

Spencer Town Council Regular Meeting
January 21, 2020 6:00 P.M.
Municipal Building
90 N. West Street
Spencer, IN 47460

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dean made a motion to accept minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC MATTERS

Jonathan Balash presented an event request for the 2020 Spencer Pride Festival to take place on Saturday, June 6, 2020. The time of the event is 12 noon to 7:00 PM. They plan on setting up on Friday night, and tearing down on Sunday. This is their request as a backup plan, but they anticipate some setup Friday evening, which will occur after business hours and will keep streets open for traffic. They also feel they will be able to tear down Saturday, after the event, unless there is rain. After further discussion of the details, the Board agreed to hold off approving until all members were in attendance, and Jonathan could canvass further the businesses along the closed streets. This will be revisited at the February 3 meeting.

Jill McKay asked for an update on the plans for a variance request on the property behind her store. The BZA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m. She also requested to be sent the zoning ordinance for review.

Next, Resolution 2020-01, Election to Join PERF, related to adding the position of Fire Fighters was presented for approval.

Mike Spinks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-01 to add the position of Fire Fighter to its existing plan. The motion was seconded and passed.

Next, Mike Spinks spoke about a proposal from the County Maintenance to cut into the sidewalk in front of the Probation Department along. He said that a commissioner would have to explain how it would be accomplished, before approval is granted.

Next, Mike Spinks requested approval for an engagement letter with London Witte in regards to work to be performed for the Redevelopment Commission. They propose to review assessed values for properties in the TIF districts. They will charge an hourly rate of \$398.

Mike Spinks made the motion to approve signing the engagement letter. The motion was seconded and passed.

Next, Gary Baxter, a resident on Laymon Avenue, addressed the Board about a sewer issue affecting four or five homes. All the homes are connected to the sewer main by way of a single 4-inch line into which they are all tapped. They are requesting that the sewer department correct this. The recommendation from the Board is to have John Hodge contact these residents to come up with a solution.

Lastly, commitment letters for the Community Crossing Grant applications were presented for signature.

IN THE MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Don Bingham updated the Board on the Economic Development office. They will have a public meeting held at the IGA on February 13, 6pm, where they will present the newly developed Economic Development Strategy Plan. Then on March 2, the plan will be presented to the County Commissioners for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Next meeting will be March 18, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foutch reported that Austin Combs presented his letter of resignation and will be gone as of February 1.

Next, Chief Foutch recommended that Chester (Pudge) Richardson be hired to replace Austin Combs. The police department is still short one police officer, and Foutch expects another officer to resign sometime around May. He would like to get this one filled as quickly as possible, and Pudge has been on the force in the past, is familiar with the Town and should be able to hit the ground running. He will have to complete 120 hours of online training to be fully qualified. Dean Bruce suggested that a work session with all the officers would be a good idea. However, he stated he would still like to make a motion to accept the recommendation to hire Chester Richardson.

Dean Bruce made the motion to hire Richardson.

Dean further commented that he received an email from Board Member Jon Stantz about concerns for rehiring Richardson. Dean said he never heard back about what his concerns were, but since there was a probationary period of one year, he decided to move forward on this. He further said, he would never do anything to harm the town with his decisions, and therefore felt the motion to rehire was appropriate based on his experience with Richardson and the police department.

The motion was seconded and passed.

IN THE MATTER OF PLANNING/ZONING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning & Zoning has a meeting scheduled for January 28.

IN THE MATTER OF THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Floyd reported issues after the last water event. There were problems with water flow on the north side of the elementary school. He had to use sandbags to prevent it from flowing in through the back door. The problem is a result of an overload on the storm water drain on East Street. Drew Flamion with Commonwealth is looking at other options, but any option will be a major expense. He reported on the access to electricity on the Town's light poles. The old poles are not accessible, but the new poles can provide access to electricity by turning it on at an electrical box. Next, he confirmed the census data that was sent to Mike. He next reported that the Street Department purchased a dump truck bed for the cost of \$1,000.00.

Floyd reported that he came up with an alternative to fixing the light pole banner hangers that snap off. He has installed a couple that he is testing now.

Dean stated that sometime in the spring, they should look at establishing a storm water utility.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT

John Hodge was absent.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARKS DEPT

No report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIRE TERRITORY

Nothing new to report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ATTORNEY

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

The 2020 Holiday Calendar was presented for approval.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Claims were presented for acceptance and were approved.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

/s/ Mike Spinks
Mike Spinks, President

/s/ Dean Bruce
Dean Bruce, Vice-President

/s/ Jon Stantz
Jon Stantz, Member

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