

TOWN OF ADVANCE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: ADVANCE TOWN HALL

July 13, 2020

7:00 PM

112 N. Main – P. O. Box 67 Advance, IN 46102 Phone: (765) 676-6611 – Fax (765) 676-6696

Email: advanceCT@townofadvance.com

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

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Marshal: Brad Thomas

Attendees: Council Members: Matt Johnson, Dale Thompson and Jim Caldwell

Marshal: Brad Thomas

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Others in attendance: Jeff Hopper, Keith Cromwell, Dan Bewley, Dirk Garriott (IMPA), Ed Charleton, and Ryan Wiltermood

Councilman Caldwell called to order the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rules of Order were read by CT Johnson

President Fry contacted the Council right before beginnings of the meeting. Her family was awaiting COVID results from a potential exposure and could not attend.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting. Johnson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Thompson approved the Special Meeting Minutes from June 29, 2020. Councilman Johnson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$114,468.58. Councilman Johnson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Caldwell presented Dirk Garriott with IMPA to discuss AMI Meters

Mr. Garriott discussed AMI, and the benefits would be extended to Town. The central meter reading system was presented as saving labor costs and the meters could be read from office,

no more emergency calls and notification would happen if meters were tampered with. Other benefits presented were line loss savings and compatibility with water meters.

CT presented that the hours Deputy Kellogg spent per month to read meters and do rechecks at an average of nine hours, was \$130.14/month. The system would take 45 years to pay for what the town does. Councilman Caldwell stated line loss would recoup the cost.

CT questioned ERT meters and staff training. Mr. Garriott stated altogether should take a month for all and training would be on-going. CT questioned if Cyber would conflict with system and Mr. Garriott advised no, and Keystone software was compatible as well. How would installation with the billing cycle in the office.

Councilman Caldwell stated there would be a large cost upfront but would save money in the long run.

Councilman Johnson questioned what towns were on board with this system and Mr. Garriott advised some of towns were Greenfield, Tipton, Frankton and Coatesville.

Discussion with meter compatibility resumed such as meters not reading due to environmental issues such as rain.

Discussion ensued. Councilman Caldwell asked for a motion. Councilman Johnson stated he thought President Fry should consider and weigh in and Councilman Thompson concurred.

Police – Marshal Thomas:

Marshal Thomas advised there was a spike in runs for June at 21. Runs included drugs, dogs, complaints, juvenile issues in park. Discussion about more cameras in park ensued and kids sneaking out to go to the park in the middle of the night.

Code Enforcement – M. Thomas advised back in February, he had discussed purchasing a grill for \$610.00 to raffle for those who have cleaned up their properties. He stated now that restrictions were lifted (COVID), he wanted to do that. Tickets would be earned: 1) if property was clean 2) 1-3 for cleanup and 3) if you helped your neighbor you'd get a ticket. He stated it was a top-of-the-notch smoker and would throw in steaks from his Jawbone restaurant. He claimed he didn't have to purchase an AED because one was donated he wanted to use the donation fund money to get the grill. He requested to set the grill in the CT's lobby so residents could see it. She concurred.

CT Johnson stated the condemned properties had letters sent to property owners by the Health Department. She stated legal counsel advised since the Health Department has started this process and the town would need to let them move forward with the process.

Discussion ensued. M. Thomas questioned when buildings were torn down, what code was used. Councilman Caldwell advised town code.

M. Thomas stated that legal counsel advised at a prior meeting no ad needed to be run for reserves. He advised he has a prospective reserve. Councilman Johnson questioned whether a

background check had been done for the sheriff's department and it was determined per police policy would need to do a new check.

Discussion of Whitestown selling another Tahoe to the town for \$35.00 ensued. M. Thomas advised he wanted a total of 5 reserves, discussed those he wanted to bring on, and their qualification.

Councilman Thompson made a motion for M. Thomas to purchase a grill for \$610.00. Councilman Johnson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Johnson questioned the timeframe for the raffle. M. Thomas stated 30 days. He stated some properties would take longer than 30 days.

C. Johnson stated he had sent an email to the Council on May 1st, wanting to discuss issues with the police department and had no reply from the rest of the Council and even requested an executive session. The previous week there was chatter on Facebook. C. Johnson spoke with M. Thomas about the issues. Councilman Johnson stated that since the Council would discuss the issues at a Council meeting.

C. Caldwell stated that when his dad was the marshal, there were complaints on speeders and that there was only one person working. He stated the marshal would determine when everyone would work and he was hiring more help.

M. Thomas stated he has been more in the neighborhood and not on 75. C. Johnson stated that he never stated he should patrol on 75 that the marshal was parked on 75 and that his truck could be seen in 1 of 3 places. M. Thomas stated that C. Johnson stated he should be in neighborhoods more, and not on 75. C. Johnson stated that was not in his email.

C. Johnson stated when he was hired 3 years prior he had expectations set. M. Thomas stated that he was told to work split shifts and C. Johnson stated he did not recall that.

Next, M. Thomas stated that when the stipends were set by the Council that \$500.00 would be enough for insurance if taxes weren't taken out. CT Johnson stated that was researched it prior to being initiated and that she can research meeting minutes to confirm. M. Thomas stated he had never complained about it.

C. Johnson stated that he presented facts and the expectations that the marshal should be doing. M. Thomas stated he saved the town money by "returning" \$24,000.00 to the General Fund. He also stated that C. Johnson didn't "have his back." C. Johnson stated that he told residents to attend meetings if there were issues and that was all he has ever stated.

C. Johnson stated that he sees issues and questioned C. Caldwell if he had issues. C. Johnson stated when he met with M. Thomas that M. Thomas stated 'he would not enforce code because he didn't think that they were enforceable.' M. Thomas stated he had "issues" with it. C. Johnson stated that the police truck was used for his personal business and the handbook explicitly states it was not to be used for personal business especially for a person business. C. Johnson stated that he requested the CT to pull records of gas consumption for the past several

years, and the most consumption to date was done by M. Thomas and he is the only person on the police force.

C. Caldwell stated that C. Johnson needed to stop and it was a debate. C. Johnson stated that there was no other way to get his voice heard and that he had emailed, called and texted and requested C. Caldwell to discuss these issues with him and he wouldn't.

C. Caldwell stated that Code Enforcement wasn't done equally. C. Caldwell stated that if they saw an issue it they asked legal counsel and letters needed to be written and they were never written. C. Caldwell stated that M. Thomas was code enforcer and he should do it. C. Johnson stated he discussed this with M. Thomas and the marshal stated that the code was unenforceable. M. Thomas stated that it was discussed doing junk cars and weeds. C. Johnson stated M. Thomas wanted to do things systematically one at a time and never stated that was all he was doing. C. Caldwell stated that animal code was discussed with Hannah at the sheriff's office. C. Caldwell stated M. Thomas should enforce all the codes. C. Johnson stated that he should do that but when he spoke to M. Thomas he said he wasn't going to do it because the codes weren't "enforceable" because of the legality of it. M. Thomas said he was "concerned," and not that he wouldn't do it. C. Caldwell questioned fine and fees and codification recommendations would be complete, and CT Johnson stated that her goal was to present fees at the next council meeting. C. Caldwell stated that code would then be perfect and CT said not perfect, but "better. CT also stated that all the fine and fees would be on one page to make updates easier and save the town money.

M. Thomas stated he should wait for the codification changes should be done. C. Johnson stated that the town had been waiting for 3 years for this to be done.

C. Johnson questioned C. Caldwell if there were issues with the department. C. Caldwell stated that there were no serious issues but they need to be fixed. C. Caldwell stated that all code issues and things written should be done by the marshal and that every time the rules change (this person is to write letters and that person is to write letters). C. Johnson stated every time the town was trying to help M. Thomas. C. Caldwell stated that the marshal was to write the letters. C. Johnson questioned the marshal how soon this could be done and stated he and President Fry drove through the town and identified issues in an hour and a half. M. Thomas stated he delivered the general letters that President Fry wrote to homes and that he didn't see issues with the homes. CT Johnson stated that letters were written and they were generic letters stating that the Council would be enforcing code and take advantage of heavy trash day. She stated that her office did hear from many people and her office had a list of violations that would need to be updated.

Utility discussion ensued.

C. Caldwell stated that M. Thomas would do code enforcement, do background checks on reserves and do his best to catch as many speeders as he could. That's all he can do.

C. Johnson questioned C. Thompson the use of the town police vehicle. C. Caldwell stated questioned what the handbook stated. M. Thomas stated he did use the police vehicle when

shouldn't and that Advance policy was different than any other police department he had worked for and he forgot which policy he was under. C. Johnson read the town handbook, and that "employees may not use vehicles for outside employment unless the purpose of the job relates to town purposes." C. Caldwell stated that if M. Thomas was getting the truck washed or attending training, then that was appropriate. C. Johnson stated that delivering food to a funeral service, and having trash to dump from his business is not town business. C. Thompson stated C. Johnson was nit-picking. Heated discussion began.

CT Johnson interjected and stated that C. Johnson was not nit-picking and that her office had many complaints. She also stated that in a three month period, approximately 9000 miles was put on the car. She also stated that at a meeting the prior year, M. Thomas was advised not to use the police car for personal use and the next day the truck was parked in front of her car at Kohls. CT stated M. Thomas's daughter stated he was buying shoes for work. CT advised she never got a receipt and if the shoes were for work it was part of his uniform and that to get an accurate picture of his budget spending the receipt should have been turned in for reimbursement. CT stated that no one would come to the meetings and complain because he was "too nice."

C. Johnson stated that the other Council members didn't think there was a problem so he officially resigned and walked out. Councilman Caldwell stated "ok, guess we need another council member." CT stated just not a fireman, because then county would have to approve the town's budget. CT also advised that the meeting was over at that point and no items could be voted on because there was not a quorum.

Council stated CTs report could be presented and adjustments would need to wait until the next month.

Clerk-Treasurer – Shari Johnson:

CT presented the Fund report from when she began in 2015. At the end of that year total in the bank was \$134,190.09. She proudly read that today in the bank the town's revenues were \$928,888.31 due to her and the Council's efforts. No comments were presented on the fund or appropriation reports. Internal Controls are about done. Codifications will be worked on to present and adopt in September.

Delinquent utility totals and waved late fees. AIM and IMPA are advocating for municipalities to use CARES Act funds to assist utilities. IHEDA released funds for rent and mortgage payments. She advised that recommendations will need to be made by the Council when the restrictions become lifted. She also advised that her office has sent many notices to residents about available assistance.

Discussion ensued. Discussion ensued about groundhogs at the sewer plant.

Dan Jervis with ISC, asked for garage door openers and A/C at the Utility Building and we could get the garage door openers but IMPA would have to pay for A/C.

Discussion ensued regarding the sinking trash fund, flat rate charges for the utilities and a sliding scale for renter deposits.

Discussion of the gravel lot uses was presented.

A leak was discussed and the punch list items not covered by Calumet.

Dan Bewley with the park discussed the driver's stand still needed to be constructed.

UMAC – No report presented

Hopper Excavating- No report presented

IMPA/ISC – No report presented

IMPA Commissioner's Report – Councilman Caldwell: No report presented

Park – No report presented

The Eagle Scout project of the cement pad is almost complete, thanks to Dillon Petro. Water was turned on, restrooms cleaned and weeds sprayed.

Fire – Jim Caldwell: No report was presented

Old Business: Nothing presented

New Business: Nothing presented

Billing Disputes:

None requested.

Request to Speak:


Ed Charleton from WAM advised that programs were cancelled due to COVID and program was awaiting State Board of Health and State Board of Education recommendations and decisions would be made month to month. Food distributions would continue every other Wednesday.

The building is awaiting the contractor to complete. And a floor jack is pending with the building and a key pad for access is needed. CT advised that the town had toilet paper and paper towels for WAMs Wednesday giveaways.

No motion was made to adjourn as there was no quorum.

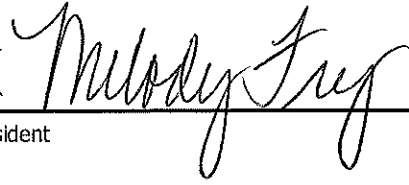
X

Clerk Treasurer



X

President



The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2020 at (19:00) 7:00 p.m. at the Advance Volunteer Fire Department, 106 E. Wall St., Advance, IN.