

**New Carlisle Town Council**  
**124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana**  
**General Meeting, March 25, 2014**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Higgins called the meeting to order with Council Member Gelow, Council Member Carter and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Moffitt present. Council Member Vojtko entered late. President Colpitts was absent. Also in attendance were Pat Cummings, Andrea Halpin, Bonnie Carter, Jill Doll, Dave Doll, Jamie Middlebrook, Jason Quirk, Josh Schweizer, Mike McClaran, Rusty Hessel, Tim Kaminski, John Mrozinski, Mike Shilts and Carol Middlebrook.

Vice President Higgins welcomed Council Member Carter back this evening.

**Awarding of Refuse Removal Contract**

The two bids received from Republic Services and Waste Management were reviewed by Attorney Chuck Leone and found to be materially complete. A spreadsheet was also prepared containing bid results and reviewed by the Council.

Council Member Gelow moves to accept the Waste Management bid, as the most responsive and responsible bid, for the next four years. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carter and passed 4-0.

**Employee Reports**

Electric Superintendent Jason Quirk

The two most recent outages planned by AEP went as expected and are the last ones currently planned.

Vice President Higgins asked if the "Welcome" snowman sign by the viaduct could be removed. Jason reports it will be removed as soon as the ground thaws enough to allow for its removal without damage.

Water Plant Supervisor Tim Kaminski

Tim reports that new water treatment plant employee Chester Kominowski started on the 18<sup>th</sup> and will be in attendance at the next meeting for introduction to the Council.

Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reports that they have reviewed the lease agreement for the new plow truck and all paperwork is in order.

Andrea briefly explained the review process for the two bids received for refuse removal.

Public Works Director Pat Cummings

Pat reports that he is working on finding an ADA compliant handrail for the ramp in the Council Room as requested.

The department heads met recently to discuss the disposal of surplus items. After reviewing the various options, they believe that using an auction service would be the most efficient way for this to be handled and would like to use Lestinsky Auctions.

Council Member Carter moved to use Jim Lestinsky Auctions for the auction of surplus items from the various departments of the town. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gelow and passed 4-0.

Pat and Jared will be doing a walk-through of the sidewalk project on Monday as well as looking at streets for the upcoming street projects.

Council Member Vojtko entered the meeting.

## **Minutes**

Council Member Vojtko moved to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2014 General Meeting and March 20, 2014 Executive Session as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gelow and passed 3-0. Council Member Carter abstained.

## **Visitors Comments**

Bonnie Carter asked if town residents should continue to run water. Pat replied that residents should continue to run their water to prevent frozen water lines until notified.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

- **Customer Request for Adjustment**

Resident Douglas Stone submitted a letter to the council explaining details of a large water leak at his home and requesting an adjustment to his account. Because the leak was under his home and the water went into the ground and not into the sewer system, Mr. Stone wrote a letter requesting an adjustment to his sewer bill. He also requested that his water bill be adjusted as he feels that the amount of water that was metered was more than he could have used.

Pat and Sue briefly explained the circumstances surrounding the leak including the period of time involved and amount of water used. The Council was also provided with a chart showing the amount of water that can be used in a 30 day period when leaks of various sizes are present.

Pat recommended that, because the break/leak was under their residence and witnessed by town employees, Mr. Stone's sewer bill be adjusted to the amount of his November billing. It was further recommended that Mr. Stone be given a "drip credit" of 30,000 gallons on his water bill as they were running water prior to the break and this is being offered to all residents. Sue had prepared a breakdown showing the amounts Mr. Stone was billed for water and sewer and the amount of the credits that Pat recommends he receive.

Following discussion, Council Member Gelow moved that Mr. Stone's water be adjusted, to \$3,934.14 and his sewer bill to \$62.12 as recommended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carter and passed 4-0.

- **St. Joseph County Emergency Management Request for Emergency Siren Upgrade Funding**

Vice President Higgins read a letter from Rick Tripp, director of St. Joseph County Emergency Management requesting the Town fund the replacement of the warning siren located within our corporate limits at a cost of \$5,000, \$3,700 of which is for the upgrade with remainder used for future siren repairs.

Council Member Gelow stated that in the past he has called numerous times as has the clerk's office and police department because the siren doesn't function properly. He feels that they don't guarantee that they will repair or maintain a new siren and we could install our own or use the one currently on the fire department.

Council Member Carter stated that the fact that they are calling it a New Carlisle siren when it is part of the county emergency management system funded by tax dollars is upsetting.

Council Member Vojtko feels that they are holding us hostage. He knows that Council Member Gelow as well as others have complained and he has asked that Pat write a letter to them about the need for repair as well. We are already paying taxes for this siren and it still does not work properly. We might consider this but he questions where our tax dollars are that fund the sirens.

Vice President Higgins feels we should have an adequate system that is dependable and reliable that is funded by our tax dollars.

Council Member Vojtko suggests that the Public Works Director write a strongly worded letter the Mr. Tripp about repairing the current siren and that they then approach us again regarding funding of the siren.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

Council Member Vojtko moved to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1289 on the day of its introduction. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carter and passed 4-0.

Vice President Higgins read Ordinance #1289 by caption only for the first reading.

Vice President Higgins read Ordinance #1289 in its entirety for the second reading.

Vice President Higgins read Ordinance #1289 by caption only for the third and final reading.

Council Member Carter moved to adopt Ordinance #1289 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gelow and passed 4-0.

Council Member Vojtko

Council Member Vojtko recently attended the Solid Waste and the Area Plan meetings with nothing involving New Carlisle to report.

Council Member Carter

Council Member Carter thanked everyone for the cards and well wishes during his recent surgeries and recovery. He said a special thank you to Council Member Gelow for all of his help.

**Bills to be Paid**

Council Member Carter moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vojtko and passed 4-0.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Council Member Vojtko and second by Council Member Gelow the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

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Ronald Colpitts, Council President

Attest:

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Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer