

July 6, 2022

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Jim Smith	Matt Mize	Alex Downard	Eric Christiansen
Laura Rager	Craig Walters	David McManus	Maddie Shultz
Allen Miracle	Cam Kissinger	Tenille Zartman	Eric Lambert
Gary Montel	Dave McVicker	Julie Garber	Jerry Egolf
Adam Penrod	Ryan Shock	Nancy Alspaugh	Deb Chalk
Carrie Mugford			

Those absent: Tom Dale. A quorum was attained.

The July meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana, on July 6, 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 Council President Jim Smith, who presided.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 05/04/22 regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UPDATES

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Imagine One 85 Adoption Resolution, Resolution #4 – Town Manager Adam Penrod introduced Tenille Zartman and Julie Garber, representing Imagine One 85. Garber acknowledged that this process has taken two years and the adoption resolution before council tonight is the last step. Residents from all over the county have given input into the plan. Garber confirmed that after the adoption of resolution #4, the Imagine One 85 plan will become the new comprehensive plan of North Manchester replacing the 2015 town comprehensive plan. Zartman thanked all those involved in the process. Penrod explained that the resolution comes to council as a recommendation from plan commission. The North Manchester Plan Commission approved of the plan at a joint meeting of county plan commissions. Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read resolution #4 verbatim. Motion to approve: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously. Council President Jim Smith observed there have been a lot of people throughout the county involved in the work of creating this countywide comprehensive plan. Smith thanked everyone involved.

2. Water Softening Salt Bid Opening – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford stated that three salt bids were received at town hall on time. Bids were opened as follows:

Morton Salt: No Bid
Compass Minerals: \$99.58 per ton.
Cargill Salt: \$91.74 per ton.

The bids will be reviewed and taken under advisement. Penrod will bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

3. Center for History Request for Funding – Town Manager Penrod received a funding request from the Center for History for \$10,000, which is the same as last year's request. Nancy Alspaugh spoke on behalf of the North Manchester Historical Society and the Center for History. Alspaugh stated that four years on the board has made her realize that the Historical Society must become an involved member of the community. The Center for History has developed partnerships with Peabody Retirement Home, North Manchester Parks and Recreation, North Manchester Public Library, and Manchester Community Schools. These partnerships have brought lots of new people to the museum and lots of new educational opportunities. The Center for History has also collaborated with local vendors and artists. Alspaugh feels the efforts of the museum bring people into town and who then support other businesses. Alspaugh stated the Center for History wants to be contributing member of community and make a positive impact on quality of life. They can be so much more than just a museum of historical artifacts. They are looking for grants and other funding sources so they can continue to be part of the downtown landscape. Alspaugh asked council to consider continuing their support of the facility. Alspaugh expressed her appreciation for the staff and the board and all the volunteers that make the museum what it is. Smith thanked Alspaugh and stated the council would consider the request at the next meeting after it had time to look at all the information.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Police Dept. – Report Included.

Fire Dept. – Report Included. Fire Chief Cam Kissinger reported that the department has been on lots of runs this last month. The fire department will be conducting biannual physicals for all volunteers in the next month. Kissinger received lots of good comments on the annual 4th of July fireworks. The show was 29 minutes long. Smith expressed appreciation from the community for all the work that goes into the fireworks. Councilmember Allen Miracle asked about false alarm incidents at the University. Kissinger stated that the number of false alarms is going back up to more than normal. Miracle questioned the reason since the University is not in session. Kissinger reported that schools use the University to hold overnight camps for students and they are pulling the alarms. There is also an issue in the PERC building with a switch that needs replaced.

Building Commissioner – Nothing to report.

Plan Commission – Plan Commission met in Wabash on June 16 and approved the countywide comprehensive plan.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Report Included. Building Commissioner Dave McVicker reported that the BZA met on June 27 to consider 4 items. All items passed. The next meeting will include consideration for an extra-large accessory building. McVicker reported that high weed letters have decreased since the grass is dead.

Traffic Commission – Did not meet

Parks & Recreation – Report included in packet. Penrod reported that the dog park fence construction should be started soon. Council Vice-President Laura Rager noted that summer camp numbers are very healthy.

Town Life Center – Nothing to report

Tree Advisory – Minutes included in packet.

Grow Wabash County – Tennille Zartman reported that the Readi Grant released new guidance for those communities considering participating. Grow Wabash County is hosting a Japan summit on July 19. Companies with ties to Japan are welcome to attend and network. Grow Wabash County is working on a talent attraction initiative by exploring options for attracting talented young families to Wabash County. Next Level Jobs work ready grants program just launched its latest welding certification class and CNC certification will be starting soon. There will be a one-day sign language course held in a few weeks.

Redevelopment Commission – Penrod reported that the RDC met to hear about housing TIF options and discuss future opportunities.

MEDCOR – Did not meet.

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board – Penrod reported that Storm Water met and discussed the county Grossnickle ditch project. Ingraham Excavating is looking to start work on Friday or early next week. The work will begin at Beckley Street and move northwest towards the MRA.

Public Works – Reports Included.

Street Superintendent Craig Walters reported that the roadsides were mowed this week. The street department transported rocks from Fort Wayne Rocks to Ogan's Landing for the new canoe launch.

Water Superintendent Ryan Shock reported that one of two main pumps have stopped working and will be repaired. Shock recently finished up the Indiana Finance Authority required water audit. This report looks at unaccountable water and requires third party validation of the numbers.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Adam Penrod reported that the fall application round of Community Crossing Matching Grant opened July 1. The program is anticipated to have more money available this round. Penrod plans to reapply with the second project that was not awarded earlier this year.

Ogans Landing permanent canoe launch has been installed. Final grass seeding has been completed. People are already utilizing the refurbished launch.

Todd Knecht's crew will start work on the Chester Heights walking trail next Monday. It is scheduled to be done in 6-8 weeks.

Penrod and the utility department have been working on getting documents to Baker Tilly for the latest rate study. Baker Tilly is waiting on the final PER from Jones and Henry before completing the rate study.

Penrod reported that the council attended a tour at Strauss Veal Feeds. It was very interesting. Smith thanked Penrod for setting up tours of local businesses.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$840,284.43 and the Public Works docket totaling \$226,743.57 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Clint Bischoff. 244 N Main Street, Laketon. Bischoff does not agree with town money being used for a dog park and farmer's market. Bischoff feels money should be used for a communication tower and portable radios for emergency services. Bischoff remarked that there is a huge safety problem when radio traffic cuts out. The problem is real and is countywide.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 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