

January 5, 2022

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Allen Miracle (Virtual)	Adam Penrod	Cam Kissinger	Maddie Schultz
Jim Smith	Carrie Mugford	Craig Walters	Rob Burgess
Gary Montel	Matt Mize	Jeff Hersha	Kristin Amor
Laura Rager	Jim Kirk	Keith Gillenwater	Eric Lambert
Tom Dale	Dave McVicker		

Those absent: None. A quorum was attained.

The January meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W Main Street, on January 5, 2022, 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 Clerk-Treasurer, Carrie Mugford. Councilmember Allen Miracle was in attendance via Zoom. All votes were conducted by roll call.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford opened the floor for officer nominations. Motion to approve Jim Smith as council president for 2022: Montel/Dale. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against. Motion to approve Laura Rager as the council vice-president for 2022: Montel/Dale. Motion passes with 4 votes in favor and 1 vote against.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 12/15/21 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Rager/Montel. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Manchester University Street Closure Request – Town Manager Adam Penrod confirmed that Manchester University is in the process of deconstructing the former administration building. Amor Excavating has been hired to do the work and has placed construction fencing around the area. Manchester University is requesting the closure of College Avenue for the duration of the project from January to April. There will be large equipment and numerous dump trucks hauling material out every day and cars need to avoid the area. Kristin Amor was present to explain that the closure request has been modified to only include College Avenue from Bond Street to Ruse Street. The driving lanes to the dorms will be left open. Council President Jim Smith expressed his appreciation for the street closure request and asked how the closure will affect bus routes in the area. Penrod will contact the schools to ensure they are aware of the closure. Motion to approve the temporary closure of College Avenue: Rager/Montel. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

2. Grow Wabash County Update – Keith Gillenwater, President and CEO of Grow Wabash County, presented council with an update of activity in 2021. Grow Wabash County is organized with five pillars of service: workforce development, livability, investor services, entrepreneurship, and business development. Some of the highlights from 2021 include a \$10,000 donation toward the SACA program at MJSHS, \$311,000 in workforce training, \$85,000 in scholarships for adult training, hosted manufacturing job fair, and facilitated \$25 million in new investment in Wabash County. GWC is looking to connect local partner companies with adult education providers and continue programs for certifications. Smith asked if any Third House sessions have been scheduled yet with state legislators. Gillenwater stated that none have been scheduled yet, as he is waiting to see how the legislative session moves along. Gillenwater would like to review the fee for service agreement with North Manchester. There has not been an increase since 2015 pay 2016. Gillenwater explained that the numerous proposed projects for 2022 will cause additional costs. The suggested increase is \$4,000 per year, with the same percent increase being applied to Wabash City and Wabash County. Gillenwater will commit to not raising the fee for a few years. Smith thanked Gillenwater for the presentation and stated the council will take the request under advisement with further discussion at the February meeting.

3. Water Utility Excess Truck Bid Opening – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford stated that one bid was received at Town Hall on time. Town Attorney Matt Mize opened the bid for a 2004 Ford F150 no longer needed by the water department. The bid total was \$1,500. Mugford will contact the bidder and handle the paperwork.

4. Wastewater Utility Request for New Truck – Town Manager Penrod explained the request from Wastewater Superintendent Shannon Carter. Carter would like to replace the 2009 Chevy Silverado with 89,000 miles and several mechanical issues. Shepherd's Chevrolet is only offering \$4,000 trade in value. Carter would like to keep the old truck to use as a plow truck and not put a plow on a new truck. Carter solicited a quote from Shepherd's Chevrolet for a 2022 Chevy 2500HD work truck. The quoted price is \$36,085 which includes \$7,400 in bid assistance. Councilmember Laura Rager asked if the purchase should wait for a few months to see if the price goes down. Mugford noted that the bid assist keeps the price from fluctuating and the quoted price is consistent with quotes received by other departments. Attorney Mize commented that municipalities are receiving priority on truck orders so this is a favorable time to buy. Motion to purchase a new Chevy 2500HD for the wastewater department: Rager/Dale. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Appointments – Smith stated that Councilmember Allen Miracle has requested to be removed from the Redevelopment Commission. Smith recommends Councilmember Gary Montel to fill the position. Motion to approve: Rager/Dale. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against. Smith noted that Anne Myers has retired as the Town Life Center Administrator. The council wishes her well and appreciates her efforts in the community.

Police Dept. – Report Included

Fire Dept. – Report Included

Code Enforcement – Report Included

Plan Commission – Report Included

Board of Zoning Appeals – Report Included

Traffic Commission – Did not meet

Parks & Recreation – Report included in packet.

Town Life Center –

Tree Advisory – Did not meet

Grow Wabash County –

Redevelopment Commission – Did not meet.

MEDCOR – Did not meet.

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board – Nothing to report.

Public Works – Reports Included

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that the 2022 Community Crossing Matching Grant is due January 28. Penrod will be submitting projects worth approximately \$600,000.

The annual State of the County event is scheduled for February 17. Penrod will be submitting reservations by the end of the month.

The large pavilion planning group met at town hall. Design work is underway and they are getting an architect under contract.

One permit has been received from IDEM for the Chester Heights walking trail. Next the notice of intent will be published. Once the second permit is received the project can go out for bids.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.

2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$264,704.70 and the Public Works docket totaling \$209,755.60 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Rager/Dale. Motion passes with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes against.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Allen Miracle thanked the council, town manager, and clerk-treasurer for working with him the past two years. Miracle congratulated Smith and Rager on their new appointments and acknowledged the good things going right now. Smith stated his appreciation for Miracle's leadership the last two years and through the pandemic.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF N. MANCHESTER

Jim Smith, President

Laura Rager, Vice-President

Tom Dale

Allen Miracle

Gary Montel

ATTEST

Carrie Mugford, Clerk-Treasurer