



WHITESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2017

Minutes

1. OPENING THE MEETING

- A. Call to Order – Eric called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- B. Roll Call – Clinton absent
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Boone EDC – **Kim Heffner** talked about two small businesses receiving funds to help with space improvements. FOX 59 came out to cover the Ice Rink the Parks had in the parking lot. **Kevin** asked about how the micro loans work. **Kim** talked about how it is a revolving loan.
- B. Community Project – **Dax Norton** and **Nathan Messer** – **Dax** said it was about a year ago when **Nathan** came to him when a partner approached him with an idea for a community project. It would be a public/private partnership. **Nathan** said there is a medical office building there, an aquatics facility, baseball fields, basketball courts, etc. The CBB is also interested as it adds convention space to Boone County. A lot of it is still in the early concept stage, but there will be studies to see what is needed. **Kevin** said he has heard a lot from his community and the vast majority of them are very excited to see this project happen. **Dax** said the **Maurer** family have been excellent partners in this project. **Susan m/m to authorize Dax, with legal, to proceed with the process of acquisition for this property, Kevin 2nd, Dax asked if they could also add Nathan in case Dax is unavailable – Susan “so amended”; Kevin 2nd; 4-0 adopted.**

Kevin m/m to add the Lebanon Fire Town to New Business as Item K, Susan 2nd, 4-0 adopted.

3. CLERK TREASURER REPORT

- A. **Town Management Report | WMU Management Reports (Sewer/Water) ****

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS – DPW (Street, WMU, Water Monitoring), Planning and

Community Development, Police (Operations, Drugs Report), Fire ** - Kevin said he would like to thank all town employees for their work this year, Parks, and everyone involved in the Santa Parade. **Susan and Eric thanked everyone for their help and reiterated their appreciation of the Parade.**

5. **PUBLIC REQUEST TO SPEAK** (Topics Not Related to an Agenda Item) - none

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Consider an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2016-46 (2017 Salary Ordinance) (**Ordinance 2017-43, First Read**) – **Susan** said they did not anticipate our Fire Department being called up for the task forces to go to Texas and Puerto Rico. **Susan** asked if legal would make the change to the Fire Chief’s supplemental authorization to \$19,724.49 and the Deputy Fire Chief to be \$11,488.19. **Susan did the first read. Susan m/m to suspend the rules to have 2nd read, Kevin 2nd, 4-0 suspended. Susan did 2nd read and m/m to adopt, Kevin 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- B. Consider an Ordinance Establishing Wages and Salaries for 2017 (**Ordinance 2017-44, First Read**) – **Susan did first read. Susan m/m to suspend rules for 2nd read. Kevin** said he would prefer to not suspend the rules at the time. He requested **Dax** clarify why the salary matrixes do not match. **Dax** said it was partially due to the fact that some departments were created, and the salaries associated were moved around. **Steve said he would have Kevin make a motion to amend 2017-44 to include the current 2017 salary ordinance. Kevin m/m to amend 2017-44 to include the current 2017 salary matrix – Susan 2nd, 4-0 approved. Susan m/m to suspend the rules, to allow the second reading, Eric 2nd; 4-0 suspended. Susan did 2nd read. Susan m/m to adopt, Kevin 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- C. Consider an Ordinance Approving a Transfer of Appropriation (**Ordinance 2017-45, First Read**) – **Susan did first read. Susan m/m to suspend the rules for a 2nd read, Kevin 2nd, 4-0 suspended. Susan did 2nd read, and m/m to adopt, Kevin 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- D. Consider a Resolution Approving Execution of Equipment Lease Documents (Police Vehicles and Equipment) (**Resolution 2017-32**) – **Susan** said this came from the Police Commission with unanimous support to request the Council to adopt. **Susan read the resolution and m/m to adopt, Eric 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- E. Consider approval of 2017 Encumbered Funds – **Dax** said he doesn’t think there are any surprises when it comes to this list, and this is not something which is necessary, but something we do for transparency. **Kevin m/m to approve the list and include the fire department funds, Susan 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**

- F. Consider an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with INDOT (I-65 Interchange at County Road 550 South) – **Dax** said there is land to the east which would bring in a lot of assessed value. We would pledge to help INDOT with a not-to-exceed \$10 million *if* development happens at the interchange. **Kevin m/m for Eric and Dax to sign the documents required for this MOU, Susan 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- G. Considering Acceptance of a Land Donation (Morning Dove Property in Allpoints Anson) – **Nathan** said Morning Dove would like to give this land to the town, as they would not be using it as planned. **Kevin m/m for Dax and his designee(s) to sign any documents to accept this land donation pending any deed restriction negotiations that need to be worked out, Susan 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- H. Consider Approval of Land Purchase (\$45,000 – Spaulding Property for the Extension of the Big 4 Trail South) – **Nathan** said this is ALMOST the last piece, but this is the biggest piece. The design needs to be finished to see how much would be needed to get the last piece of property. **Susan m/m to authorize Dax and his designees to proceed with his purchase of the land, The Spaulding Property for the extension of the Big 4 Trail south, NTE \$45,000, Eric 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- I. Consider Amendment #2 To Town Manager’s Contract – **Susan m/m to authorize the Town Council President to execute the 2nd amendment to the employment agreement for Dax Norton, Kevin 2nd; 4-0 adopted.**
- J. Consider Approval of the Town Calendar of Meetings – **Kevin** asked about having all meetings after the Council meeting in January. **Dax** said it would have been nearly impossible to move that meeting. **Jeff** wanted clarification on the Aug 8th meeting and the meeting in December is on the 3rd Wednesday. **Dax** said the 3rd Wednesday is correct, as we typically meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in December for year-end. **Susan m/m to adopt, Jeff 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**
- K. Consider the Lebanon Fire Tower – **Chief Westrich** said this stems from discussions from the Fire Board and the Council, and the best way to get this done was for an interlocal agreement for a \$3,000 annual fee paid to Lebanon to help cover maintenance costs. The agreement is for four years and can be terminated at any time. **Susan m/m to authorize the Town Council President to execute the interlocal agreement between the City of Lebanon and the Town of Whitestown regarding the maintenance and use of the fire training tower for an annual amount not-to-exceed \$3,000; Kevin 2nd, 4-0 adopted.**

Susan m/m to add item L for the Fire Chief’s bonus and an additional discretionary merit for some of his staff, Eric 2nd, Kevin asked about getting bonuses to the Police Chief. **Susan** said there was not a motion for that coming out of the Police Commission. **Kevin** asked what the vote was, **Susan** said it was 2 for 2 against and

one was a no-show to the meeting. Kevin asked how Susan voted. She said she abstained from voting, by extension, no. Kevin asked why, and Susan said it was no longer a part of the contract. The vote was 3-1, Kevin is voting no until the Police Chief is considered. 3-1 passed to amend the agenda.

- L. Discussion of the Fire Chief's bonus and other merit payments – Susan shared what came from Councilman Bohm, from his seat on the Fire Board, the unanimous recommendation from the Fire Board was to provide an additional payment of 5% to the Chief's base salary to be paid out by the end of the year, the Fire Board voted for an additional 5% to four of the Division Chiefs. Susan m/m the Council approve the bonuses, Eric 2nd; 4-0 adopted.

Kevin m/m to add discussion for the Police Chief's bonus, Jeff 2nd, Eric asked what the Police Board's vote was, Susan re-iterated the vote of 2 YAYS and 2 abstained. Jeff asked if this would be the first year Chief Anderson would not receive a bonus, Kevin said it would not be. Jeff asked if there was any information as to why there was no bonus given. Susan said the vote was made in the Police Commission and the members would have to give their reasons. Kevin asked if the Chief met his goals, Chief Anderson responded in the affirmative. Susan said there is nothing in his contract that he gets a discretionary merit bonus any longer. Susan said she was not against a bonus, but no additional amount was made in the meeting (Police Commission). Eric asked what amount was discussed, Susan said 5%. Jeff asked when the last time the Chief's contract was reviewed about the Chief's bonus. Susan and Steve said it was in 2013. Susan said that Chief's contract has an automatic 3% increase. 4-0 adopted to add as letter M to the agenda.

- M. Discussion for the Police Chief's Bonus – Eric said the Town Manager did not have an automatic increase or a bonus; Kevin said the Town Manager salary range went up \$13,000 in the Ordinance passed earlier tonight. Eric said that is not his salary, but a maximum he could make. Kevin said he understood that. Kevin m/m to give the Police Chief a 5% bonus, Jeff 2nd, Eric asked for a roll call vote; Kevin – Aye, Eric – No, Susan – No, Jeff – Aye, Matt – Aye, motion passed 3-2 (Clerk-Treasure voted to break tie).

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORT – The median from Main Street to Veterans Drive, when they took the stone out and it rained, it did not drain at all. In that stretch, the ground was concrete stabilized by the State, when it was SR 334. Holes will be bored there so it can drain. This project will linger until March or April due to weather issues, etc. People are getting natural gas in legacy core. Dax gave an update about the food and beverage tax issue, and we are trying to get clarification from the State.

11. ADJOURN – Susan m/m to adjourn, Jeff 2nd, 4-0 adjourned at 8:12pm

The minutes from a Regular Town Council meeting on December 20th, 2017 are approved on the 10th day of January 2018 by the following Town Council Members:

Eric Miller, President

Susan Austin

Clinton Bohm

Jeff Wishek

Kevin Russell

Attest:

Matthew Sumner, Clerk-Treasurer