February 5, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 5th day of February, 2024 at the hour of 6:00 P.M., for a meeting pursuant to call in accordance with the rules of the Council. The meeting was called to order by Pat Claire, Town Council Vice President. On call of the roll of the members of the Council were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Pat Claire, Mike Sanders, Jason Fisher, Lisa Sarault

Absent: Linda Brouillette

Also Present: Kelly Gardner with Alliance of Indiana, John Budreau, Brad Lane, Dave Pitstick, Bill Burton, Ken Smith, Gail Lange, Laura Fisher.

Disconnect Hearing

No one was present for the disconnect hearing. Mike Sanders motioned to proceed with disconnects. Lisa Sarault seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Mike Sanders made the motion to approve the January 8th minutes. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

Kelly Gardner, from Alliance of Indiana, was at the meeting to present Clayton Bohlinger a certificate of completion for the Wastewater Apprenticeship Program. This Apprenticeship was a 2-year program. This program paid for his wages, with the Town getting reimbursed $91,953. The Town was also reimbursed $4,272 for training, an apprenticeship state expansion grant of $1,000 and the laptop that was purchased for this program of $698.84. Kelly stated that Nate was a great mentor for this program and for Clayton.

Misc. Business

Ken Smith was present to give an update on the Water Project. The Contractor for the Water Tower and the plant will start no earlier than April 1. We will have a preliminary meeting before they start. The work on the hydrants will start after April as well. He also stated that the Community Crossing Grant application has been submitted for the streets the Town chose to repave.

Ken said that the Park project is ready to discuss, next Monday Feb. 12 at 6. Sara will schedule a Special meeting for this.

Laura Burton was in attendance to discuss Easter. Easter this year is March 31, so the Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, March 30 at the Park at 10 am for kids up to grade 6. She requested the same budget as last year of $1500 and would like to continue with the same budget this year. The cost last year was $1,285 and donations of $755. Lisa Sarault motion to approve $1500 for the 2024 Easter budget. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor, motion carried. Laura also had several ideas for smaller events for the Town. Laura listed off several things that included an Adult Easter Egg Hunt, a Bunny Bar Hop Golf Cart Poker Run, and Singo Bingo. The Council stated she could try the other events.

Latisha Provo, the Economic Development Director for Benton County was in attendance and spoke. She introduced herself to the Council and gave out her business card. She stated that her and Laura should get together, that there are grants they she may be able to utilize for the Town. Lisa stated that she attended her first KIRPC meeting and that her and Latisha are on the Executive Board.

Matt Commons introduced himself to the Council. He is running for State Representative District 13. He is from Warren County. Lisa stated that she met Matt at the fundraiser at the Benton County Country Club.

Department Heads

Sara had the 2021 old checks to receipt back into the appropriate accounts. Pat Claire looked over the excel sheet and signed.

Sara had Ordinance 2024-0205 for mileage reimbursement of .67 per mile effective January 1, 2024. for employees that travel for training, conferences. Pat Claire made the motion to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2024-0205 for reimbursement of mileage at .67 per mile for the Town of Fowler employees on its first reading. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Pat Claire made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-0205 mileage reimbursement. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

Jason stated that there may be someone interested in the lot next to Varnado's Barber Shop. Jason said that if they are interested in this property, they would have to come to a meeting to discuss it.

Sara asked the Council if they would approve to put a handicap sign up in front of the Community Center. There are several older citizens that utilize the Community Center and it would be beneficial for them to be able to park close to the door.

The Council also discussed the old Presbyterian sign on 5th St. They feel this sign should be removed. John will remove it.

Claims

Jason Fisher motioned to accept the claims. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business, Pat Claire motions to adjourn. Jason Fisher seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Approved:

Pat Claire, Council Vice President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer