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WHITESTOWN

Whitestown Special Town Council Meeting:
Strategic Planning Workshop
February 3, 2016

Eric M calls the February 3rd, 2016, Special Town Council Meeting to order at 6:40pm. ***Roll Call***: Susan Austin, Clinton Bohm, Eric Miller, Kevin Russell, Jeff Wishek: Present. **Pledge**.

Workshop

1) Discussion of *Robert's Rules:*
    a. **Eric M** stated he did not like to be real strict, and he is not going to stop one even though it does not stick to *Robert's Rules.*
    b. **Dax N** reminded tenured council member **Kevin R, Eric M** and **Susan A** of the *Robert's* Rules book he has previously provided them; he will get new council members **Clinton B** and **Jeff W** copies of the book.
        i. **Dax N** suggested with boards/committees members that we have a seminar on site.
        ii. Citizens would know and be reminded how we operate and function.
        iii. **Clinton B** asked if it would be an open meeting, and **Dax N** said 'yes'.
        iv. **Dax N** wants council's ok with the understanding there will be some cost.
2) Discussion of council policy & procedures:
    a. **Dax N** said rules changed in 2012 to reading by title and synopsis. **Legal Counselor Steve Unger** explained more of when and what is read.
    b. **Dax N** referenced the ordinance in question, which was ***Ordinance 2012-23***. Getting info on the agenda and when the deadline for submitting is. For transparency, **Dax N** suggested that council pass a resolution of when things need to be submitted. **Eric M** suggested other boards follow similar procedure as council. **Eric M** move on to continue as we have been.
3) Discuss strategic planning by staff:
    a. **Dax N** explained purpose of what strategic planning looks like. To council, does anything need added? Consultant can help later with. Pointed out these are only some of the objectives. As a town, we need to decide where to move from where we are to where we want to go. **Kevin R** asked **Susan A** if this was similar to what was done previously. **Jeff W** asked if this was part of comprehensive

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plan to which **Dax N** explained the difference and stated there would be some overlap. **Susan A** likes strategic planning because it can be used to help with budgetary planning. **Clinton B** agreed with **Susan A** and **Eric M** but questioned if **Dax N** is wanting an outside consultant to come in. **Dax N** stated would start with department heads and they would do the majority of it. A consultant would be more of a facilitator. **Dax N** will bring cost before council for approval.

i. 1 & 5 years plan
    1. Government responsiveness & transparency
    2. Sound financial management
    3. Community & economic development
    4. Improved community image
    5. Quality of life
    6. Infrastructure
    7. Enhanced public safety

4) Discuss the development of a capital spending plan (20 year)
    a. 2/10/16 meeting will have a resolution proposal by council member **Eric M** of costs of planning by a task force.
5) Discuss PASER report
    a. **DPW Manager Jason Lawson** poke on PASER study which is a current inventory of what our road conditions are.
    b. $6.7M worth of work currently needing done to our roads.
    c. **Clinton B** asked about time period and scores of roads already torn up. **Kevin R** surprised at the number of roads graded a level 4 score.
6) Discuss 2016 priority projects
    a. Storm sewer in Legacy Core
        i. $2.5M project
            1. Do we offer a general obligation bond?
            2. Would be done by petition.
            3. We are at a level due to growth making us not eligible for many grants.
        ii. I-65 exit 130 interchange project
            1. Bids open 2/9 and Jason L thinks work would begin at the end of March. Have permit from the state but waiting on the language from the state per **Dax N**.
                a. Already have funding
                b. Will be an inconvenience
        iii. Headquarters for fire station
            1. **Kevin R** suggested moving Whitestown Police Department (WPD) out of current building and housing with Whitestown Fire Department (WFD).
            2. $7M project

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3. **Kevin R** wants to see public safety in one location.
4. **Fire Chief Josh Westrich** spoke on new headquarters proposal.
    a. **Kevin R** asked how it would compare to station 93.
5. **Kevin R** asked about talk of adding community center onto new headquarters.
6. **Jeff W** asked if we would keep all current stations.
    a. **Josh W** said it would replace station 72 but keep 71.

ii. Resurface Perry Worth Road
    1. Next major road to be paved

iv. Pave the remainder of:
    1. County road 500 South
    2. Indianapolis Rd. Trail/side path
        a. Grants and parks impact fees to help with.
        b. **Eric M** feels this should be a lot lower on the priority list
            i. **Kevin R** disagreed feeling residents of Eagles Nest need some type of recreation.
            ii. **Dax N** feels can find the funds without putting strain or take away from MVH.
            iii. **Jeff W** does feel roads higher priority but would like to see trails too.
    3. Main street trail/side path from Hampton Inn to Boone Meadow school:
        a. Could use Maple Grove bond to help build trail.
        b. **Susan A** said to look and continue trying to find sources to fund.
        c. RDC giving money for sidewalks so it is up to RDC.
        d. **Susan A** doesn't want to pull it off list. **Kevin R** said if he cannot get support for trail, he will not support the other projects because it would be disservice to his constituents he represents. **Eric M** said our concern should be more infrastructure not necessarily all trails. **Kevin R** argued his part of town being ignored. **Clinton B** tried clarifying **Eric M's** statements to **Kevin R**.
    4. Whitestown Parkway or Central Blvd. trail/side path
    5. Legacy Core sidewalks
    6. Bathrooms in Panther &Walker Parks
        a. **Kevin R** commented that "there seems to be plenty of money to put in restrooms up north but not trails in Eagles Nest area?"

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7. Community Center
    a. **Parks Director Nathan Messer** worked hard on getting a feasibility study and possibly partnership having private partners. Want a facility that can operate in the black. RFQs have come in and been reviewed by **Jason L** and **Dax N**, will be given to Parks Board for review. Social media overwhelming supports building. RFQs to be presented at regular council meeting on February 10th, 2016. **Nathan M** described how needs and wants will vary of stakeholders. **Kevin R** asked feasibility of multiple community center locations thinking kids being able to safely ride their bicycles to a place close. **Dax N** said there must be a major draw in order for the community center to maintain and not fail.

iii. Discuss the creation of:
    1. New comprehensive town financial policy
    2. Stabilization funds

iv. What resources do we use to remain feasibly stable?
    1. Fees & charges
        a. Do we need to up/lower?
    2. Debt issuance & management
    3. Debt level & capacity
        b. Need to be careful
    4. Use of one time revenues
        c. What do we do with?
    5. Use of unpredictable revenues
        d. Some are population based like COIT and property tax
    6. Balancing the operating budget
        e. Not always going to have
    7. Revenue diversification
    8. Contingency planning
        f. For when state passes bill then takes away revenue; prepared for emergency.
        g. **Eric M** liked idea of developing a task force, **Clinton B** agreed. Per **Dax N** this probably should be priority 1.

v. Discuss the creation of new boards, commissions and committees
    1. Whitestown council of neighborhood associations (CONA)
    2. **Dax N** big fan of getting residents involved in government
    3. Added human relations commission in 2015
    4. 2-3 members of neighborhoods and meet monthly & reporting back to council.

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a. Not recommend to have council members on.
b. **Eric M** questioned if established via ordinance, and **Dax N** agreed.
c. **Eric M** and **Dax N** will work on establishing language to do ordinance and springboard off **what Assistant Town Manager Tanya Sumner** already has put together.

vi. Whitestown youth town council
1. **Dax N** suggested 2 high school students per council member plus one at large; would like to see done this year.
2. **Eric M** suggested looking at league of cities for guidance on establishing

vii. Whitestown bicycle/pedestrian safety commission
1. **Tanya S** has already started language on this

viii. Whitestown infrastructure task force
1. 3-5 members
2. Help prioritize projects according to residents desires
3. **Eric M** suggested calling a 'Citizens Commission'

ix. Whitestown sidewalk/lighting committee
1. **Kevin R** asked why not part of infrastructure committee, and **Dax N** explained that to him infrastructure to him is bigger like roads and streets.

Additional Discussion

- **Clinton B** appreciated opportunity to giving public a chance to serve especially if there is a demand.
- **Kevin R** asked if we should try to start a business organization or veteran's business organization.
  - **Tanya S** has done an excellent job of getting contact information of every business in town.
  - **Dax N** would hesitate to start something like a chamber of commerce being it a separate tax organization. Town will not favor a business; county doesn't need another money taking organization to be part of.
  - **Susan A** suggested having a luncheon of sort inviting local business owners in.
  - **Dax N** expressed gratitude of **Tanya S** coming on board, and how she has helped spread the image and word of the town.
- Reminder of the deadline on apps for Clerk Treasurer position.
  - February 10th is the deadline and scheduled meeting to appoint on February 24th at 7p.

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Susan A thanked **Dax N** for the agenda and felt it was good. **Dax N** responded this was a good start. **Eric M** asked for a motion to close meeting, **Clinton B** made motion, **Susan A** 2nd. Voted 5-0; motion carried.

Eric M adjourned the meeting at 8:56p.

The minutes from a Special Town Council meeting on February 3rd, 2016, are approved on the 9th day of March, 2016, by the following Town Council Members:

Eric Miller, President

Susan Austin

Clinton Bohm

Jeff Wishek

Kevin Russell

ATTEST:

Shannon Metzger, Deputy Clerk