

TOWN OF ADVANCE

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

LOCATION: ADVANCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 8, 2016 7:00 PM

112 N. Main – P. O. Box 67 Advance, IN 46102

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Council Members: Matt Johnson (President), Melody Fry, Dale Thompson,
and Jim Caldwell

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Superintendent: Nathan Reed

Marshall: Ray Hieston

Attendees:

Council Members: Matt Johnson, President, Melody Fry, Dale Thompson,
and Jim Caldwell

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Town Marshall: Ray Hieston

Town Employees: Chris Shelton

Others Present:

David Gregory, Randy Hill, Curtis Clanton, Tammy Clanton, Sally Caldwell,
Sheriff Mike Nielson, Michelle Reed

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 19:03.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Johnson read Rules of Order/conduct for meetings, and the rules will be read before every meeting until the Council is out of office. No one shall speak unless recognized by the Council President. The speaker shall stand and state their name and address before stating their purpose. The speaker shall stay on the topic of discussion and shall not introduce a new matter of discussion. No profanity or vulgarity will be allowed while the Council is in session. Those allowed to speak, will be permitted to speak 3 minutes the first time, 2 minutes the second time and 1 minute the last on the current subject. The Council by statute has formal authority on all matters for the session and shall conduct the meetings to maintain order.

Korby Petro spoke to Council for approval of Eagle Scout Project

Korby Petro currently is a Life Scout out of Advance Community Christian Church Troop 350 and resides at 250 S. outside of Advance. Mr. Petro's plan for his Eagle Scout Project is to re-do the area between the former library location and the Post Office as it is falling apart. He proposed getting new benches, removing the bulletin board, replacing the flag pole and making sure the flag pole is illuminated 24 hours a day. Mr. Petro also stated he wanted to remove asphalt and replace it with a bed of mulch as well as replacing the cement flower pots. In addition, he wanted to have a new flag pole professionally installed and secure with cement. This project would be carried out by Mr. Petro and the scouts in his troop with the only labor part the Troop could not do, would be installing the flagpole. He requested the Council's permission to go ahead with the project.

President Johnson questioned whether Mr. Petro would be doing the electrical work, and Mr. Petro replied, "probably not. That one of the Scout leaders was an electrician."

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project presented by Korby Petro for the renovation of the Flag Pole and benches between the Post Office and former library location. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Councilwoman Fry was absent.

David Gregory 105 N. Main, questioned if the pole belonged to the VFW. President Johnson stated that the Town owned the property, but the VFW maintained it.

Sheriff Mike Nielson spoke on new tax

Sheriff Nielson stated he was there to discuss a strategic approach to partner with Boone County, to empower the County to add public safety to all needs and jurisdictions. This is about all public safety in Boone County, also helps fire and EMA.

Sheriff Nielson broke down the roles of different law enforcement. The Sheriff's office has no boundaries, and 2 deputies would have to cover 424 square miles. The Sheriff is elected and runs a constitutional office and is there for all citizens.

Law has changed much even in the last 5 years and we are living in a more violent world. The population is growing and is one of the fastest growing counties in Indiana. 911 calls for service has increased dramatically, violent crime is on the rise stemming from Marian County.

Challenges facing the County: inmate population rise and is at legal maximum level, increase in calls, drug crimes with opiate usage, having sustainable funding, finding, training and maintaining qualified staff (7 months hiring process), 24% increase in population levels from 50K – 64K.

The Sheriff's office is the primary contact if Marshall Hieston is not working. Sheriff Nielson stated some of the issues and crimes the office faces including 17 deaths from opiate overdoses this year. Twenty-five people saved with Narcan.

The responsibility of Sheriff's offices needed to protect and serve the citizens of Boone County and right now we don't have the resources to do this.

Staffing levels are from 2004 and no additional deputies have been hired since that time, only replaced. Three jailers have been hired only with a partnership with Community Corrections which was a State Grant. A new Communications system began in 2006, but no additional staff has been hired.

Currently the Sheriff's Department has 28 deputies and the office is proactive 11% of the time.

City and Town hires:

Lebanon – 5 hires since 2009, 15% increase, covering 15.5 square miles and 16K citizens. Proactive 14% of the time.

Whitestown - 10 hires since 2009, 72% increase, 15 officers cover 10.45 square miles, 6K citizens, proactive 14%. Proactive 56% of the time.

Zionsville – 7 officers since 2009, 25% increase, 29 officers, cover 12 miles urban, and 60 rural, 26K citizens. 60 rural miles fall on BCSO.

Jamestown 1000 citizens and .88 sq. miles, Advance 500 citizens and .62 sq. miles and Thorntown 1500 citizens and .60 sq. miles. All have had no new hires since 2009.

BCSO has total of 67 employees with volunteers and reserves. The Strategic Business Plan is to increase staff by 24 from deputies, to administrative staff and Crime Scene Investigators with the budget in 2017.

Funding is an issue and public needs to be educated and ask the County Council, and we all have the same goal and a safe community. How can funds be obtained? Funds can be obtained by use of reserve funds (tried and funds aren't there). The other option is the Local Income Tax. (LIT)

2016 Sheriff's Budget was \$5.9 million and the 2017 budget needs 1.7 - \$1.9 additionally.

The Local Income Tax is not a property tax. It is replacing the Public safety LOIT that was capped at .25% and all funds went to public safety. The office is looking at this as a business. Forty-seven counties have the Public Safety LOIT. County Councils have more authority with LIT.

Sheriff Nielson has met with Councils and public venues, collected data, and have analysts look at data, and completed staffing surveys.

County Taxing Authority has a cap of 2.5% and the Sheriff's department is looking at an increase of .5% tax. Two taxing authorities in County are needed to pass this. Sheriff Nielson wants to have a unified front to go before County Council. Advance Fire and Police Department would benefit by receiving \$42,000. Advance Council would determine where funds go. For an annual \$80K salary, the annual income tax would be \$400/\$33per month.

Sheriff Nielson stated if this makes him a one-term sheriff, then so be it. The county needs to be on higher ground to face the problems.

Councilman Caldwell stated that roads and bridges are falling apart but the jail and its communications are aging and need to be replaced.

Sheriff Nielson stated they wanted to hold a meeting October 11-13 of all Town Councils to give feedback.

President Johnson questioned what kind of feedback Sheriff Nielson is getting and he stated all positive and that citizens aren't aware of the problems.

Sally Caldwell questioned when the vote would be for this tax? Sheriff Nielson stated October 11.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson questioned when this revenue would be available? January 1, 2017 and a three year review is built into the strategic plan.

Councilman Caldwell stated that we are facing terroristic activities and safety needs to be discussed. Sheriff Nielson stated they are very active in the schools teaching safety and home invasions are happening during daytime.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated she would like for the Sheriff's department to come in and teach home invasion safety.

David Gregory stated people should not be scared of police. Police will need to have special purpose teams to handle situations.

Clerk-Treasurer thanked Sheriff Nielson and his deputies for all of their hard work.

Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2016

Councilman Thompson made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2016. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Police

Marshall Hieston stated for the month of July 2016 were 35 verbal warnings given. Police were assisted 3 times and a motorist once. Auto vehicle ID checks as 1, 3 meetings attended, 1 suspicious activity of a person, 1 business alarm, 1 animal complaint, assisted one accident, 1 911 call, AMC 4 tickets for local Ordinance. Caleb is working on a grant for defibrillators.

Clerk-Treasurer

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated that she had placed in the Council's packets complaint letters as an FYI of how the Town looks since 2010.

Enclosed were the Fund Report and Appropriation Report to date.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated she had contacted SBOA in regards to reconciliation and they replied that they could possibly be working on election recounts until the end of September. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson also stated she advised SBOA that her consultant was coming Monday and Tuesday to assist with budget and that they were moving forward with re-appropriating the negative payroll account into the General Fund and three utilities.

Next, Clerk-Treasurer Johnson requested approval for the training classes in the amount of \$190 at French Lick.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the training class cost of the Clerk in the amount of \$190.00. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson requested mileage be paid for the training class for the Deputy and herself to drive and attend training classes at Keystone for \$.38/mile.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to approve mileage be paid to the deputy and Clerk to attend training classes at Keystone at \$.38/mile. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated that the training she attended in June with ILMCT at Michigan City had not been paid. She stated a grant was submitted, but the grant was never approved. She was advised by the league if there were funds left at the end of the year's budget, they would pay it, and she received an invoice for \$400. Clerk-Treasurer requested approval for payment of training.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve \$400 to pay for the training in Michigan City because of a grant issue. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Clerk-Treasurer stated Deputy Clerk, Carla had created a spreadsheet of all delinquent utilities, and would be attending training at Keystone the following day. Once training is completed, all delinquent invoices for utilities will be sent to collections.

An update was given on pending tax issues. For the State, a letter of forgiveness was received and a \$2500 refund check is being issued.

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated she had contacted the IRS regarding the large tax issue. She stated the representative she had spoken to couldn't say a lot. The representative stated he was putting the collections on hold and Clerk-Treasurer Johnson questioned why the account was in collections because no information had ever been received in regards to the status of the account. The representative stated he was submitting an abatement request and I was to contact the IRS back no later than September 7, 2016 and at that time, she will hopefully have more answers.

Lastly, Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated that before anyone can work for the Town, she must have a Certificate of Liability Insurance and a W-9, if these aren't received, they cannot work. Councilman Caldwell clarified that this was for contractors and Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated yes.

President Johnson stated if work is done for the Town, these must be submitted. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated these were not needed for sales of product.

Utilities

Mr. Reed stated 25 electric meters were changed out and there are 50 to go.

A Transformer was changed out on E. Wall St. due to a lightning strike. Electric service was reconnected to service at the 200 block of Cherry St. Repair on electric service was done on the flashing light at Dover.

For the Water Utility, there was a chlorine leak on a vacuum of a CL2 tanks and Precision Control Systems came in to repair the water tower communication.

The Sewer Utility performed maintenance on Wells lift station and did a check on flouts, lift pumps as well as check all electrical connections. Two dead trees were cut down next to the sewer plant.

Miscellaneous work done with the Utilities was repairing a fuel leak on the line truck, oil change on the service truck, backhoe was serviced, mowing and spraying, meters read and water samples/maintenance.

Mr. Reed presented two quotes for Sewer plant samplings, Astbury and UMAC. UMAC is a reputable company with small towns that was lower in price and Mr. Reed would be the Operator in charge handling all paperwork and ordering all chemicals.

Lastly, Mr. Reed presented additional repairs were needed on the sewer plant generator and the mobile generator. The sewer plant generator is in rough shape and the water tower generator needed repairs as well.

Councilman Caldwell questioned if these were necessary repairs and Mr. Reed stated they were due to being in weather conditions all the time. President Johnson questioned if these repairs were part of the maintenance agreement that were signed and Mr. Reed confirmed they were.

Councilman Thompson questioned the cost and Mr. Reed stated the total was approximately \$2100 to fix all three, but also stated charges should come in less than that. Councilman Caldwell questioned if the Town had money to cover the repairs and Clerk-Treasurer Johnson asked if these charges would come out of water and sewer and that both funds were in the negative. Mr. Reed also stated the transfer switch at the sewer plant would need to be switched out but that it could be done manually.

Councilman Thompson questioned the Clerk if there were funds and she reiterated that both funds are in the negative and will be that way until revenues can be recouped but that funds are in the bank, and the appropriations are in the negative.

Mr. Reed stated he would like to fix the mobile generator as it is gas powered and not diesel as they are not diesel mechanics.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve appropriations for \$2198.27 to W.W. Williams to repair two of the generators. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Reed stated that Astbury agreed to stay on until September 1, 2106. President Johnson reviewed the scope of work for the testing was the same for both companies and questioned what Mr. Reed knew of UMAC. Mr. Reed stated that Troy used to be the Superintendent of Bainbridge and decided to start his own company and Jamestown utilized them. President Johnson asked what Mr. Reed's recommendation would be? Mr. Reed stated as Astbury is a bigger company the Town could purchase used equipment cheaper and the Town still has a good relationship with them, if we ever needed to utilize their services in the future.

Astbury was \$950 a month and could offer chemicals cheaper because they are a larger company. UMAC's quote was \$750 a month. Mr. Reed and Mr. Shelton both agreed UMAC was reputable.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to change our service for the sewer to UMAC. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

President Johnson stated we would need a new agreement for the Council to sign.

Councilman Caldwell stated the fire dept. asked the sheriff's department to come to the Labor Day Festival and participate in water ball.

Fire

Michelle Reed from the AVFD noted the Fire Department had 10 EMS runs, 4 MVAs, 1 fire and 1 alarm.

Park

No one in attendance. Councilman Caldwell stated Mr. Prage was out of town on a family emergency.

Claims

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to accept the claims through August 8, 2016. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rate Study will be presented at the September meeting by Pat Callahan.

Councilman Thompson needs an updated version of the Employee Handbook to make changes. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated she would see if she had an electronic copy.

NEW BUSINESS

John Harrison of 5465 S. SR 75 was requesting to tap into the Town's sewer system.

Mr. Reed stated he had spoken with Mr. Harrison about the sewer hookup and their system can be hooked up to the south stub and we are not at hydraulic capacity and had no withholdings.

Mr. Harrison stated he and his wife Lindsey had purchased the wedding barn and was having difficulty getting septic put in and he had spoken with Mr. Reed about tying into the Town's septic system if the Council approved and pay a monthly sewer fee. Clerk-Treasurer Johnson stated she had had difficulty in locating the tap fee and had calls into Gary Ladd and Pat Callahan.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve the septic tie in of 5475 S. SR 75 pending the tap fees. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion reopened about the tap fee. Mr. Reed stated Mr. Harrison had a "mini" lift station and holding tank that could be connected to the south stud and Mr. Harrison was incurring all that cost. Councilman Thompson had discussion that was inaudible.

President Johnson opened the floor to the public for any further discussions.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:20. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

X 

Clerk/Treasurer

X 

President