

AUGUST 7, 2024

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Laura Rager	Matt Mize	Jennifer Hotchkiss	Maddy Shultz
Allen Miracle	Nate Birch	Shannon Carter	Eric Christiansen
Chalmer Tobias	Craig Walters	Chris Harrison	Marcie Coulter-Kern
Adam Penrod	Ryan Shock	Heather Cruz	Bob Sklar
Carrie Mugford	Cam Kissinger	Julie Garber	

Those absent: Jim Smith, Gary Montel. A quorum was attained.

The August meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana, on August 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Council. The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President Laura Rager, who presided.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 05/15/24 and 07/03/24 meetings were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Tobias/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Trash/Recycle Rate Increase, GO # 6, Third Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read general ordinance #6 by title only. Motion to approve GO#6 on third reading: Tobias/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Manchester Alive 2025 Request for Funding – Heather Cruz, Manchester Alive Executive Director, presented an annual request for funding. Cruz talked about the grand opening of The Coop, a small business incubator inside the Manchester Alive building. Second Fridays has been successful this season and looking forward to the parade this month. Councilmember Allen Miracle confirmed that this \$15,000 request is the same as last year.

2. Diversity Coalition Request for Funding – Julie Garber, Community Foundation of Wabash County, and McKenzie Coulter-Kern, Wabash County Diversity Coalition, presented an initial funding request for the Diversity Coalition. The coalition grew out of the Stellar Community project at the Wabash mayor’s request. Several business and education groups came together to create a mechanism to ensure the county is attractive to anyone who may want to live and work here. There is a modest budget to create outreach and educational opportunities and pay part-time staff. The request to the town is for \$10,000 this year. Coulter-Kern emphasized that the focus of the group is education, safety, and outreach; including, offering support to the dual language program at Manchester Elementary. There will be a festival on September 15 to welcome people into the community. Rager asked how long the group anticipates requesting funding. Coulter-Kern stated that the goal is to be self-sufficient in 3-5 years. Garber confirmed that the Community Foundation has a funding agreement with the coalition that will sunset in 5

years. Rager appreciates the work being done to create understanding and remove barriers. Coulter-Kern remarked that there is a bilingual Facebook page to get community news out to everyone. Rager suggested having bilingual blurbs on the website for important resources. This request will be taken under advisement and discussed at a later meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Police Dept. – Report included in packet. Police Chief Nate Birch reported that Officer Ray Houser has returned to the department. K9 Officer Rip graduated from K9 school and sworn in.

Fire Dept. – Report included in packet. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger reported that the Assistance to Firefighters grant still hasn't been awarded. Fireworks went off well with no incidents. Matt Ozenbaugh, Dan Renz and Chief Kissinger completed live fire instructor training in Wabash. They were the first to burn in the new live fire facility.

Building Commissioner – Report in packet.

Plan Commission – No meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No meeting.

Traffic Commission – No meeting.

Parks & Recreation – Report in packet. Park Director Jennifer Hotchkiss reported that last Friday was the last day of the 10-week summer day camp. Camp averaged 20+ kids per day and enjoyed great fieldtrips around town. During the school year the pools are closed from 1:30-3:30. At the July park board meeting, bids were opened for the new dehumidification system. Four bids were received and were very competitive. The bid will be awarded at the August meeting. The Wabash County Health Department grant was received and used to purchase PVC tot docks that will replace the metal ones. Hotchkiss is working with Hoffman's to get the landscaping done around the Mill Street pavilion. The Park Board commends the MRA board on a great job done this season and the tremendous fundraising efforts.

Town Life Center –

Tree Advisory – Report in packet

Grow Wabash County –

Redevelopment Commission –

MEDCOR – Did not meet.

Solid Waste – Minutes included in packet.

Storm Water Board – Town Manager Penrod stated that multiple catch basins are being replaced.

Public Works – Street Superintendent Craig Walters reported that most of last week was spent chipping brush from recent storms. The newest truck has been outfitted and arrived in town. Water Superintendent Ryan Shock reported that hydrant flushing will be done later this month.

Wastewater Superintendent Shannon Carter reported that an insert valve was installed live at the Sycamore lift station to facilitate repairs. This was a necessary fix that should have been done years ago.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Penrod reported that Gaunt & Son Asphalt completed the concrete work for Community Crossing Match Grant. Additional concrete, paving and lighting is also coming along at the pavilion. Guant should start milling and paving in the next few days.

The next application for Community Crossing Match Grant was submitted July 31. This round will be awarded in November. This is a smaller list than previous years due to declining MVH distributions.

Penrod is working with INDOT to coordinate the work on two bridges in town. The South Market Street bridge replacement will include water main repairs from a break this winter.

The regional Readi 2.0 application was submitted with local projects. Penrod will attend a zoom meeting to answer clarifying questions about the application.

The Lilly CCC grant awarded \$12,000,000 to Manchester University on Friday. This is a big win for the community. Thirteen universities were awarded funding. Now the hard work begins to spend the money within 5 years.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.

2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$910,647.48 and the Public Works docket totaling \$238,117.76 were submitted for payment. An additional claim was submitted for \$120. This invoice from the Indiana Department of Administration was originally sent in March to an email that is no longer active. Mugford requested it be added to the town docket. Motion to pay our obligations: Tobias/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Budget Schedule – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford reported that the budget has been entered into Gateway and is looking very good. The DLGF will be releasing information in the near future about income taxes for the coming year. The budget public hearing will be at the September 4 council meeting.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Bob Sklar, 116 W Main Street, asked if there would be any provisions added to the Republic Services contract for missed or delayed service. Sklar stated that trash was on the embankment behind downtown for 3 months. Sklar reported that the police department is not responding to reports of parking ordinance violations.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

The next council meeting is scheduled for September 4.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF N. MANCHESTER

Jim Smith, President

Laura Rager, Vice-President

Allen Miracle

Gary Montel

Chalmer Tobias

ATTEST

Carrie Mugford, Clerk-Treasurer