

APRIL 5, 2023

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Those present:

Jim Smith	Carrie Mugford	Craig Walters	Maddie Schultz
Laura Rager	Matt Mize	Ryan Shock	Eric Christiansen
Tom Dale	Cam Kissinger	Ray Houser	Virginia Cripe
Allen Miracle	Dave McVicker	Alex Downard	Sally Krouse
Gary Montel	Jennifer Hotchkiss		

Those absent: None. A quorum was attained.

The April meeting of the North Manchester Town Council was held at the Public Safety Building, 709 W. Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana, on April 5, 2023, 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 03/01/23 regular and 03/15/23 executive meetings were presented for approval. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

UPDATES

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ADA Accessible Parking Space Proposal at MU, GO#1, Third Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Carrie Mugford read general ordinance #1, 2023, by title only. Motion to approve on third reading: Rager/Dale. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, GO#2, Second Reading – President Jim Smith explained that this ordinance was passed on first reading at the last meeting. The ordinance was revised slightly so that the number sequence correlates with the existing codification. The content was not changed. Clerk-Treasurer Mugford read general ordinance #2, 2023, by title only. Motion to approve on second reading: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Building Code Revisions, GO#3, Second Reading – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford read general ordinance #3, 2023, by title only. Motion to approve on second reading: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wabash County Education Visioning Funding Request – President Smith explained that he and Councilmember Tom Dale are the town's representatives to the group. Smith and Dale are recommending supporting the work of the Wabash County Education Visioning Group with a contribution of \$10,000. The Group has a budget of \$65,000 to work with a research consultant. Other units of government are also contributing and all contributions will go through the

Community Foundation of Wabash County. Improving education in Wabash County is one of the highest priorities of the Imagine One 85 plan. Councilmember Allen Miracle asked what the group is hoping to accomplish. Sally Krouse, member, stated that the intention is to gather data and determine what parents in Wabash County want for the education of their children. Motion to approve the funding request: Dale/Rager. Motion passes unanimously. Krouse thanked the council for their support.

2. Resolution in Support of Driving Privilege Card, Resolution #3 – President Smith stated that this resolution is in support of future legislation concerning driving privilege cards. This is a general resolution in support of the concept. Councilmember Gary Montel asked what effect the legislation would have in North Manchester. Smith stated that proper training and insurance is required to obtain a driving privilege card which should result in less uninsured motorists and less hit and run accidents. Clerk-Treasurer Mugford read resolution #3, 2023, verbatim. Motion to approve resolution #3: Rager/Montel. Motion passes unanimously.

3. HF Group Tax Abatement Request, Resolution #2 – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford explained that HF Group has installed new manufacturing equipment and are seeking tax abatement. The request has been vetted by Keith Gillenwater of Grow Wabash County. Gillenwater provided a letter of support and recommends granting a ten-year abatement based on the amount of the investment and the retained jobs. Mugford read resolution #2, 2023, verbatim. Motion to approve the HF Group tax abatement request: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Traffic Ordinance Revision, Repeal No Parking, GO#4, First Reading – Councilmember Montel explained that Manchester University requested a repeal of the no parking area around the former administrative building on the east side of Bond Street between College Avenue and Miami Street and on College Avenue between Wayne Street and East Street. Montel stated that the Traffic Commission considered this request and recommends removing the no parking restrictions. Clerk-Treasurer Mugford read general ordinance #4 verbatim. Motion to approve GO#4, 2023, on first reading: Rager/Dale. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Traffic Ordinance Revision, Add Temporary Parking Locations, GO#5, First Reading – Councilmember Montel stated that Manchester University requested additional temporary parking spaces adjacent to Sister's Café. These two additional spots are to encourage community members to stop for refreshments at the university coffee shop. These are 10-minute parking spots. Montel stated that the Traffic Commission also considered this request and recommends adding the temporary parking as requested. Clerk-Treasurer Mugford read GO#5 verbatim. Motion to approve GO#5, 2023, on first reading: Rager/Dale. Motion passes unanimously. Councilmember Allen Miracle asked if the yellow markings on curbs can be evaluated and removed in coordination with the ordinance revisions. This request will be forwarded to the street department.

6. Arbor Day Proclamation – President Smith read the 2023 Arbor Day Proclamation and proclaimed April 28, 2023, as Arbor Day in North Manchester.

DEPARTMENTAL & COMMISSION REPORTS

Police Dept. – Report included in packet.

Fire Dept. – Fire Chief Cam Kissinger reported that SCBA and turn out gear have been ordered and now they are just waiting on everything to be delivered. The volunteer department is planning the annual pancake breakfast for September 23. Fireworks are scheduled for July 1 with a rain date of July 4 at Manchester High School. Manchester Underground will be doing the dirt work behind the station for the new building. Once that is complete, O&R Buildings will start construction on the new storage building.

Building Commissioner – Report in packet.

Plan Commission – No meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No meeting. A meeting is scheduled for April 24.

Traffic Commission –

Parks & Recreation – Report in packet. Park Director Jennifer Hotchkiss reported that spring break camp is going well this week. The annual Easter egg hunt will be Saturday morning in Warvel Park.

Town Life Center –

Tree Advisory – Report in packet

Grow Wabash County –

Redevelopment Commission – Clerk-Treasurer Mugford presented the annual report of RDC activity to the council. This report does not require any action, but must be presented to the legislative body. President Smith reported that the RDC continues to work on a new residential housing tax increment financing district.

MEDCOR –

Solid Waste – Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board –

Public Works – Water Superintendent Ryan Shock reported that the department has been busy preparing for water main replacement projects in conjunction with two bridge projects. Also pricing a water main replacement on Wabash Road. Street Superintendent Craig Walters reported that Gaunt and Son will be in town milling and paving later this month. This will complete the 2021 Community Crossing Match Grant projects. Spring clean-up starts May 1 on the east side of town and tox-away is May 6 at the street barn.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Mugford reported that the Grant Street project should be complete April 10. The South Mill Street pavilion concrete slab is poured. That project should be done by the end of the month except grass and seeding. The dog park fencing is complete. Now the locks and wifi and other amenities will be installed.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Financial Reports – Approved subject to audit.
2. Claims - The Town claim docket totaling \$604,587.14 and the Public Works docket totaling \$503,450.24 were submitted for payment. Motion to pay our obligations: Rager/Miracle. Motion passes unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 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