

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

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

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?"

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.

- 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.

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