

Albion Town Council
Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 6:00 pm
TELECONFERENCE via GoToMeeting
(Meeting ID# 280137509)
Albion Municipal Building
211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN, 46701

AS A RESULT OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S DECLARATION OF A GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, (aka CoVid-19) AND AS AUTHORIZED PER STATE OF INDIANA GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB, VIA EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-09, DATED 3/23/2020, "RELATING TO THE CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT, PAGE 2, ITEM 4 (A) "OPEN DOOR LAW," THE ALBION TOWN COUNCIL HELD THIS MEETING VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-08, DATED 3/23/2020, "DIRECTIVE FOR HOOSIERS TO STAY AT HOME," AND EXTENSIONS THEREOF.

CALL TO ORDER: Town Council President Vicki Jellison called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: Vicki Jellison, President (Present)
Don Shultz, Vice-President (Present)
Darold Smolinske, Member (Present)
Chris Magnuson, Member (Present)
John Morr, Member (Present)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carol A. Selby, Clerk-Treasurer	Scott Cole, Police Dept
Steve Clouse, Town Attorney	Bob Amber, Fire Dept
Matt Getts, KPC Media	Corey Miller, Street/Cemetery Depts
Jacob Ihrie & Family	Larry & Nancy Cooper
Scott Cole, Police Dept	Corey Miller, Interim Town Manager/Street
Casey Myers, Park/Cemetery Depts	Terry Forker, Water/Wastewater Dept
Diana Morr	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the regular meeting on July 27, 2021 were approved. Motion by Smolinske, seconded by Morr, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- New Town Manager Hire** – Jellison added this item under New Business.
- Courthouse Square Fountain** – The fountain is working again and a plan is in place for future maintenance of the fountain. Magnuson reported the costs associated with getting the fountain pump replaced were shared with the Albion Township Trustee and STAR Team. Future upkeep will be a collaborative effort, and includes the street department treating the fountain water to help prevent algae build up.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1. North Ridge Village Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility

Councilmember John Morr reported he, Lori Gagen and Gary Gatman, Noble County EDC, local resident Ralph Gibson, along with input from Town Marshal Scott Cole met and discussed the future of the recently closed nursing home facility located on Trail Ridge Road. They would like to see it continue as a nursing home and have tried making contact with the property owner, but no one has returned their calls. Larry and Nancy Cooper, whose property neighbors the facility, were present to voice their concerns about rumors the facility may be used as a drug rehab facility. Town Marshal Scott Cole, who also serves as Albion Plan Commission President said

the property is zoned R4, and presently operates the nursing rehabilitation facility under a Special Use Exemption. Once the facility closes, the Special Use expires, and would require petitioning the Board of Zoning Appeals to issue a new Special Use Exemption. Should that process be initiated, members of the public will be allowed to voice their concerns prior to the BZA making a decision. Morr said they are still trying to make contact with someone from the facility to find out what their plans are, and to see if town and/or Noble County EDC officials can assist with attracting a new owner for the facility.

2. E Hazel Street CCMG Project

Line locates are done, and demolition has started on sidewalks today.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Park/Cemetery Departments - Council acknowledged receipt of the department's monthly report. Superintendent Casey Myers reported the roof, gables, and soffit work on the maintenance building in Rose Hill Cemetery are finished. Plans are to work on the door and window next. The Splash Pad will close for the season on September 18, 2021 at 8:00 pm. Plans for the "Back 40" Wetland Project are underway, dirt work may begin yet this year. Myers will be attending the next RDC meeting to ask for monetary assistance with the project. The Park Board hosted a 2-hour meeting last night with several people in attendance for discussion on a proposed skate park. A not-for-profit group headed by John Estus is looking into fundraising options that won't interfere or compete with fundraising or grants for other town projects.

Street/Cemetery Departments - Council acknowledged receipt of the department's monthly report. Interim Town Manager/ Superintendent Corey Miller reported there were four burials last month. He reported the contractor hired to assist with streetlight pole replacement is behind due to weather and workload. Curb lines have been sprayed for weeds.

Water/Wastewater Departments - Council acknowledged receipt of the department's monthly report. Superintendent Terry Forker reported the water tower is back in operation with a few minor things to fix at the 13-month inspection. The antenna is scheduled to go back up soon. Peerless serviced the roof aerator at the water plant and installed a new control panel touch screen. Conversations with WET Environmental regarding the Ammonia Project are ongoing. The 15 hp power pump is installed and working. The dept has been spending time on the E Hazel Street CCMG Project installing water/wastewater service lines, cleanouts, etc. A new water service was installed at a new house on Trail Ridge Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Special Event Application - Right to Life of NE Indiana - March for Life - Sept 25th

Noting the required Certificate of Insurance and signed Indemnification has been received, Council voted to approve the Right to Life of Northeast Indiana Special Event Application for a March for Life event on September 25, 2021. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Shultz, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Town Manager Hire

The hiring committee, consisting of John Morr and Darold Smolinkse reported approximately 45 resumes were received, and three candidates were interviewed for the town manager position before both decided Jacob Ihrle was the best fit for the position. Ihrle was present for the meeting, along with wife Katelyn and daughter Juniper. While currently residing in Fort Wayne, both have ties to the Albion community, having grown up in Albion, and graduating from Central

Noble High School. Ihrle served in the Navy, earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs from Indiana University and earned a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University. Upon the recommendation of the Hiring committee Council voted to hire Jacob Ihrle as the new Town Manager effective August 23, 2021. Motion by Morr, seconded by Magnuson, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Council also voted to approve an employment contract with Ihrle effective August 23, 2021 – December 31, 2023, specifying an annual salary of \$59,000 and allotting 60 days for him to obtain ERC Certification (Employee in Responsible Charge). Motion by Morr, seconded by Smolinske, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

1. Special Event Application – Noble House Ministries – Color Run – Sept 25th

Council voted to approve the Noble House Ministries Special Event Application for a Color Run 5k/1 mile event on September 25, 2021. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Morr, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. The police dept will assist with traffic control for the event.

2. Approval of Cemetery Deed(s)

Council voted to approve the following Cemetery Deed. Motion made by Shultz, seconded by Morr, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. **Suzanne Pippenger – Section M, Lot 93, Graves 1, 2, 3**

Council voted to approve the following Cemetery Deed. Motion made by Magnuson, seconded by Smolinske, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. **Brian S. Stimpson – Section M, Lot 51, Grave 3**

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL VOUCHERS:

Shultz motioned to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Vouchers as of July 29, 2021 & August 10, 2021. Magnuson seconded, carried 5 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 6:50 pm. Motion by Morr, seconded by Shultz, carried 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on August 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm, at the Albion Municipal Building, 211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN. Should the Town continue to be under a public emergency, the option to join the meeting electronically will be available.

VICKI E. JELLISON, PRESIDENT

DONALD J. SHULTZ, VICE-PRESIDENT

CHRISTINA K. MAGNUSON, MEMBER

JOHN D. MORR, MEMBER

DAROLD R. SMOLINSKE, MEMBER

ATTEST: _____
CAROL A. SELBY, CLERK-TREASURER