

February 3, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 3rd day of February, 2025 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 Jason Fisher, Council President. On call of the roll of the members of the Council were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Jason Fisher, Lisa Sarault, Mike Brewer, Michelle Sarault

Absent: Mike Sanders

Also Present: Emily Albaugh, Jud Barce, Lee Klemme, John Budreau, Brad Lane, Ken Smith, Elizabeth Sheffield, Latisha Provo

Disconnect Hearing

No one was present for the disconnect hearing. Mike Brewer motioned to proceed with disconnects. Michelle Sarault seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Lisa Sarault made the motion to approve the January 6th minutes. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

There was a public hearing for the OCRA Comprehensive plan. Emily Albaugh with KIRPC was present to discuss the Comprehensive Plan grant. Emily stated they would be submitting the application on February 20th. It is a \$50,000 grant with a local match of \$5,600. The Town went through the procurement process and chose Ken Smith with Municipal Civil to complete the plan. Jason Fisher asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns for the Comprehensive plan grant. Jud Barce asked what the timeline was for the grant. Emily responded that the application will be submitted on February 20, and it will be awarded around March 17th. Then the grant agreements will be sent out by the State, which should be around 6 weeks after the award notice. Ken Smith will have 12 months from the time of the award notice to the closeout.

Jason closed the public hearing and was given Resolution 2025-0203-1 authorizing the application submission and local match commitment for the Comprehensive plan. Jason Fisher made the motion to suspend the rules and consider Resolution 2025-0203-1 on it's first reading. Mike Brewer seconds. All in

favor. Motion carried. Michelle Sarault made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-0203-1. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Emily had paperwork for Jason to sign, the four-factor authorization, paperwork to authorize Emily to submit her minutes with the application, and the applicant disclosure form.

Lisa Sarault asked Emily to discuss the OOR, which is the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program Grant. The goal of the grant is for communities to create a program for low to moderate income residents to repair their primary residences. The Town is interested in this and will look into applying in the next quarter.

Elisabeth Sheffield was present to discuss the UBO at 809 E 5th St. Jud stated, they were ordered to do three things: remove the trash on the side of the house, remove the trees/vegetation that was growing up around the house and remove the back porch. Elizabeth Sheffield apologized for the appearance of the property. They have done some things to clean it up but know it hasn't been enough. They are currently working on selling the property. Lisa Sarault asked if they have talked to anyone about buying the property. Elizabeth stated they actually signed a purchase agreement on Friday, but the paperwork has not been given back to her yet. The people who signed the purchase agreement have looked at the property and know what they are up against. Jud asked Elizabeth if the buyers were aware of the unsafe building order. Elizabeth stated yes. Closing is supposed to be on March 3rd. After discussion from the Council, Mike Brewer motioned for a \$5,000 fine to hold in advance and review at the next meeting on March 3rd. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

Jason Fisher stated with the new structure being built on 8th Street for a residence, there is a need to do some research on the property. Jud stated that there is a sanitary sewer that runs by the new house being built. It goes across the back yard from Lanie's property and runs North and South. East and West is a storm water drain that shows on the Town GIS. Rick Gretencord, who is building the house, had a survey done of his 1.33-acre lot. Robert Grove is the one who did the survey. Jud asked Robert how much it would cost to see where the lines were to get an easement. Mr. Grove said it would not exceed \$1,000 to get the legal description that Jud can use to put into an easement for drainage and sanitary sewer for the area, as we want the stormwater drain to go all the way over the East Street. Jud had a diagram and showed the Council. Michelle Sarault motion to approve the survey. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason Fisher stated Dustin Terrell is wanting to put in new gravel at the softball field at the park. He would like permission to be able to drive on the grass when the ground is frozen to deliver it. John Budreau commented, as long as the ground is frozen it should be ok to get to the field.

Misc. Business

Jason stated he would like to see the Town support our small businesses more. He said that the County has a program using CEDIT funds to do small business agreements. He would like to see the Town do this annually, with certain criteria's that will need to be met. Jason asked Latisha Prove, the Economic Development Director for Benton County, if she had any insight of how the County did their program. Latisha said what she does is under \$1,000 or less. Businesses can go to the County Commissioner meetings to ask for certain things. Her recommendation for us would be start a Main Street Program. Sara Finley is in the process of getting this started for the Town. Sara stated she will reach out to other Towns to see if they do any programs like this and get some ideas to start ours. Jud stated Attica did a grant program that had an application and criteria for businesses. Jud will get this to Sara.

Jason said that the Council needs to appoint someone to the Northwest Solid Waste District board. There will be quarterly meetings. The Council discussed this and Michelle Sarault volunteered to do this.

Miscellaneous Business

Ken Smith was present and said that INDOT is accelerating their distribution of their funding for the Community Crossing Grant. It used to take three or four months to receive the money, this year the money should be dispersed in February. We could bid the job out in March and April. Next round will start in July and they are encouraging everyone to apply. We could pave early spring and possibly do another round this year.

Department Heads

Sean Heim was not present but had sent an email to Sara with the updated excel sheet for the Council.

Sara Finley had Resolution 2025-0203-2 to adopt the Benton County 2024 multi hazard mitigation plan. Jason Fisher made the motion to suspend the rules and consider Resolution 2025-0203-2. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Lisa Sarault made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-0203-1. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley stated she had 4 old checks she will be receipting back into Keystone. Michelle stated that the customers with the meter deposit checks will go to Indiana Unclaimed. Mike Brewer motion to approve the old checks. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason discussed the personal leave for Macey and Landon Happ for the birth of their baby. Michelle Sarault approved 3 weeks paid and up to 12 weeks with the use of PTO time and time unpaid. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara had the Nepotism policies for the Council to sign.

Michelle asked about the Tomecko property. Several years ago, the Town had a UBO on the house and eventually had it taken down with liens applied to the parcel. The property is now going up for tax sale and the Council is in agreement to receive the property. Jud will be doing the paperwork to transfer the property to the Town.


Claims

Mike Brewer motioned to accept the claims. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

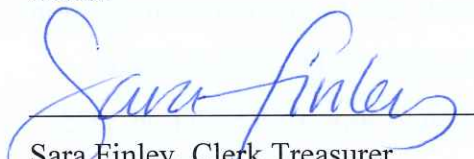
With no further business, Jason Fisher motions to adjourn. Mike Brewer seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Approved:



Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:



Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer