

April 1, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 1st day of April, 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 Linda Brouillette, Town Council President. On call of the roll of the members of the Council were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Linda Brouillette, Pat Claire, Mike Sanders, Lisa Sarault

Absent: Jason Fisher

Also Present: Brad Lane, John Budreau, Sean Heim, Bill Burton, Laura Fisher, Gail Lange, Stan Rider, Steve Brunton, Shanna Shepard.

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

Pat Claire made the motion to approve the March 4 minutes with the exception to correct spelling of Stone's Local Public House. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Stan Rider was in attendance to give the Council an update on the Ordinance violation. He stated that the car is movable and can be put in the garage, but does not have the garage cleaned out yet. After discussion by the Council, Mike Sanders motioned to extend his deadline to April 8. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. He is to call Sara at the Town Hall by April 8 with an update.

New Business

Andrea Bowman from the Benton Community Center addressed the Council. She gave a short description of the Quality of Life survey that the Benton Community Center had for the Benton County residents to fill out. Andrea stated that they received almost 500 surveys. Some of the top things listed in the surveys were: Restaurants, grocery store, mental health, substance abuse, community center, youth programming, parks and trails, transportation. Also included ideas for professional development.

The Benton Community Foundation will be working with Ball State University to provide training for elected officials, community leaders, engaged citizens and anyone who is passionate about where they live. This will be a 2.5-day course and it will be held at the Annex. This will be in August. More information to follow.

There will also be another community conversation at the Fowler Theatre on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30. They will be showing the movie, If you build it. This movie has designers that worked with high school students to help transform both their community and their lives with building projects. The proposal for the grant will be turned in by April 30th. There may be regranting opportunities for the community from food access, economic, infrastructure, mental health and substance abuse, youth programming and parks and trails.

Misc. Business

Laura Fisher stated Easter went well and was under budget so she decided to do an Eclipse event. The Benton County Blackout. Will have viewing at the ballfield at the park. Laura ordered some glasses for the event and will have two food vendors and a bounce house available.

Shanna Shepard, President of the Benton County Country Club Board, addressed the Council to discuss extra lighting at the County Club. Sara will contact NIPSCO to see if the Town can put up a couple extra lights to help.

Steve Brunton told the Council that the Benton County Country Club has received a nuisance permit from the Department of Natural Resources to eliminate geese around the Country Club property. He wanted to address the Council and let them be aware that they do have the permit. Steve plans on talking to the Police Dept and the Sheriff Dept. to make them aware as well.

Lisa Sarault asked the Council to give an update to the Benton County Country Club regarding the small bridge that is between the club and Golf Heights. Sara Finley had previously stated that the Town Hall had asked for a quote at the end of last year but have not received the quote.

Department Heads

John Budreau stated he would like to move Damien Hood to a Class B employee. He just passed his certification test for pool operator. Pat Claire motioned to raise Damien Hood to a Class B employee. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

John also discussed the old cable lines that were left in town and what was the Town's responsibility if there was an issue with them. After discussion on the cable lines, Pat Claire motioned that

the Town is only responsible for the Town right of way issues. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Burton was present and stated he was going to the Commissioners meeting and ask for funds toward a new Fire Truck. Bill asked the Council for \$150,000 to go towards the Fire Truck. Sara Finley stated that the Town can transfer 15% of the remaining of last year's budget and put it into Rainy Day. The Council will put this into consideration and discuss this again.

Bill stated that he received the radios today that they ordered with encumbered funds from last year. Sara stated she will send out the payment.

Sara asked Bill if he would consider staying on the Alcohol Beverage Commission Board for another year. He agreed. Mike Sanders motion to approve Bill to the Alcohol Beverage Commission Board for another year. Pat Claire seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kim Bratton received an email from Brittney Scott showing her interest on being on the Park Board. Pat Claire motioned to approve her email and be on the Park Board. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kim Bratton has two quotes to cut a couple trees down at the park. First quote was from Mert Construction with a quote of \$7800 and the second quote is Elevate Tree Care for \$3200. The Council's opinion is that they would consider Elevate Tree Care for the \$3200.

Sara Finley had certificate of deposit rates from three different banks. Fowler State has a 5-month rate at 4.56% and a 12-month rate at 1.75%. Alliance Bank has a 5-month rate at 3.95% and a 12-month rate at 1.91%. Farmers and Merchants bank has a 5-month rate at 4% and a 11-month rate at 4.5%. Pat Claire motions to accept the Farmers and Merchants Bank of 11-month rate at 4.5%. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley had the printout from Ken Smith regarding the logo for the water tower. The council approved.

Sara Finley had a quote from Gretencord Lawn and Garden Service for the Monarch Commons and for the Town of Fowler welcome sign areas. This includes removal of the tall grass at end of each side of the sign on 4th and 52, weed the area and apply pre emerge herbicide, install mulch. Total quote is \$1,203.00. The Monarch Commons would be initial clean up, pruning, herbicide and fertilizer. This quote is for \$1,950. Lisa Sarault motions to approve quote from Gretencord Lawn and Garden Services. Pat Claire seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley stated that, at the April 18, 2022 meeting, the Council had approved a payment of \$3,300 toward the contractor of work performed for Mary Gardner property. This work was performed and paid for by Mary Gardner and Mary had requested the payment be made to her. Sara emailed the

council and showed the invoice from the contractor was paid and the Council approved sending the payment to Mary.

Bill Burton stated that the Fire Dept. would no longer be mowing the area by the Town of Fowler sign at 52 and 4th St.

Bill Burton suggested that someone needs to clean the Monarch Common stage. Brad Lane said that he would look into getting a quote from someone to pressure wash and seal it for the Town.

Sara Finley has a quote from Banner Savers/Britten, Inc. for replacing brackets on the downtown lamp posts and for new Spring Banners. Quote is for \$2,934.54. Pat Claire motioned to approve. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Linda Brouillette mentioned that her and Pat Claire are meeting with Jud to discuss the business that would like to come to Fowler.

Claims

Pat Claire motioned to accept the claims and approve the Event Coordinator Visa bill. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment


With no further business, Linda Brouillette motions to adjourn. Mike Sanders seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Approved:



Linda Brouillette, Council President

Attest:


Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer