

July 18, 2017

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana.

Council President, Warren Schacht, led us with the Pledge of Allegiance via conference.

Minutes Mrs. Heath did state that her last name was spelt incorrectly (auto correct). Correction will be made. A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to approve the meeting minutes from JUNE 2017 as written; motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman, and was then unanimously carried.

Approval Of Fund Administrative Assistant, Rhea Bruder reporting for Ms. Denham as she is out. Mrs. Bruder explained that the reports may look different; this is because we have switched systems with Boyce. Our current software was no longer going to be updated therefore the switch was inevitable. The new system will still be supported by Boyce/Keystone and is called Key Fund. Key Fund will interface with Capitol Assets as well. This was discussed during the last quarter of 2016 and approved by council. A motion was made by Mrs. Heath, accept the JUNE 2017 Fund report; the motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was then unanimously carried.

Approval of Claims Mr. Studtman asked about the Bobcat repair bill, Mr. Bruder responded by saying that it needed some repairs done. A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to pay bills in the amount of \$ 50,713.61(FIFTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTEEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY ONE CENTS) the motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was then unanimously carried.

Correspondence: NONE

Department Reports:

MS4: Kate Doyle in attendance.

- Rick Brown reported that there is a carpet cleaning business located at 204 Johnson Road. The complaint was that one of the employees was dumping dirty water into the storm drains. The owner of the company was fined \$500.00 and told this cannot happen again. Mr. Brown handled this very professionally, and will forward necessary paperwork to Ms. Denham.
- Two new rule projects: LaPorte High School is building a new Star Bucks and a tear down of the old auditorium and a new one going in.
- There were 109 site inspections.

Mr. Silcox asked about house waste going into the drainage system. Ms. Doyle responded by saying the only way that could happen is through the sump pump. Mr. Silcox, to get the address, so that this can be looked at by the MS4 Program.

A short discussion was had involving the council president and the engineer regarding that sump pump water (ground water) can be discharged as long as it is open.

Attorney: Mr. Herrbach in attendance.

- Changes in legislation that affects our town.
 1. No requirement as to how many times to publicly read an ordinance to pass it. However, if you pass on the first reading you have to have a unanimous vote also it will take 2/3 of the board to approve (4 out of 5) If approved on the second reading then you must have 3 out of 5 to be approved. To pass an ordinance it must be done in a two vote process.
 2. Employee Handbook: In speaking with the Marshal, he may want to have a special meeting to make changes to the police department. Mr. Studtman, asked if the advisory board should be involved. The Marshal explained that he would go through Mr. Warren Schacht, Police Liaison first, since he is his direct contact first, and then go from there.
 3. Zoning Board Meeting Cancelled: Regarding the old Abraham property, on Welnetz road, no petitions were submitted nor any requests. He contacted the property owners explaining the process and the owners will do that. Need to have a planning meeting to look at the subdivision ordinances. He explained there is another property at 2104 Welnetz Road, the owners are interested in finding out if the extra lots are buildable. Mr. Herrbach indicated that they have not filed anything with the zoning board therefore the meeting has been cancelled.

Engineer: Mr. Doyle in attendance.

- Detailed Cost Estimate: Mr. Doyle indicated that he prepared a detailed cost estimate for the Cross Match Grant Program. Grant recipients will find out if the grant was awarded at the end of August 2017. If we receive funds, this project may have to wait until next year due to time constraints.
- Water lines in Evergreen Plaza: All main lines have been put in. The western two buildings are hooked up to the new line, the eastern two buildings and Pritz and Hamstra are not as they are still testing lines, should be done by the end of next week. This will allow for the relocation of electrical lines. Also, from city side the signs have been taken done and should be put back up in the next couple of months.

Street Department: Mr. Jeff Bruder in attendance.

- 132 Sarah Jo: Property has been cleaned up, secured and an invoice has been sent to the property owners, invoice is due on August 06, 2017.If invoice goes

unpaid then it will be turned over to attorney. Water was not emptied due to cost to dispose of water. However, water was treated, and will be treated again.

- Generator Project: Concrete has been poured, Nipsco will need to inspect. However, Tuesday there will be no power at the town hall. A generator is in place for the police department. Ms. Bruder, Assistant will post this to social media so that our residents are aware.
- Mr. Schacht asked about a tree that could be dead at Nelson Park. Mr. Bruder indicated that it does need to come down; he will look into this cost.

NIRPC: No Report

Park Department: Liaison for the Park Board, Scott Silcox in attendance.

- Meeting July 11, 2017; need to appoint the new park board member: Jim Ganschow. Mr. Ganschow emailed Ms. Denham requesting to be on board. Mr. Herrbach indicated that council would need to approve. Ms. Bruder, Admin Assistant read aloud the request. (See new business for vote)
- Schedule another meeting for July 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
- Items discussed:
 1. Meet and Greet in the park with Marshal Department, Park Board, Elected Officials and Coolspring.
 2. Ideas for Pritz Park. The detail drawings were looked at. A lot of ideas regarding the start of this project.

Mr. Silcox indicated that we will meet and have more information to bring to you next month.

Building Inspector: Steve Thomas not in attendance. Mr. Schacht, asked Mr. Herrbach if there has been any information regarding the abandoned/vacant homes in Trail Creek. Mr. Herrbach indicated that the Marshal and Ms. Denham are compiling a list, at which point his office will write letters to these owners regarding the new building codes, coming into compliance and registering with the town. Mr. Studtman asked how much time are we allowing owners to bring homes to compliance. Mr. Herrbach stated it's a reasonable amount of time. MR. Schacht asked are there any houses that are safety issues. Marshal Dick stated that there are only a few. Mr. Herrbach stated this does not include vacant homes due to vacation.

Planning and Zoning: No Report

Police Department: Marshal Dick in attendance.

- Open House at Police Department: This will be scheduled next month.
- Network moved into new location; just need some items to make it look more comfortable.
- Radar Trailer; has been very effective. There is a lot of data that is compiled on this equipment. The trailer will be moved to Johnson Road tomorrow due to the level of complaints.
- Traffic Blitz on Highway 20: Our department was asked by Michigan City, LaPorte County and State Police to help in this blitz on June 26, 27 & 28. Trail

Creek Police Department did 30 man hours, conducted 74 stops, 7 citations and 66 warnings. All departments did 88 citations, 410 warnings.

Old Business:

- Franchise Fee Ordinance: Mr. Herrbach asks to table until next month.

New Business:

- 2004 Chevy Tahoe Sealed Bids: (3 Bids)
 1. Michael Stupeck: \$1,275.55
 2. Mark Quartuch: \$ 601.00
 3. Kip Piper: \$ 1,307.00

After a short discussion by council, a motion was made by Mr. Silcox to accept Kip Piper bid for \$1,307.00, motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman and was then unanimously carried.

- Letter of request for Park Board: A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to accept the appointment of Mr. Jim Ganschow to the park board; motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman and was then unanimously carried.

Public Comment: Ms. Jerrally Stark, 2109 Red Oak Drive wanted to say how nice the fireworks were this year. She thanked the police department for their efforts.


Clerk-Treasurer's Comment: Ms. Denham not in attendance, however Admin Assistant, Rhea Bruder in attendance with nothing to report.

Council Comment: Mr. Studtman and Marshal Dick met with Mr. Lance Payne regarding the parking of his boat at 104 Penny Lane. Mr. Payne is now in compliance on this issue.

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Studtman to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm; motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried.

APPROVED:


Warren Schacht, Council President
Jennifer Heath, Council Vice President

ATTEST: 
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer
August 15, 2017