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WHITESTOWN

INDIANA

WHITESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
Minutes

1. **OPENING THE MEETING**
   A. Call to Order – 7:06pm – All Present
   B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. **PUBLIC REQUEST TO SPEAK** (Topics Not Related to an Agenda Item) - None

3. **PRESENTATIONS**
   A. **Sheriff Mike Nielsen** – Public Safety Business Plan – **Sheriff Nielsen** wants to discuss the differences between the **Sheriff** and the **Chief's** positions. He talked about the varied responsibilities and how things have changed in law enforcement over the years. He discussed how we have had 18 opiate deaths in the county already this year, and how we need to continue to fight drugs in our community. The Sheriff's office does not have the staff to keep up with the growth of the county to keep the services at the levels we have been accustomed to. The jail has reached 217 inmates for the first time, and holds a maximum of 225. Staffing is at 2004 levels, which puts the Sheriff's office in need of more officers. **Sheriff Nielsen** complimented Whitestown and **Chief Anderson** on being very proactive in our law enforcement. Eric told the Sheriff that he thanked him for this, and said he agrees that it is the right thing to do, and the Public Safety Officers need the have the tools in order to do their jobs.
   Kevin asked about how the jail population and capacity. **Sheriff Nielsen** said the jails have a difficult time with helping the inmates in certain capacities, such as mental health, etc…
   Kevin asked about how this could help property values, due to being able to keep our communities safe and attractive to people to move and live in.
   Kevin said the Police Commission drafted a resolution to support the proposed LIT.
   Clinton asked for clarification on the population growth in the county jail. He agrees with **Eric** that it needs to happen, and he expressed how this is a difficult decision and how it is also difficult to present and increase.
   Jeff also said the **Sheriff** has his full support and he appreciated him coming and presenting.

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Susan thanked the **Sheriff** and said she is glad there is no smoke and mirrors in the presentation. She talked about how it is a safety issue for the officers and those who they protect.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   A. **Consider an Ordinance Creating a Whitestown Veterans Committee *(Ordinance 2016-27, Second Read)* – Jeff** said he thinks this now addressed all of **Kevin's** concerns, and **Kevin** agreed. **Eric** did the 2nd reading of the ordinance. He talked about how the council listened to everyone from the last meeting and he thinks this will be a great thing to give the veterans a voice. **Kevin m/m to pass the ordinance, Clinton 2nd, 5-0 pass.**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

   A. **Consider an Ordinance Establishing a Fee for Copying Law Enforcement Recordings *(Ordinance 2016-38, First Read Only)* – Eric** said it did not require only a First Read, but that is his suggestion. He talked about how there is a lot of work pulling out the recordings for the public. **Kevin** reiterated the amount of work put into this as well, and said many other communities do this as well. **Eric** talked about how some other communities charge as much as $150 per video. **Clinton** asked about how we are charging, if it was per video, per clip, etc…
   Kevin did First Read. Kevin m/m to suspend rules to have a 2nd reading. Clinton suggested to have 2nd read on a separate meeting since it establishes a new fee. Kevin withdrew his motion.

   Consider a Resolution of the Town Council Approving Personal Property Tax Deductions in Whitestown ERA #2 Under Indiana Code *(Resolution 2016-43)* – Dax talked about the abatement on building 15 was back in 2009. This will be building number 9 for buildings over 1500 feet. It will have $18/hour jobs; it is a Global Fortune 16 Company. **Clinton** said he is excited. **Clinton did First Read. Clinton m/m to adopt, Susan 2nd, 5-0 adopted.**

6. **2017 Budget Workshop Staff Proposed 2017 Budget**
   A. **Parks – Nathan** said the biggest change is adding additional staff. Most other categories remained the same, except for repair and maintenance. There was also an addition to infrastructure. **Susan** asked which line was for **Nathan's** salary. She asked if he was asking for another $50,000 staffer and some part-time staff. **Nathan** said he would like to get some summer interns with the part-time salaries. **Susan** asked if there were expansions in the public offerings. **Nathan** said that is what the new full time employee would work on, while he would focus more on grants, etc… **Kevin** asked if the Market Master was on the list, and **Nathan** said their salary was not specified on the list. **Eric** asked for more specifics on the new full time position; **Nathan** said it would be someone over "recreational" and "infrastructure". **Kevin** asked where the stage would be in the budget, even though it was not passed. **Nathan** said it is not currently in the budget, but it could come out of machinery and equipment. **Clinton** asked about what the FT employee would do on a day to day basis. **Nathan** said it would be more for daily operations, running events, etc…which would shift **Nathan's** focus more to infrastructure

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and operations. **Clinton** asked if we would still have a separate Market Master, and **Nathan** said that would be correct. **Susan** asked if these positions would eliminate the need for other town staff to help set up for the events Parks holds. **Eric** would also like to see more of a description of what this position would do. **Susan** said she would like to see the burden relieved from other employees to be able to do the jobs they are hired to do as well. **Eric** asked about the increase in professional fees. **Nathan** said it was for using professionals for grants, and consulting engineers.
Eric said he thought the intent of the $72,000 to be spent on the trail. **Kevin** asked about the main street trail, and was curious about why there was not a line item on that for the budget.
Nathan said it was $65,000 for the restroom on the trail and there were added costs for the parking lots, etc...
Susan would like to see the line item detail, especially if we are saving up for items in the future. **Eric** was a little disappointed that no money was shown to go to trails on any line item. **Nathan** said we are in a deficit on trail money and we can use impact fees to pay for the trail. **Clinton** asked how many miles of maintenance the trail is budgeted for. **Nathan** said no trail needs resurfaced. **Susan** asked if the trail is finished. **Nathan** said it is not. **Susan** said she would like to see that prioritized. **Nathan** said they are in the process of acquiring the last piece of property for the trail to be complete.
The Panther trail has been down for 10 years now and asked if there was any maintenance needed. **Nathan** said it was not needed. **Kevin** said it would be nice to see a line item to be able to track how much it costs to keep up the trail on an annual basis. **Clinton** asked for a follow-up on the trail head restrooms. **Nathan** said that would not be completed next year because DPW needs to finish a project first in order to put the restrooms in during 2018. **Clinton** asked if **Nathan** has communicated to Worth Township, etc..., about sharing the funding on some of these projects and maintenance. **Eric** said they will put together a list of questions for **Nathan** to be able to get back his answers to the council in e-mails.

B. **Town Court** – **Dax** asked the Council if they had any questions. **Kevin** asked if a 2% increase would be enough for the courts. **Kevin** asked what the docket looked like. **Chief** said it has probably increased by 25%. **Clinton** talked about how he would like to see the **Judge** in to give an update, if even on an annual basis.

C. **Clerk Treasurer** – **Clinton** asked about the health insurance line item in the budget. **Dax** explained how there is a plan to increase the H.S.A budget, and this accounts for that increase. **Susan** said the H.S.A. payments were never supposed to be less for a family, and **m/m to immediately move the H.S.A. contribution to the new amounts, Kevin 2nd, 5-0 in favor.** **Susan** asked **Matt** to run an audit on the H.S.A. to see where, and possibly why, the H.S.A. did not get updated. Discussion ensued.

D. **MVH** – **Eric** excused **Jason** from being the presenter, as he had prior commitments. **Dax** is presenting for him. **Dax** said there is a 7% increase. They think it is time to hire a fleet superintendent. That person would be a manager to the vehicles and manage anyone under them. **Clinton** asked about a $50,000 line for a plow truck. The goal is to have 4 F-750s by the end of next year. **Dax** said there are too many line items. **Dax** said our sidewalks are in really good shape, but we do need to build sidewalks in Legacy Core. Each ADA ramp is about $2200. **Dax** said the ADA sidewalks must be at least 5 feet wide. **Dax** said in our building code, any new sidewalks built in Whitestown are ADA compliant.

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E. **Town** -

1. **Planning and Community Development** – There is a 6% increase in Planning. **Eric** said he and **Dax** briefly discussed an electronic system to keep projects on track. **Dax** thinks he could do it internally instead of having to pay for it. **Eric** asked if Planning was doing a good job of it. **Dax** said he believe they are. **Clinton** asked if we should have options for the system and what it would cost.
   Planning could use another inspector and project manager. **Eric** asked if only one position could be added. **Dax** said that probably would not be viable. **Kevin** asked if it would cost approx. $65,000 for all costs included. **Dax** said this discussion tonight does not include about $700,000 of COIT money coming into the General Account. **Clinton** thinks we should use the revenue Planning is bringing in and remain proactive and budget for the two additional positions they need for the entire year.

2. **Public Relations** – **Kevin** asked if there is a justification for the increase in the pay of the PR Director. **Dax** said it is because of market and competition. As for the new position, it is experimental. He said the PR Director spent a ton of time on getting new businesses to understand they are in Whitestown, etc... Is this new position needed...? It is needed less than others currently. **Eric** said he would rather see an operations assistant for **Dax** before a new position in PR. **Kevin** said he thinks the Deputy Operations is a need more of a want, and **Dax** said the Deputy PR Director would not be needed. **Kevin** said we need a new website, and asked if there would be a line item for that.

3. **Town Administration** – **Dax** said there was nothing major. The biggest increase in the budget is for the Duke MOU. It goes up $120,000. **Clinton** asked how long the agreement is for. **Dax** said 2034. The life of the TIF. In 2018, this will decrease. The decrease could be less substantial if our property values increase. There is a need for a new mower for **Chuck**. **Eric** asked if there was any line item to cover town hall maintenance. **Dax** said he did not. **Dax** does not think the special census will be done in 2016, but probably Spring 2017. Discussion ensued.

   Meeting adjourned – computer died and recording stopped before meeting ended.

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The minutes from a Regular Town Council meeting on August 24, 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