

Spencer Town Council Regular Meeting
August 21, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
Municipal Building
90 N. West Street
Spencer, IN 47460

Board Members present: Jon Stantz and Michael Spinks. Dean Bruce was absent.

Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheryl Moke, Town Attorney Richard Lorenz, Sewer Superintendent John Hodge, Street Supt., Larry Parrish, and Chief Marshal Richard Foutch.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Spinks made a motion to accept the previous minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ISSUES

Pete Hodge spoke on a parking issue on Main Street near his business. He maintains that he is not in violation of any ordinance, but yet the customer's cars were issued citations. He said Dean Bruce visited his business, and told him to move the cars. He didn't feel that he had the authority to do this on his own. He discussed several other parking violations that occur around town and on Main Street in particular. He would like to have it resolved by the Town Board whether there is a violation or not. Mr. Lorenz said our town code does state that "no person can park a car if the principle purpose is for repair or storage". He further stated that more dialogue should take place so that after the construction is done, that there is a clear understanding and a plan on how this will be enforced. At this time, the issue was tabled, and Pete Hodge was told he would not be expected to pay any violations.

The next item up for discussion was the Demil property. Mr. Lorenz stated that a hearing will be held at the courthouse on August 29th at 2:00 p.m. He stated that the judge will take testimony and enter the letters into evidence. He stated that what will probably take place is that whether Mr. Treloar shows up or not, the court will make its findings with regard to the disabilities of the property and order the landowner to repair those within specific time frames. If he fails to do this, it will make him in contempt of court.

Several residents were present, and Don Kivett asked for an estimate of when the property will be cleaned up. Mr. Lorenz was not able to estimate the total time, but stated he expected to see some movement within the next 30 days. When pressed further, he thought the cleanup that would significantly improve the visual aspects, might take place by the end of the year. Without knowing what else is there, he could not predict the final cleanup.

An event request for the Apple Butter Festival parade was presented. They are requesting closure of streets for the entire route, which begins on Main and Cooper, travels up to Market, heads east on Market, and eventually ends up at the parking lot behind the fair grounds on Jefferson. The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will take approximately one hour.

Jon Stantz made a motion to approve the request and the route, the motion was seconded and passed.

Next up, Carla English addressed the Board about the traffic on Hillside. She reported that she has been monitoring the traffic for the past 2 ½ weeks, between 5 and 8 hours a day. She said that the cars continually to run stop signs. She noted there is some improvement when there is police presence, but there isn't enough. She requested speed bumps and additional stop signs. She was told that there could not be speed bumps, but additional stop signs could be added along Hillside.

Mike Sudol made a suggestion that the penalty for these violations should be increased, possibly to \$100. He and Denise Sudol also suggested that the Town should increase the awareness to the traffic problems with the increase in penalties and reporting offenders.

Jon Stantz agreed to look into additional signs and increasing the penalty.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foutch reported on the police department activities. He reported that he is starting the process to fill the vacant reserves positions. He also reported an FMLA leave for an employee.

IN THE MATTER OF THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Larry Parrish discussed upgrading of street signs as recommended by Officer Stevens. He made a suggestion to replace the Yield signs with Stop signs on Indiana.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT

John Hodge reported on the maintenance of the plant and collection.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIRE TERRITORY

Steve Cradick made a report on the Fire Territory. The new truck is up and running, and they are getting their personnel trained on it. The building is in need of repairs that will be budgeted in 2018.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Jennie Reynolds reported that the department vehicle needed to be replaced. There is a shortfall of approximately \$3,300 to pay for the replacement vehicle. Jennie asked if the Town would like to contribute to this.

Mike Spinks made a motion to pay \$2,000 towards the vehicle, the motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING AND ZONING

There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday where the Planning board will consider modifications to the first TIF district.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ATTORNEY

The Rental Registration Ordinance 2015-05 was presented for review.

Mike Spinks made a motion to adopt the ordinance for registering rental properties. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

In the matter of the INDOT project, Jon reported that they anticipate completing the north side of the street west of Hillside in the next 30 days. They will then shift to the south side, and hope to have that complete by the end of December. This will be just the road surface, no sidewalks, and not the final road surface.

In the matter of the Streetscape project, Mr. Lorenz reported that one tank has been removed, but it's possible there are up to five more. There could be additional costs involved.

Someone made the suggestion that the bricks be sold to raise money.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

The Clerk Treasurer presented a draft for the 2018 budget for the Board to review. She noted some changes to expenses, and also added a Finance Manager line.

Mike Spinks made a comment that the water company failed to bill him this month and as a result, he did not get charged by the Town for sewer either. He was curious how many customers were affected, and how will it affect them next month as well as the Sewer Dept.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Claims were presented and approved.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

/S/ JON STANTZ

Jon Stantz, President

ABSENT

Dean Bruce, Vice-President

/S/ MICHAEL SPINKS

Michael Spinks, Member

Attest /S/ CHERYL MOKE

Cheryl Moke, Clerk-Treasurer