

**Town of Knightstown
Knightstown Town Council
February 17, 2022
Minutes**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Pledge to the Flag: Ward asked those in attendance to join her in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Bart Whitesitt, Clerk-Treasurer,

Sarah Ward, Landon Dean, Chuck Rhodes, Mitch Roland, Cheryl Hammer all present.

Motion made by Chuck Rhodes to approve January 2022 Minutes, second by Landon Dean, motion carried 5-0.

Randy Anderson presented works department report. There are nine frozen water meters, three were new, six were old. The opening and closing of the water plates was the cause and the reason for estimates of water meters.

Randy stated they had some problems trying to change out the fuses at CVS. Also, they had some salting problems with the distributor in the truck with the salt-spreader. We might need to look at purchasing a new one in the future.

The Sewer picked up three new spots.

Randy talked about Acuna's Tree Service for the Cemetery. Sarah said she wanted to act quickly to hold the price. Randy mentioned the Cemetery trees in question posed a safety concern that could be an emergency situation. Cheryl Hammer asked if the Acuna estimate was a maximum. Randy confirmed the price was for number of trees given. Bart Whitesitt said we might divide the payment between CCI Fund and Riverboat or maybe Cemetery. He will do some research for dividing up the bill. Motion to go with Acuna's Tree Service made by Cheryl Hammer, second by Landon Dean, motion carried 5-0.

Randy said Rick Taylor in the Sewer Department needs UV bulbs. These UV bulbs treat the water before it goes back into the creek for the disinfection process. Randy got several estimates for the purchase of these UV bulbs. Motion to go with the UV Doctor proposal for the purchase of the UV bulbs made by Cheryl Hammer, second by Chuck Rhodes, motion carried 5-0.

Susie Neal the owner of the Lincoln Apartments stated that she was willing to put meters in all the apartments. Landon Dean asked if there would be a benefit to separate meters in all the apartments. Randy said there would be a benefit in the payment process. Motion for the Town to

pay half or \$3,000.00 of the total bill to contribute to the cost of the meters made by Landon Dean, second by Cheryl Hammer, motion carried 5-0.

Randy mentioned that some of the globes on the Main Street lights are a problem. Gregg Morelock said that maintenance of the globes should be part of our agreement with IMPA and should be investigated.

Police Chief Frank Beatrice presented the Police Department report. Chief Beatrice talked about the new lights proposal that was already approved and they were already installed. He said the project had been completed.

Chief Beatrice stated that Gordon Miller is currently going through training at the Police Academy and was almost done. Mitch Roland discussed Officers that had left the Knightstown Police Department. Mitch brought up the issue of the Town paying for the training of new Officers at the Academy and then them leaving and going to other jobs soon after. Gregg Morelock talked about how in the future the Town could create a contract that would put stipulations on newly-graduated officers from the Academy. Such an example might be so much "Time served after" the Officer would have to serve to the Town because of the Town paying for their training. Gregg Morelock said he would investigate such a contract and report back.

Chief Beatrice discussed on-call pay for the Officers and for other employees as well. Landon Dean recommended hiring a fifth officer to mitigate on-call pay and cut out much of the regular overtime for the officers. Landon Dean and Cheryl Hammer both asked how they can keep maintaining the current process. Landon Dean proposed utilizing some Reserve officers to help with coverage also.

They discussed the difficulty of hiring Officers, due to the hourly rate being only \$20.19 an hour for full-time Officers. Sarah and Landon both asked if there was a possibility we could use the Reserves from the County to get us through for awhile. Mitch Roland said we needed to get by till May with the Reserves.

Chief Beatrice discussed coverage in general. Chief Beatrice said he would coordinate with Landon and the Police Committee on ideas of County Reserves for coverage, and also utilizing part-time more for coverage. He would also discuss on-call pay and hiring a fifth officer with Clerk-Treasurer and the Police Committee. Cheryl Hammer said: "Let's get it covered" and to suggested we used more Part-time.

Chief Beatrice discussed the current, modified Holiday schedule. In general, he said the Police Officers get seven holidays and the other employees get fourteen. Gregg Morelock said any changes would have to be modified on the Salary Ordinance. Chief Beatrice said the Officers would probably like to work the seven holidays and get paid fourteen days. It was left that more research would have to be done.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitesitt read all the Claims dollar amounts. Motion to pay the Claims made by Cheryl Hammer, second by Chuck Rhodes, motion carried 5-0.

Bart talked about hiring a part-time person in the Utility Office. Chuck Rhodes said he would support any help for the Office. Gregg Morelock asked if there was still a person represented in the Salary Ordinance and the Budget for this part-time person. Bart stated this position was appropriated with the others in this year's municipal Budget and was in the Salary Ordinance in Section five. They asked who was interested; Bart said it was Lisa Hall. Motion made by Landon Dean to hire Lisa Hall part-time in the Utility Office, not to exceed twenty hours a week. Second by Chuck Rhodes, motion carried 5-0.

Bart asked the Council for their input for re-opening the Utility Office. They discussed a timeline for the re-opening. Cheryl Hammer suggested phasing it in, for example maybe starting out being open two days a week. Sarah and Landon both said they also wanted the Office re-opened soon. They settled on Office to re-open at a date sometime in March.

Next, Gregg Morelock suggested the Council revert back to the part-time Office position. Gregg Morelock said the Council should do a ratification, in order to solidify the hiring. Motion made for a ratification of the actual hiring of Lisa Hall as a part-time employee in the Office by Landon Dean, second by Mitch Roland, motion carried 5-0.

Sarah Ward then discussed Midwest Paving. The documents for the paving had already been previously authorized. Dan Wright from our engineering firm of FPBH, went on to explain the paving process in more detail. The payment process had also already been set up. Motion was made to move forward with the paving project by Cheryl Hammer, second by Mitch Roland, carried 5-0.

Lindsey Steinwachs got up and discussed the Hickory Car Show. He requested road closures on May 21, 2022. Motion for the road closures on date given, made by Landon Dean, second by Cheryl Hammer, carried 5-0.

Sarah requested a BZA appointment for Paul Roland. Motion for the appointment made by Landon Dean, second by Cheryl Hammer. The Motion carried 5-0.

Sarah requested a Park Board appointment for Victoria Goodspeed. Motion for the appointment made by Mitch Roland, second by Cheryl Hammer. The Motion carried 5-0.

Sarah announced there were nine Committee assignments. Sarah requested that the Committee assignments remain the same as last year for each Council member. The Council agreed to keep all nine Committee assignments the same this year.

Chuck Rhodes then brought up the issue of "blighted properties". Gregg Morelock said the next Council meeting was to be a Public Hearing on an unsafe building in Town. Gregg gave some options on a tax sale of the property. Gregg explained the long process of the property going through a tax sale and options on which the Town could act. They questioned if they could demolish the property. The process of defaulting the property falls to the Henry County Commissioners. They left it at which more information was to come at the next Council meeting.

Dan Wright from our Engineering firm FPBH gave a short information presentation on the Sewer project. Dan said we were ready to file papers with IDEM. Therefore, a motion was made for Sarah to sign the IDEM Sewer documents by Landon Dean, second by Cheryl Hammer. The motion carried 5-0. Dan said that part of the new Sewer would run on Cemetery property. Dan and Gregg Morelock are working together on a Resolution giving the Sewer Utility permission to run a Sewer line in the Cemetery property. He said easements will have to be done on the property.

Dan then said he would work on the permits that have to be filed with IDEM. Also, he will oversee the bidding process that will have to take place for the work on the Sewer project. Dan said he would also get the items to the USDA that they need for the project.

Lastly, Dan briefly discussed Utilities on US 40 paving.

Dan would like to meet with Bart at some point and discuss on-going projects and their funding.

Public Comments: Brittany Richey requested that a tree be trimmed on Heaton Drive. She called IMPA already and they said they will not do it. Randy Anderson said he will check with IMPA on the position of the tree and if IMPA can trim it.

Patty Keesling stated she is on the steering committee for the Knightstown Fall Festival. She said the Festival is set to take place on September 24th, with a "rain date" of October 1st. Patty said the Festival is to take place on that date from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The committee would like to start setting up that morning at 6:30am. They are also requesting a street closure from Brown Street at edge of the Square extending to US 40. She also requested that the Police close the street late the night before, so it would be ready to go early the next morning. Motion for the street closure requested on the date requested made by Landon Dean, second by Mitch Roland. The motion carried 5-0.

Patty Keesling is also over the Farmer's Market. They would like to use the area of the square, possibly on Saturday mornings. They would like in the future to have street closures for the street on the west side of the Square, extending from the alley of the Burch tree to US 40. The Council decided to discuss the Farmer's Market request at a later date and might look at other areas.


Bruce Brown spoke and said that he has lost rent on his rental property because of the property at 233 South Jefferson Street leaning on his property. Bruce said Ben Bowling has investigated the situation. The Council told Bruce Brown they would investigate the situation.

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm.

February 17, 2022 Minutes

TOWN OF KNIGHTSTOWN, INDIANA, BY ITS TOWN COUNCIL

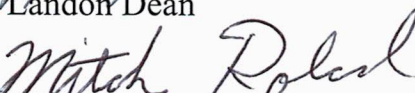
Voting Affirmative:




Sarah Ward




Landon Dean



Mitchell Roland



Cheryl Hammer



Chuck Rhoades

Voting Opposed:

Sarah Ward

Landon Dean

Mitchell Roland

Cheryl Hammer

Chuck Rhoades

ATTEST:

Bart Whitesitt, Clerk-Treasurer