

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, February 14, 2017 5:00 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Carter called the meeting to order with Council Member Rypma, Council Member Vermillion and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt present. Vice President Vojtko and Council Member Budreau were absent.

Also in attendance were Andrea Halpin, Eric Walsh, John Mrozinski, Jeff Roseboom, Jason Quirk, Josh Schweizer, Jill Doll, Mary Ann Swope, Sandy Raabe, Nick Zarate and Cal Dittmar.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 10, 2017 General Meeting, January 10, 2017, January 12, 2017 and January 19, 2017 work sessions were tabled.

Council Member Vermillion moved to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2017 Work Session, January 26, 2017 Work Session and February 1, 2017 Executive Session as written.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed 3-0.

Visitor Comments

- Kiel Stone, 502 E. Michigan Street

Mr. Stone stated that he has several comments on the police department regarding a freedom of information act he filed with them. He was told that what he asked for does not exist but he vehemently disagrees that this information doesn't exist.

Mr. Stone stated that in 2007 and 2008 for two weeks he was followed around town and the surrounding areas and he believes that they turned this over to the State Police for whatever they were doing. Mr. Stone stated that since that time frame until now he has been under surveillance but not charged with anything and his life is in shambles. He cannot get a job and every time he tries to get records he is stonewalled. He reported that he does have a pending federal lawsuit that includes the town and he wants the records. He states that he has done nothing and is still being followed.

Employee Reports

Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reports that they have had no success in contacting Patrick Wheeland regarding the Surf Air Wireless Agreement after at least six attempts. They have gathered other agreements from around the state for comparison but are not sure what the Council would like to do at this point.

Marcy Kauffman entered the meeting at this time.

President Carter stated that the intention was to have an agreement so that they could just upgrade what they have on the water tower so that Surf Air can provide better services to our residents.

Sue will email Patrick Wheeland and request that he contact Leone Halpin to discuss the agreement.

Old Business

- Surf Air Wireless Agreement

Update regarding the agreement was covered under employee reports.

New Business

- 3 Year Maintenance Bond – Walsh & Kelley

The Maintenance Bond for the 2016 Street Project was presented for signature.

- Ambulance Purchase

Josh reports that he sent a copy of the bid packet to Chuck and Andrea as well as Council Member Rypma for review and it is now ready for advertisement. He stated that there is a loading system that they would like to have for the new ambulance that was not included in the specs as they have submitted a grant application for two of them.

President Carter inquired about the status of the surplus fire equipment. Josh reports that first right of refusal was offered to other departments in St. Joseph County with the deadline being tomorrow. Because we received no bids on any of the vehicles, we can then advertise the surplus vehicles with a minimum bid.

- Engineering Proposal for 2017 Sidewalk Project

This was tabled until the next meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions

- Ordinance #1339 – An ordinance regarding ambulance services fees and charges

President Carter read Ordinance #1339 in entirety for the second reading.

- Ordinance #1342 – A salary ordinance for town employees

President Carter read Ordinance #1342 by caption only for the first reading.

- Ordinance #1343 – An ordinance regarding rates and charges for the electric utility

President Carter read Ordinance #1343 by caption only for the first reading.

Eric Walsh of Umbaugh was in attendance to briefly explain the electric utility analysis that was completed and answer questions.

Eric reported that approximately 8-9 months of work in conjunction with Utility Financial Services for a Rate of Service Study is now complete. Recommendations included the addition of a customer charge that covers the costs involved in being able to supply power; a change in customer classes to simplify and removal of the declining block structure. A tracking factor will continue to be used.

Rates have been reconstructed. The fixed customer charge that has been added is very common and many times much larger than what we have proposed.

Residential rate changes will average approximately 4% except for the governmental class as municipal rates have been subsidized for a number of years and this will true this up.

Commercial rate changes are slightly higher than residential with an approx 9% increase.

Power customers, (those with 3 phase power) would see a 6% increase.

Because street and security lights were more recently updated, there is a smaller increase.

Very low KWh users will see a little bigger increase than 4% due to the fixed customer charge and those with much higher usages will see a smaller increase than the 4%.

Average residential customer will pay the fixed fee but also see a reduction in the KWh cost.

Council Reports

Council Member Rypma

Council Member Rypma asked if Chief Roseboom has received all of the new radios for the PD. He reports that some of the agencies received stolen radios and gave kudos to Chief for avoiding that situation.

Jeff explained that some of them are real radios but the seller was not approved by the state to see them and made up the IPC numbers.

Council Member Vermillion

Council Member Vermillion reported that he met with John Mrozinski today. Rob will be in charge with help from the others while John is away. He reports that the backhoe will need to be auctioned and disposal of the old park equipment is approximately half complete and should be finished next week.

President Carter

President Carter asked if the two Chiefs had held further discussion regarding use of a building and property for practice, etc. They reported there has not been further discussion to date.

Bills to be Paid

A motion to pay all bills as presented was made by Council Member Vermillion and seconded by Council Member Rypma. The motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Rypma and second by Council Member Vermillion the meeting was adjourned at 5:47PM.

Ken Carter, President

Attest:

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer