and Ray Folk

Stewart Bender, Town Manager/Fire Chief

Eric B. Henion; Project Engineer with JPR and Fritz Schlabach, Owner of Rock Run Industries

- Requesting to have a solar field with generators
- They are here about the generator ordinance currently in place for the town
- They feel it won't be smelly or noisy to neighbors
- Generators could run about 4 hours a day on a cloudy day
- Bill Eberhard, Town Attorney stated it would not be the primary source so from the legal standpoint, no ordinance violation
- This is zoned as commercial property
- Neighbor is Keystone RV
- Generator shouldn't kick on at night, they have a battery.
- They could obtain an additional muffler for noise
- Motion to get additional muffler and allow the solar field with generators
Motion: Ray Folk Seconded: Adam Lambright
Vote: All Ayes with One Nay, Ron Troyer

Water Plant Updates

- Casey Erwin with DLZ presented Pay Ap 4
 - FCI Construction for \$126,943.75
 - Retainage at 5% \$55,230
- Motion to submit to SRF for payment: Adam Lambright Seconded: Steve Schrock
Vote: All Ayes

Building at Wastewater treatment Plant

- Will house the blowers
- Cost \$29,500
- Metal siding, existing concrete stays

Motion to construct: Ray Folk

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes

Lagoon Closure

- Did not pass with IDEM to close lagoon
- Three metals came back in the reading that didn't match soil outside of the setting area
- Stewart requests to hire Loughheed Engineering to do 13 more soil samples for \$3,470
- Recommendation to RDC

Motion: Ray Folk

Seconded: Adam Lambright

Vote: All Ayes

Wastewater Plant upgrades

- Casey with DLZ shares a cost of 3,270,000
- Interested in SWIF - but not waiting for it
- Recommendation to RDC to pay out of TIF and proceed with the project

Motion: Ray Folk

Seconded: Adam Lambright

Vote: All Ayes

West Park

- Casey and Stewart shared a quote to upgrade the sidewalks at West Park
- Sidewalks will be ADA compliant
- Cost is \$370,000
- Cost to build a new pavilion with a kitchenette and new restrooms \$396,000

Motion to Approve - Adam Lambright

Seconded: Steve Schrock

Vote: All Ayes and one Nay, Ron Troyer

The Topeka Fire Department June and July reports were emailed to council prior to meeting.

Bill Eberhard, Town Attorney

Resolution 2021-30, A policy by which members of the Town Council may participate by electronic means of communication.

- State came out with ruling for telephonic meetings

Motion to accept: Ray Folk

Seconded: Adam Lambright

Vote: All Ayes

Attorney Eberhard's office has sent a letter to the resident on Todd Street with the fence on the Town's property, stating they have 10-days to get the fence removed.

As of September 1, 2021, if someone misses work due to covid - do we pay them? Do they have to lose their time off days? Council will think on this for further discussion at the next council meeting.

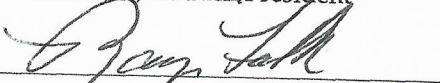
Steve Schrock asked if the Street Department would remark going west of town. Stewart replied they would. Also, the turn lane at State Road 5 needs painted.

Adjournment

- 5:39 pm
- Next General Council meeting September 27, 2021, at 4p.m.



Ron Troyer, Council President



Ray Folk, Council Member



Adam Lambright, Council Vice-President



Steve Schrock, Council Member

Council Member

ATTEST



Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

