

Spencer Town Council Regular Meeting
February 4, 6:00 P.M.
Municipal Building
90 N. West Street
Spencer, IN 47460

Board Members present: Michael Spinks and Dean Bruce and Jon Stantz

Also present, Attorney Richard Lorenz, Street Superintendent Tony Floyd, Sewer Superintendent John Hodge, Chief Marshal Richard Foutch, and Clerk-Treasurer Cheryl Moke.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC MATTERS

The first order of business was to appoint new members to the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Present for their appointments were Chris Conner and Larry (Buck) Johnson. The Town Council made appointments and the new members took their Oath of Office.

Rob White and Marcie King were next up to discuss banners for the Town. Rob White first discussed the banners in the downtown area. He reported there were 14 poles and he proposed that the Main Street Board organize the ordering, placement, and changing of the signs. He is planning to have an organizational meeting on February 25 at 6:00 at the Tivoli for all interested organizations to learn more about the banners. Anytime that an organization is not displaying banners, they will have a generic Dine Downtown type of banner in its place.

Marcie King reported that the Bicentennial group, with permission from the town, would take over the banners along Morgan Street for the next year. She said that IU Health has agreed to sponsor all the poles, and she shared a design that she thought would be used.

Jon Stantz made a motion to allow the Bicentennial Group put banners on all the poles along Morgan Street. The motion was seconded and passed.

Toby Church with Commonwealth Engineers spoke to the Board about opportunities for funding for wastewater improvements. He would like to set another meeting where he might be able to spend more time explaining the options. The Board recommended that a work session be set up later.

A request was presented to the Board for the Owen County Antique Machinery event to be held on June 6 through 9th. It was the same as last year's request, to be held in Cooper Commons with the first day for setup and the last day to take down. They are requesting police security for the nights because of the equipment. They will provide a certificate of insurance.

Dean Bruce made a motion to approve the event request. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that an employee with Boston stopped in about reducing the speed limit on Brookside. She recommended that since another group was looking into the vacating of Brookside, maybe there needed to be some coordination between the various groups. She agreed to make contact with Boston and get one person who will be the point of contact on these issues.

Next, Ordinance 2019-06 Creating the Town of Spencer Non-Reverting Training and Equipment Fund was presented. This fund will be set up for any money, because of seizures or forfeits will have a separate fund as provided by IC 36-1-2-9. This money is non-reverting and can only be used for law enforcement purposes.

Jon Stantz made a motion that Ordinance 2019-06 be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foutch reported that the Bylaws for the Police Reserves were being updated.

Further discussion took place regarding the reimbursement of training. That ordinance is still being revised.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Jenny Osborne reported that she met with representatives with DNR to make sure that what they require was being done. One of the outcomes of the meeting was that she became aware she was not reviewing permits for street cuts, new roads, culverts, etc. If these are occurring in a flood plain, they will have to follow the same protocols. Cheryl and Jenny had discussed, and permits from the Town will be provided to her from here on forward.

She also discussed the new packet she would be using for issuing permits which will provide more information on the site elevation, especially if it is in the flood plain. Along in this packet is a checklist, which will allow her to be more thorough with documenting the plan and its requirements.

IN THE MATTER OF THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Tony Floyd recommended that a new streetlight be added at 67 and 5th Avenue. Jon Stantz said that he would send a message to INDOT to get the process started. He also reported that there was no speed limits on south Main Street between Hillside and south of Jefferson. He said he would find the best places for a couple of these. He also reported that after the Morgan Street project, a parking spot had been eliminated on Washington Street by the Ford lot entrance. The Board instructed him to remove the meter.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that a new fund was set up for Restricted MVH funds. Beginning in 2019, half of all money received for MVH distributions will have to go into this fund. This fund is used for construction, reconstruction, or preservation of streets and roads.

Mike Spinks mentioned that the new sidewalks would have to be maintained better.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT

John Hodge reported that there would be some additional monitoring required for the new permit for phosphorous. A letter for a three-year extension for compliance was presented for approval.

Dean made a motion to approval the request for an extension. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING/ZONING

There is a meeting tomorrow beginning at 6:00 p.m.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIRE TERRITORY

Ordinance 2019-01 from the Fire Territory Board was presented for approval. The ordinance allows the Fire Territory to bill for fire runs and other runs, such as false alarms. The ordinance follows state guidelines. After the Town passes it, it will go on to the Washington Township for passage also.

Jon Stantz made a motion to accept the ordinance as proposed. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ATTORNEY

Richard Lorenz reported that there are new bills being proposed that AIM opposes. One greatly restricts any annexation. The other one is a bill, which will stop municipalities from placing a lien on properties that are rented to tenants. It essentially prevents a town from going after a property owner for nonpayment.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she has prepared a timeline for reestablishing the Cum Funds. There will be a public hearing for these on March 18 at 5:45 p.m.

Jon Stantz reported that he is doing the closeout on the Safe Routes to School project and everything is now complete. He also said there would be a solid waste management meeting, date yet to be determined.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Claims were presented for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

/s/ Michael Spinks
Mike Spinks, President

/s/ Jon Stantz
Jon Stantz, Vice-President

/s/ Dean Bruce
Dean Bruce, Member

Attest /s/ Cheryl Moke
Cheryl Moke, Clerk-Treasurer