

**Albion Town Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:00 pm
Albion Municipal Building
211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN, 46701
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
(Meeting ID# 280137509)**

CALL TO ORDER: Town Council Vice-President Don Shultz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: Don Shultz, Vice-President
Zane Gray, Member
Abby Lindsey, Member
John Morr, Member

ABSENT: Vicki Jellison, President

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carol A. Selby, Clerk-Treasurer	David Thieme, Jr, Police Dept
Jacob Ihrie, Town Manager	Robert Amber, Fire Dept
J. Darrick Brinkerhoff, Attorney	Heather Presley-Cowen (Electronically)
Matt Getts, KPC Media	Ryan Chasey (Electronically)
Bob Durham, Ligtel	Josh Wentworth, Ligtel
John Strange, Ligtel	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the regular meeting on April 11, 2023 were approved. Motion by Morr, seconded by Gray, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council President Vicki Jellison had a prior commitment and was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Albion Dollar Tree/Family Dollar will have a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony May 8, 2023 at 8:00 am. Town officials are invited to attend. Condolences were extended to the City of Ligonier on the passing of Mayor Patty Fisel.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Housing Resource Hub – Heather Presley-Cowen and Ryan Chasey gave an overview of the scope of services their 501c3 agency provides. They assist communities with developing workforce housing projects. A sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was provided to council members prior to the meeting outlining the process which includes: site selection, establishing a steering committee, finalizing project plans and developing a public financing strategy, assembling a development team, creating and implementation of a media strategy for buyer/renter cultivation and resident/employer engagement, administration of zoning, variances, permits, and public approvals. The Housing Hub has assisted other communities including nearby Topeka and Wabash with housing projects. The MOU requires the Town to commit \$50,000 to help with the preliminary work, and would be refunded if the project goes forward. If the project does not come to fruition, the Housing Hub retains \$20,000 for their services. It's anticipated TIF funds would be used toward the project. The first step is to identify and secure a location. It was suggested two RDC members, along with two Council members serve on a committee to assist in securing a location prior to signing the MOU with the Housing Hub.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Dept – Fire Chief Robert Amber asked if there were questions on his monthly report. Amber reported repairs on the fire truck that received damage during a recent fire are nearly complete. Council voted to approve Biannual Volunteer Firefighter Pay in the amount of \$6,100.45. Motion by Gray, seconded by Morr, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Police Dept – Town Marshal Scott Cole had a prior commitment and was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Detective David Thieme, Jr was present to answer questions on the police department’s monthly report. There being no questions, Council proceeded to open sealed bids for disposal of the 2013 Dodge Charger. Two bids were received: Lucas Deck submitted the highest bid of \$6,000.00 and Mark Eash submitted a bid in the amount of \$4,277.00. It was noted the vehicle is being sold “as is.” Morr motioned to approve the highest bid from Lucas Deck in the amount of \$6,000.00, seconded by Gray, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Should the winning bidder decline to purchase the vehicle, Council gave permission for Cole to extend the offer to purchase to the remaining bidder, Mark Eash in the amount of \$4,277.00.

Town Manager – Council acknowledged receipt of the monthly report. Ihrie reported he plans to hold a Community & Economic Development Forum on May 25, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the AMB. The purpose of the informal gathering is to update members of the public on projects the town is focusing on, and to receive input from the public on what projects they would like to see. Representatives from **Ligtel Communications** were present to discuss the fiber optic Internet installation project currently underway. The project involves underground boring to install the necessary infrastructure to provide high speed Internet throughout Town. Concerns discussed included a lack of 24-hour notice to property owners prior to boring, the mess created during installation, placement of the infrastructure in front yards, the use of pedestal mounts rather than flush mount access points. Bob Durham, Ligtel said he will remedy the lack of notice to residents, and make sure areas get cleaned up. As far as the location of the boring, some maps used in laying out this project contained poorly defined easements. This resulted in boring at the front of some properties, rather than at the back of those properties. Durham said pedestal mounts were used from a financial standpoint. Some of those have been replaced with flush mounts. It was noted once installation is complete, residents will have access to some of the fastest affordable highspeed Internet available.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of items for disposal and Internet Auction Agreement with Biddergy.com

This item was tabled to allow a list of items to be finalized and reviewed by the Public Works committee.

2. Consideration of participating in 80/20 Matching Grant for Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Council expressed interest in learning more about this grant opportunity. Ihrie will get more details and revisit this matter at a future meeting.

3. Consideration of Compliance Forms (CF-1) for Tax Abatements

The Tax Abatement Committee (Council Vice-President Don Shultz, Councilmember Zane Gray, and Town Manager Jacob Ihrie) will review the CF-1 forms and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL VOUCHERS: Gray motioned to approve Accounts Payable & Payroll Vouchers as of April 20th and 25th, 2023. Lindsey seconded, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, attested by Carol A. Selby.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before Council in regular session, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. Motion by Gray, seconded by Lindsey, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on May 9 , 2023 at 6:00 pm, at the Albion Municipal Building, 211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN.

VICKI E. JELLISON, PRESIDENT

JOHN D. MORR, MEMBER

DONALD J. SHULTZ, VICE-PRESIDENT

ABIGAIL E. LINDSEY, MEMBER

ZANE M. GRAY, MEMBER

ATTEST: _____
CAROL A. SELBY, CLERK-TREASURER