ORIGINAL

WHITESTOWN

INDIANA

WHITESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 16, 2016
MINUTES

Call to order: 6:37pm

Roll Call – All Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Susan A m/m to approve meeting minutes and consent agenda first, Clinton 2nd; approved 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Department Reports

Public Request to Speak on Topics Not Related to Agenda Item: One request – **Brenden Cavanaugh**. **Brenden** is speaking on the proposed fireworks ordinance. He is in opposition to the ordinance in general. He stated because of the multi-cultural nature of his neighborhood, many different religious and cultural celebrations include fireworks. He would like to propose a reasonable limitation in timeframe rather than within a set of days. He would like the ban on public streets lifted as some neighborhoods gather for specific firework shows neighbors put on. He offered to help work on more common sense parts to be added to the ordinance.

Bill Fletcher spoke as well. He does not like the idea of fireworks being on week days, but on weekends, and on American holidays.

Approval of the consent agenda. Clinton m/m to adopt – Susan 2nd; 5-0.

Eric said he hopes to have the final version of the **Veterans ordinance** completed by the next meeting.

Susan wants to make sure it is inclusive to all Veteran groups, past, present, and future, in the town of Whitestown.

Kevin said to change the language from American Legion to Service Benefit Organizations, to make sure it includes the VFW, etc., as well. **Eric** said the original language was put in that way because the Legion is present in Whitestown and he wanted the groups to have some skin in the game.

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Clinton said he agreed that the American Legion has been very cooperative over the years in our town and it is a very positive benefit to our community.

Dawn Semmler asked what **Kevin** has concerns about regarding the language of American Legion instead of Service Benefit Organizations. He wanted to also make sure this would only include Whitestown residents, and he thought spouses, widows, and others connected to Veterans would also have the ability to be included.

American Legion members:

Ron Domres – Admin of American Legion Post 410. Chartered in 1946. As a Vietnam vet, he and others never received recognition when they came home, and were typically treated poorly. The AL Post looks forward to working with the committee. Councilman **Russell** asked **Ron** if they have a color guard. **Ron** said they did, but they got old. **Ron** said some members from the Afghan war, etc., are thinking about starting it back up.

Mike McQueen – Mike would like to see when developers and new businesses come in that the AL would be recognized and for something done on Veterans Day in Whitestown. A war memorial is something else he would like to see the vets at the AL want to be a good example to the town.

Angel Badillo – He is a former member of the Indiana Patriot Riders and the AL and the Riders have spent countless hours protecting family members at veterans' funerals from protestors. He is a Lebanon resident, but has worked a lot with Whitestown. He thinks that if a military group comes into the town, that there should be a way for them to join in the language of the ordinance,

Bill Stubblefield – A Chaplin at Post 410. Anything we can do to help the veterans is a good idea. He also thinks any group who has veterans should be welcome.

Dawn Semmler – As a member of Post 410, etc., she greatly thanks the council for their work on this. She thinks the ordinance should not be limited to members of the community. She wanted to add SAL and the Auxiliary to allow the other members of the Post to be included as well. There are approx. 300 members of the Post. She thinks Post 410 should be individually recognized because they have been here and plan to be here for years to come. She also invited everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct 1st.

Bill Fletcher – He wanted to ask Councilman **Russell** what the other town organization was he referred to that was in the town. **Kevin** said it was the V.B.A. He does not think anyone who is not a veteran should be on the committee, and only those who are residents or are members of a veterans group in Whitestown.

Chief Anderson – He thought it was evident that it is a wonderful thing that the town has given the veterans a voice. We are enjoying a lot of freedoms the veterans in the room fought for. He said he has never been told "sorry, we can't help you" by AL Post 410.

Eric was glad to hear the comments from the veterans, **Jeff** agreed.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2016-33 (2nd Read) – Clinton m/m to close public hearing, Susan 2nd; 5-0 approved. Clinton m/m to approve ordinance, Susan 2nd; 5-0 adopted.

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Discuss the Purchase of Equipment for the Parks Department – Mobile Stage – Nathan M. said the Parks Board voted 3-0 to send the purchase of the mobile stage back to the council. This also included the $5,000 trailer as well. The stage is $50,000 for the Parks Department and $50,000 from the town. **Kevin** asked who it would be owned by. **Nathan** said the Town, but the Parks would do the maintenance on it. **Kevin** asked how many other towns have a mobile stage. **Nathan** said he did not know, but he did say Brownsburg had one. **Kevin** wanted **Dax** to weigh in on what staff thought on the Town side. He thought it would be a good marketing tool for the town, but suggested the council spends the money wisely. He said the mobile stage sticks out when you go to events in towns that have them. With the town getting hit with an unexpected $80,000 for the Duke MOU, the money would need to come from a different line item than previous considered. **Clinton** said that as he has been discussing with **Dax** the budgets and future plans, he said the dollars are growing and it is a concern for future funding. He does not think this is something the town should entertain at the time. **Jeff** said he understood what **Clinton** said, it is not a small amount of money, but he thinks having a stage would be good thing – perhaps a Veterans' Day event could utilize it. **Kevin** asked what it would cost to rent a stage for Brewfest. **Dax** said when it was all said and done, around $3,500-$5,000 per day (that would include lighting, etc…).

Jeff m/m to move forward with the purchase of the stage, sharing the cost with the Parks Dept. and using the rainy day fund. Kevin 2nd. Eric had further discussion. **Eric** does not see how this rises to a priority of something we need to invest in right now. **Susan** understands the desire to have it, but does not think it is currently a good use of fund. **Roll Call Vote – Kevin (Y), Eric (N), Susan (N), Clinton (N), Jeff (Y). Motion failed 2 Yays to 3 Nays.**

Ordinance 2016-34, First Read Only – Susan did first read. **Clinton** asked about the alleys, and **Dax** said there is no reason to keep them. **Kevin** said we have turned down a few vacancy requests in the past. He would love to be able to keep easement rights for utilities purposes. **Susan** said by state statute, the resident has to maintain the easement.

Ordinance 2016-35, First Read Only – Susan read it. She said in the years she has lived in Whitestown she has never seen these alleys be used. She is fully for the vacation of these two alleys.

Ordinance 2016-36, First Read – Clinton read it. Can be adopted on first read. **Clinton m/m to adopt the ordinance. Susan 2nd; It was read by title only on first read. 5-0 adopted.**

Ordinance 2016-37, First Read – Clinton read it. This allows the business to start building without having the permits in place. The fees fluctuate, but the rate does not. **Clinton** asked if things would change the work they've already done. **Kevin** asked if this would ever apply to residential, **Lauren** said it probably would not. First Read Only.

Resolution 2016-40, Introduce Only – Dax said this will have a public hearing. This allows us to build the fire station. We are refunding some bonds and will have net proceeds to build the fire HQ. **Clinton** said this is a major win for the town of Whitestown and the Whitestown Fire Department. He commended all involved; **Eric** echoed his statement. **Clinton** read the ordinance.

Resolution 2016-41 - Consider approval of an Application for Temporary Street Closure for the Whitestown Brew Fest on Saturday, September 17, 2016. 8am to 8pm. Susan m/m to approve the temp street closure from Friday Sept. 16th at 10pm until Sat Sept 17th at 8pm. Clinton 2nd. 5-0 passed.

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Consider Approval of Low Bid for the DPW Maintenance Facility – Clinton m/m on low bid, Susan 2nd; 5-0 adopted.

Consider Appointment to Board – Eric m/m to appoint Matt Doublestein to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Board. Clinton 2nd, 5-0 approved.

Town Admin Reports – Dax talked about the bridge and that they will be poured soon. Sept 5th it should be done.

There are quotes for getting the stage extended and making it ADA compliant. The Miss Fall Festival pageant will be held here.

Entrance Sign Project Update - construction should begin around September 1st.

Storm water grant is going forward. **Clinton** said this would be a good opportunity for trustees to help.

Eric recessed for approx. 5 minutes.

WMPD Budget Proposal:

Dax wanted to Preface with his time spent on the LIT (Local Income Tax) committee. Where we used to be capped at 1.5% but can go up to 2.5% the County LIT Council will convene on Oct 11th. Whitestown will receive $1.7M to be used on Public Safety only. It could go into effect Jan 1. 2017.

Chief Anderson – Page 1 is personal services. The General Fund if flat – no growth, and LIT has any potential growth areas. Increase 1st class patrolman's base pay to put us in direct competition with the surrounding communities. Most increases are directly related to hiring more personnel. We have approx. 3 on patrol at any given time. Budget discussion ensues.

Chief Westrich – Chief said this budget was to maintain current levels of service, there are no new hires, no raises, etc…The budget showed costs per fire fighter, and various other costs broken down to a per unit cost. Budget discussion ensues.

Clinton m/m to adjourn, Kevin 2nd, 5-0, meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.

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The minutes from a Regular Town Council meeting on August 16, 2016 are approved on the 14th day of September, 2016 by the following Town Council Members:

Eric Miller, President

Susan Austin

Clinton Bohm

Jeff Wishek

Kevin Russell

Attest:

Matthew Sumner, Clerk-Treasurer