

Albion Town Council
Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 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 Vice-President Don Shultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. President Vicki Jellison was on vacation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

ABSENT: Vicki Jellison, President

OTHERS: Carol A. Selby, Clerk-Treasurer (Electronically)
Tena Woenker, Town Manager (Present)
Matt Getts, KPC Media (Present)
Scott Cole, Police Dept (Present)
Bob Amber, Fire Dept (Present)
Nancy Brown, ERRA President (Electronically)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the meeting on September 8, 2020 were approved. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Morr, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Town Council Vice-President Don Shultz called the public hearing to order at 6:02 pm and asked for public comment. In a memo previously submitted to council members, department heads, and the town manager, Clerk-Treasurer Carol Selby provided an overview of the \$4,183,613 proposed 2021 budget. The proposed 2021 Levy has been advertised at \$1,077,000 which is the estimated maximum levy allowed, and represents a 4.2% increase over this year's levy for property tax supported funds. Should reductions be necessary, plans are to reduce unexpended appropriations from the 2020 budget to help minimize cuts to the 2021 budget. The public hearing was closed at 6:05 pm. Council voted to approve the proposed budget and Ordinance 2020-19 on its first reading as follows.

First Reading

Magnuson caused Ordinance 2020-19, *An Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates*, to be read for the first time by title only, and motioned for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The second reading and final adoption will be considered at the next meeting on October 13, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dexter Axle will be holding a Job Fair, and reportedly has 175 positions open. Shultz thanked all those involved with the Mural on the side of the Doc's Hardware building. The Albion Chamber has cancelled their Annual Halloween Party due to concerns regarding COVID-19. Instead they will be preparing treat bags and have them available in self-serve fashion on a table on the Courthouse Square during the Albion S.T.A.R. Team's Live Clue Game event to be held Friday, October 30, 2020. On Thursday, October 29, 2020 the Noble County Public Library will be sponsoring a "Hogwarts" drive-thru event. Signs are going up around town in appreciation of police fire, and EMTs, and about a Community Day of Prayer & Repentance to be held Saturday, September 26, 2020, 3-5pm will be held on the lawn at Trinity United Methodist Church.

OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Manager Tena Woenker reported there is some confusion over who owns which drainage tiles in the East Industrial Park. She said they are working to sort it out so Bosch may proceed with their expansion project.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elkhart River Restoration Association – Nancy Brown, ERRA President

Nancy Brown, ERRA President was present electronically to provide council an overview of the Association's mission, and to answer questions. She explained they are working on a Watershed Management Plan for the entire Elkhart River watershed area. She invited Albion to participate in the development of the plan by sharing goals, concerns, future plans regarding water quality and quantity, flooding/drainage issues, and aquatic recreational activities, etc. Ms. Brown also asked if the Town would like to appoint a representative to help with drafting the plan. After discussion, it was suggested the idea be put out to employees to see if anyone is interested. Town Council Member Darold Smolinske suggested a letter be written outlining the Town's concerns regarding flooding, drainage, etc.

2. Vacation of Platted Land – Noble County Commissioners – Ord# 2020-18

Council voted to approve a petition by Noble County Commissioners to vacate six (6) lots and combine into one (1) parcel. The lots are located within the block surrounded by N York, E Main, N Oak, and W Jefferson Streets. Vacating the original parcels, and combining into one parcel simplifies the legal description for Noble County's office building project. After discussion, and acting on the recommendation from the Albion Plan Commission, Council voted to approve Ordinance No.2020-18 on its second reading as follows.

Second Reading

Magnuson caused Ordinance No. 2020-18, *An Ordinance Vacating Platted Real Estate, To-Wit: Lots 66, 67, 70, 71, 80, and 81, of the Original Town of Albion, per Plat thereof, Recorded in Deed Book 5, Page 2 in the Office of the Recorder of Noble County, Indiana to be read for the first time.* Magnuson motioned for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

3. Department Head Reports:

Council acknowledged receipt of written reports for the Fire and Police Departments, and Town Manager. Fire Chief Bob Amber reported an RFQ has been sent out to vendors for replacing the Fire Command vehicle with a new truck. The fire alarm panel at the fire station is being updated for under \$2500, and for an additional \$384 annual subscription, notifications will be sent to a call list of contacts when the alarm goes off. Town Marshal Scott Cole reported normal to slower call activity last month. Cole is back to work on a modified schedule. He said officers did a great job while he was out. The stairs to the storage area in the Albion Municipal Building are now complete. Town Manager Tena Woenker reported the second round for submittal of Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) applications opens up September 25, 2020. The Town has three projects for submittal. Woenker reported she is working on setting up a meeting with Wessler Engineering to discuss results of Soil Borings done at the wastewater ponds in conjunction with ammonia treatment. Town Council Member John Morr reported he saw kids throwing a football at the banners and lights recently installed as part of the HCI Alley Activation Project in the alley by Pizza Depot. He suggested the possibility of installing a security camera.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL VOUCHERS: Magnuson motioned to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Vouchers as of September 10, 2020 and September 22, 2020. Seconded by Morr, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, submitted and reviewed, attested by Carol A. Selby.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before council in regular session, Jellison adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Smolinske, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on October 13, 2020 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