March 3, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 3rd day of March, 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 Sanders, Mike Brewer, Michelle Sarault

Also Present: John Budreau, Nate Besse, Brad Lane, Lee Klemme, John Budreau, Bill Burton, Laura Fisher, Chrissie McCutcheon, Ken Smith, Sara Finley.

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 February 3rd minutes. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

The property at 809 E 5th St sold and discussion between the Council and Jud to determine the next steps with the unsafe building order and the $5,000 pending fee. Michelle Sarault motioned to recall the $5,000 fee and dismiss the unsafe building order. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason Fisher stated that the tabled motion from meeting December 2, 2024, in regards to Town property and Kibo business be withdrawn since it is no longer an option to discuss. Mike Sanders motions to withdraw the tabled discussion. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

Chrissie McCutcheon from Soil and Water Conservation District was present to discuss the annual Arbor Day. They hold the event at the Fowler Town Park for all of the Benton County second graders. DNR and Purdue usually come and talk to the children about Arbor Day. The Council usually approves a $2,000 budget for this for help with transportation, food, and trees for the children. Mike Brewer motions to approve the $2,000 budget. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jud Barce stated the Commissioners signed a Resolution in February to give the property, 107 N Lincoln Ave to the Town of Fowler. Jud had Resolution 2025-0303 to accept assignment of certain tax sale certificate. Jud filed a petition for a tax deed on February 20 and have to wait 120 days, then send notice to owner for the intent to seek a tax deed. The Town then has to wait 61 days. Jason Fisher made the motion to suspend the rules and consider Resolution 2025-0303. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Mike Sanders made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-0303. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jud and Brad Lane discussed the new unsafe building orders:

-910 E 3rd Street. Issues with the garage and the roof.

-201 N Jackson Ave. Brad Lane stated there is several holes in the soffit. Animals are going in and out of the home.

-112 & 114 E 5th Street. Brad stated bricks are falling off of the building, several cats are in and out of the building, hole in crawlspace.

Jason asked if we could possibly amend the Ordinance that pertains to the tall grass. He stated that the time it takes for owners to receive a letter, the grass would be well above the violation. Jud will send the ordinance for the Council to look over.

The Town anticipates receiving the Community Crossing Grant to pave streets. Ken Smith was in attendance and stated we could start the bidding process. Mike Brewer motioned to approve the start of the bidding process. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ken Smith said he will be meeting with Hamstra to look over the showers and the pool bath house. This should be completed in April.

Laura Fisher discussed the 80's Music Bingo at the Benton County Country Club. There were 46 people played and everyone had a good time. Laura discussed some new people that moved to town participated.

Laura stated there is a fishing tournament that she is working on. She is looking at April 12 with a rain date of April 13. There will be food and prizes.

Easter will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Fowler Town Park. Laura is asking for $1,500 for a budget. Lisa Sarault motions to approve the $1,500 budget for Easter. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Laura stated that events for the 4th of July will be on the 3rd and 4th. Fireworks on the 4th with a rain date of July 5th.

Department Heads

Bill Burton ordered awards for Landon Happ and Sean Heim for their performance at the Wadena fire.

Bill stated they are doing the annual maintenance on the Town truck.

John Budreau stated they did their sign inventory and it is completed. There are 18 missing street signs. John had a quote from Halls Signs to replace the missing ones. Quote is for $2,300.55. Mike Sanders motions to approve the quote for the signs. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley had the letter from Farmers and Merchants that the CD we have there will mature on March 18. Sara had three quotes from three different banks. Discussion was held on possibly putting this money into Trust Indiana. Sara will look into this.

Sara Finley had the annual quote from Rick Gretencord for upkeep of the Monarch Commons. Quote is for $2,300 plus replacement of 3 shrubs and installation of $420.00. Mike Brewer made the motion to approve the quote with the replacement shrubs. Mike Sanders seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara Finley stated she had received the Pay App #7 for Hamstra for the Park project in the amount of $63,000. Mike Sanders motions to approve Pay App #7. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason Fisher asked John Budreau since we are starting bids for the paving, if this would be a good time to start deciding if the Town wants to include paving the parking lot next to the Community Center. John said he will be meeting with Ken Smith, the Engineer. He can do plans to include the parking lot and see what the total cost would be.

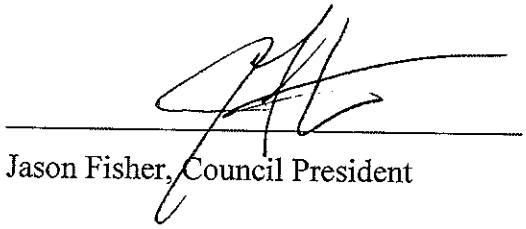
Claims

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

Adjournment

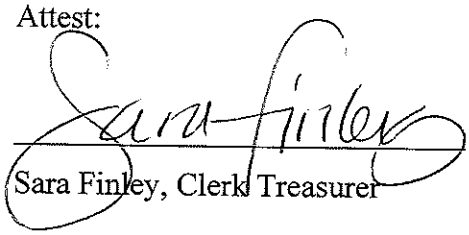
With no further business, Jason Fisher motions to adjourn. Mike Brewer seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Approved:



Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:



Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer