

Albion Town Council
Tuesday, August 24, 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)

ABSENT: John Morr, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carol A. Selby, Clerk-Treasurer	Matt Getts, KPC Media
Jacob Ihrie, Town Manager	Scott Cole, Police Dept
Steve Clouse, Town Attorney	Bob Amber, Fire Dept
Mary Ann Troutner, STAR Team	Gary Gatman, NCEDC
Lori Gagen, NCEDC	Corey Miller, Street/Cemetery Depts
John & Melba Moorhouse, Pizza Depot	Jon Metzel, Parker Hannifin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the regular meeting on August 10, 2021 were approved. Motion by Smolinske, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council welcomed Jacob Ihrie as the new Town Manager and thanked town employees for helping in the interim. Council also appointed Ihrie to serve as the town's appointment to the Noble County Economic Development Corporation.

OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Dept – Council acknowledged receipt of the department's monthly report. Chief Amber reported the new truck is in a Kentucky facility waiting on a semi-conductor chip. An exact delivery date is not yet known. Amber requested permission to purchase a "command box" to be installed in the current pickup truck that will become the command vehicle. The slide out box will be used to organize response equipment and make it readily accessible. Council voted to approve the purchase from LI Proliner LLC in an amount not to exceed \$3,610 (\$3,125 + shipping). Motion made by Magnuson, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. LIT Public Safety funds will be used to cover the cost.

Police Dept - Council acknowledged receipt of the department's monthly report. Town Marshal Scott Cole reported, as per the department's equipment replacement schedule it is time to replace patrol officers sidearms this year. Plans are to replace (5) Glock 22, 40 caliber firearms purchased in 2011 with new Glocks. The department will trade-in older firearms to help offset the cost, which will be around \$1200 after trade-in. There has been an increase in vandalism and bicycles coming up missing. Officers continue to address ordinance violations.

Marshal Cole also serves as Plan Commission President and reported there was some confusion about a verbally granted permit involving the installation of a vinyl fence. The residence, located at 1001 E South Street, is bordered by the Noble County Highway campus on the north and east sides and is situated in an Industrial Heavy (IH) zoned area. The properties south and west across 5th and E South Streets are zoned R3. Vinyl fencing is allowed in R3, but not IH. The property owners, ED & Penny Slone purchased vinyl fencing believing it was permissible based on information received from the former plan administrator. The issue was discovered when they came to get a permit for installation of the fence. To resolve the situation, it was determined the Slone's could petition the BZA to allow use of the vinyl fence material. As such, a Special BZA meeting has been scheduled to hear their request. Due to the circumstances, Council voted to waive the fee for the Special meeting. Motion by Smolinske, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Town Manager – Superintendent Corey Miller, who served as Interim Town Manager reported there were three permits issued last month. State Representative David Abbot will be meeting with town officials and representative(s) from WET Environmental on Thursday, August 26, 2021 to discuss the town's challenges with Ammonia Compliance. Council members are invited to attend. Town Manager Jacob Ihrle started August 23, 2021 and thanked department heads for helping him get acquainted with town facilities.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parker Hannifin (ERA) Tax Abatement for New Equipment – Resolution No. 2021-12

Jon Metzel, Plant Manager, Parker Hannifin and Gary Gatman, Noble County EDC were present to provide information on a request for a 5-year personal property tax abatement. Parker Hannifin, located at 903 N Orange St, manufactures brass valves and fittings for the truck market. The project includes the purchase of a new Forge Press, Robotics, Tooling and Equipment with an estimated cost of \$3,721,000 and estimated assessed value of \$1,488,400. They currently employ 118 people. The project would add 29 new jobs paying an average of \$24.79/hour. Gatman reported the State is contributing \$300,000 in tax credits for this project. At their meeting on August 11, 2021, the Albion Redevelopment Commission voted to give a favorable recommendation for approval. Council considered the Findings of Fact, and determined the totality of benefits sufficient to justify the deduction for the requested five-year abatement. Council then voted to approve the Statement of Benefits and Resolution No. 2021-12, *A Resolution of the Albion Town Council Approving the Deduction of Assessed Valuation for Personal Property Improvements Located Within an Economic Revitalization Area*. Motion by Shultz, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

2. Approval of Special Event Applications – Albion S.T.A.R. Team

Mary Ann Troutner was present to provide information on the proposed events. After discussion, Council voted to approve the below listed Special Event Applications from the Albion S.T.A.R. Team. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The police dept will

assist with traffic control, and the street dept will provide barricades for blocking off streets around courthouse square.

a. Fall Celebration – September 18, 2021

b. Scare on the Square – October 29, 2021

3. Façade Grant Application – Pizza Depot, John & Melba Moorhouse

Council voted to approve a recommendation by the Albion Redevelopment Commission to approve a Façade Grant Application submitted by John & Melba Moorhouse, Moorstar, LLC for improvements to the Pizza Depot restaurant building and apartment located at 112 N Orange Street in the amount of \$9,977.40 (Total Project cost is \$19,954.79). Motion by Shultz, seconded by Magnuson, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Written documentation was submitted that at least three quotes were solicited for each of the portions of the project. The project includes painting the exterior of the building, fixing steps and adding a handrail at the back of the building, roofing, window and door replacement, and murals.

4. Streetlight Project – Change contractor from Fleetwood Electric to AEP

Street Superintendent Corey Miller reported Fleetwood Electric, who was awarded the streetlight pole project along Orange Street, is no longer interested in completing the project due to their workload. Miller contacted American Electric Power, who had previously submitted a quote, but missed the quote submittal deadline when the project was awarded to Fleetwood Electric. AEP's quote was actually less than Fleetwood's. (Fleetwood Electric - \$450/per pole; AEP - \$442/per pole.) After discussion, Council voted to approve Miller's recommendation to schedule AEP for the project. Motion by Smolinske, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. If weather cooperates, AEP should be able to start the project within 4-6 weeks.

5. Approval of Salary Ordinance No. 2021-13 – 1st & 2nd Readings (Town Manager wage)

As indicated below, Council voted to approve on first and second readings, Salary Ordinance No 2021-13, *A Payroll Ordinance for the Town of Albion, Indiana, Amending Wages for the Town Manager Position. This Ordinance Amends Ordinance No. 2020-22 Which Set Wages and Benefits for Town of Albion, Elected, Appointed, and All Other Employees by Department for the 2021 Calendar Year.* The amendment increases the wage range for the Town Manager Position from \$45,000 - \$58,798.22 to \$45,000 - \$59,000.24, and is effective retroactively to August 23, 2021. The change is being made because the town manager wage is split between three different funds and calculated on 26 pays, so flat dollar amounts don't play out perfectly into cents. Council also voted to replace Page 3, of the Town Manager Employment Agreement to change the wage amount from \$59,000.00 to \$59,000.24. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

First Reading

Shultz caused Ordinance 2021-13, to be read for the first time by title only. Smolinske motioned for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Shultz, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Second Reading

Council voted to suspend the rules to allow for the reading of the ordinance a second time by title only, motion by Shultz, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Shultz then caused Ordinance 2021-13, to be read for the second time by title only. Smolinske motioned for adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Magnuson, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

6. Consideration of Employee Health Insurance Renewal with Physicians Health Plan

Council voted to approve a recommendation by Salary, Benefits Package & Insurance Committee members to renew the High Deductible/Health Savings Account Plan with

Physicians Health Plan (PHP) for employee health insurance coverage. Motion made by Magnuson, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The premium rates are 11% higher than current rates. A Summary of the renewal is listed below.

- Renew (Plan QH52M21 - Grandmothered) with 11% increase effective October 1, 2021
- Keep the existing percentage split for premiums (80% Town/20% Employee)
- Keep the town’s existing contribution towards employee Health Savings Accounts based on 20% of deductible amounts with employees responsible for 80%.
- Deductibles remain the same as current year (\$3,000/\$6,000)
- Monthly premium rates effective October 1st are as follows:
 - Employee Only..... \$ 615.31
 - Employee & Spouse..... \$1,347.84
 - Employee & Children... \$1,219.46
 - Family..... \$1,951.18

7. Acknowledgement of RDC approval to use TIF funds for the following:

Council acknowledged action taken by the Albion Redevelopment Commission at their meeting on August 11, 2021 to approve the use of TIF funds for the below listed projects. (These projects were previously approved by Council, with the use of TIF funds subject to RDC approval.)

- a. Hidden Diamonds Park – Wetland Development **\$20,000.00**
- b. 50/50 Sidewalk Projects **\$12,380.00**
- c. July 2021 CCMG Application (Liberty Street) **\$19,597.50**
- d. WET Environmental – Ammonia Project **\$26,240.00**

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL VOUCHERS:

Shultz motioned to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Vouchers as of August 12, 2021 & August 24, 2021. Magnuson 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 6:43 pm. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on September 14, 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