

November 16, 2021

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Mrs. Jennifer Heath, Council led council in the pledge of allegiance.

Special Guests: Patrick Kroehler with St. Stan's Church here to ask council permission to have the annual 5k walk/run race at Nelson Park. He indicated that this would be the tenth annual St. Stan's race within Trail Creek. He requested to have the race with the same route as prior years on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Race start time will be 8:00am. Council Member, Peter Pizarek asked Marshal Dick if there were any concerns, Marshal Dick said no. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to allow St. Stan's to have their 5k race on June 4, 2022, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and then was unanimously carried.

Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to approve the meeting minutes from October 2021 as written, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and then was unanimously carried.

Approval of Fund Report: Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave council the Fund Report for October 2021. She did note that the town has received their first installment of the American Rescue Act Funds in the amount of \$224,869.45 A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to approve the fund report, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and the motion was unanimously carried

Approval of Claims: Clerk Treasurer, Joshleen M. Denham gave council the accounts payable register for October 2021 in the amount of \$230,860.75. Ms. Denham noted that this month includes both installments to the Coolspring Fire Department for 2021 in the amount of \$71,000.00 A motion was made by to approve the claims by Mr. Silcox, the motion was seconded Mrs. Gralik by and then unanimously carried.

Correspondence: None

MS4: Kate in attendance to report:

- The state is revamping its policies/procedures on permitting and ordinances through January 2022. Some of the changes are as follows:
 1. Identify on maps all pipes and every conveyance for water.
- Mr. Rick Brown, LaPorte County MS4 Coordinator will be retiring effective January 30, 2022. The MS4 team will be trying to locate a coordinator at least temporarily until they can fill the position full time.
- LaPorte City has been apart of the MS4 program of Laporte County. They are the second largest contributor of the program. LaPorte City may be stepping out of the program and creating their own MS4 program. This will increase our percentage owed drastically. Ms. Doyle explained that, the City of LaPorte started charging their residents a storm water fee on their bill, and now they are able to afford starting their own MS4 team. LaPorte County MS4 team will be meeting with LaPorte City to discuss details in further detail.

Attorney: Bill Herrbach in attendance to report:

- 110 Harding; Attorney indicates that he has not heard from partial property owner Mr. Luna. He has spoke with the other partial owner, Mr. Hines and ask if he was interested in deeding his portion to the town. Once this happens, the town can again pursue the demolition proceedings through the "Unsafe Building Procedures".
- 1929 Coolspring; Clean up will began soon. Ms. Denham, Clerk Treasurer will contact and schedule the clean-up with Chuck It. The cost per 7x12 trailer load will be \$ 700.00 paid for by the estate. Ms. Denham will coordinate with Marshal Dick so that he can place a deputy there during the cleanup.
- 304 Edgemoor; Attorney Herrbach did review as stated the RV concern at this property. He did recommend that the RV be moved all the way back to the garage and then he will comply. Marshal Dick also spoke with the homeowner regarding the violation.

Engineer: John Doyle, Town Engineer in attendance to report:

- Driveway Permits: Two permits were pulled and have been inspected by Mr. Doyle.
- LTAP Submittal: Jeff with Doyle and Associates is helping Ms. Denham get the information uploaded through the portal. She added him to the LTAP account so that he can upload the documents for the town.

Park: No Report

Planning and Zoning: No Report

Building Report: No Report

Police Department: Marshal Dick in attendance to report:

- Halloween Trick or Treat went well. Marshal Dick thanked the contributors for helping.
- Buy Back Vacation Request: Marshal Dick again indicates that he has been unable to take his full vacation time allotted this year. He is requesting from council to be paid out for 18.5 days at 12.25 hours per day. His request was sent to Council President, Jennifer Heath the day of this meeting. The policy requires the requests to be sent to the Clerk-Treasurer by November 1st of the year. Per the town policy all exempt employees are not eligible for the buyback that is at 50%. As council did last year, they will be making an exception to this policy if they pay out vacation to Marshal Dick. Council did not ask the Ms. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer as to where this money was coming from. Ms. Denham wanted it on record she believes a "pay out" is not necessary. Instead, she recommended that council made the exception to the policy and allow him to roll over his unused vacation to next year when we will have a fourth officer so that he can use his vacation. She did remind them they made this same exception last year. The policy continues to be unchanged. Revisions must be made to the policy, the salary ordinance and appropriations. After a lengthy discussion by council, it was decided to table this until a special executive meeting can be scheduled. Deputy Korepanow will also be asking for 100% payout of eight days unused vacation time. He is also an exempt employee, thus making him ineligible per

our current policy. Marshal Dick also asked that council make an exception to the due date of the request from November 1st to December 1st.

Street Department: Street Commissioner, Chris Ott not in attendance.

- Leaf Pick up dates will be October 25 through December 10, weather permitting. This is on both the website and Facebook.
- One truck has been switched over to plow snow.

NIRPC: no report

Old Business:

- Golf Carts: The town has decided to table this indefinitely. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to table, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik, and then unanimously carried.
- CSX: Quiet Zone, Mr. Pizarek has decided not to pursue since the town's budgets are tight. A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to table this indefinitely, motion was seconded by Mr. Kubik and then unanimously carried.

New Business:

- Advertising for Attorney, Engineer and Street Commissioner positions: A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to place ads in the paper for the positions, motion was seconded by Mrs. Gralik and then unanimously carried.
- Redevelopment Commission: The town will be putting together a redevelopment commission to create a TIF district. Council can be nominated and serve as the Redevelopment Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Kubik, motion was seconded by Mr. Pizarek and then unanimously carried.

Clerks Comment: No Report

Council Comment:

- Council President: Jennifer Heath thanked the clerk's office and the police department for the Halloween Trick or Treat at Nelson Park this year.

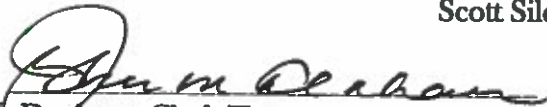
Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. Pizarek to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm, motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and then unanimously carried.

APPROVED:



Jennifer Heath, Council President

Scott Silcox, Council Vice President

ATTEST: 
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer
December 21, 2021

Approved @ meeting 12-21-21