April 7, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Fowler met at the Town Hall on the 7th day of April, 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: Jud Barce, Ken Smith, Lee Klemme, Nate Besse, Gail Lange, Dave Wescott, Brad Lane, Sean Heim, Rick Gretencord, Carol Hobbs, Stacey Heafner

Pledge of Allegiance was given with Council President leading.

Disconnect Hearing

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

Approval of Prior Minutes

Lisa Sarault made the motion to approve the March 2nd and March 3rd minutes. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Jud Barce was in attendance for the unsafe building order hearing. The first ubo was for Rose Vanderwall at 910 E 3rd St. Rose has passed away but Jud received a letter from her family stating that Rose had been in the process of transferring the property to Stan Rider. Jud asked for an additional 30 days to see if it will be in Stan Riders name. Mike Brewer made a motion to extend the ubo for 30 days based on the property transfer. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next ubo is for 112 and 114 E 5th St. Owners are First National Bank. They were sent an order by certified mail and regular mail. No one has heard from them yet. After discussion with the Council, Mike Brewer made the motion to fine the property $5,000 and hold it in advance and order to appear at the Council meeting held on May 7th. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next ubo is for 110 N Adams. Brad Lane stated that the owners had started repairing the roof. Brad asked to extend their ubo for 30 days to see how much work is done. Mike Brewer motioned to approve extend the ubo for 30 days. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next ubo is 201 N Jackson Ave. Cynthia Swanson was in attendance. Cynthia stated she has started the repairs. Jud went through the list of repairs needed. Cynthia and the Council discussed this. Jud stated there could be a review hearing in 30 days to go over the list and see what the progress is. Mike Brewer motion to approve the 30 days. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jud stated that the Plan Commission held a meeting to discuss zoning request for Rick Gretencord. The request was to change the property from R1 Agriculture to R1 Residential. Jud told the Council that the Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation. Lisa Sarault motion to approve the zoning change. Mike Brewer seconds.

New Business

Sara Finley stated to the Council that there had been complaints of people living in campers. Sara had an ordinance written for the Council to review. Jud Barce said that this issue is land use and the process is zoning. All zoning ordinances go through the Plan Commission. Jud asked if the Council would like for the Plan Commission to meet to discuss the ordinance. Mike Brewer motioned to let the Plan Commission meet to discuss the ordinance. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried. Jud will get a meeting scheduled.

Dave Wainscott was present to discuss the Waste Management contract. The contract for Waste Management expires August 30 of this year. Dave discussed the option of extending the contract for 3 years. If we do this, it will save money, we will be able to keep the annual townwide trash pick up to residents. Sara told the Council that she works well with Waste Management and they are good with responding to issues in a timely manner. The Council would like to discuss this further.

Carol Hobbs spoke to the board requesting gravel be put down in her alley. She listed reasons as to why it was needed. John Budreau stated they usually don't put gravel down every year. The gravel will build up and be higher than the property creating issues. The Council stated they would look at the alley and discuss this with John.

Stacey Heafner spoke to the Council about her leak she has at her resident. Stacey asked if residents could get some kind of discounted rate if they have a leak. Lisa Sarault asked Nate about this. Nate stated he was under the impression that the leak was in the toilet. If the leak goes into the sewer drain, the Town still has to treat and maintain it. This is why we do not give adjustments. Stacey asked if reports could be emailed to her. Sara stated that the reports and can be emailed, mailed or picked up at the Town Hall. The office will run another report for her.

Ken Smith was in attendance to discuss the Park project. Ken, John Budreau, Kim Bratton and Sara Finley did a walk through at the Park and pool restrooms and put together a punch list for Hamstra to look at and correct.

Ken stated that the Town received the Comprehensive Plan grant. The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to take a look at what you would like to do in 10 to 15 years in the Community. Ken and Sara are working on this.

Sara Finley had pay app #8 for Hamstra for $15,000. Mike Sanders made the motion to approve pay app #8. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jason Fisher asked about the signs that are still up from businesses that are no longer here. A couple of signs need to come down. Also, there are a couple of signs on East Street and Adeway that need replaced. Jason also mentioned there are a lot of trash along the ditch on East Street. John said the Town doesn't mow or pick up trash on that ditch, it belongs to the County.

Department Heads

Sean Heim had pictures of roof shingles on the ground at a property on 2nd Street. He had a quote from Pest Control for $600-$700. We had sent a violation letter a week prior. Mike Brewer motion to approve the quote. Lisa Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

John Budreau stated that Mainstream hired a company to come fix the 68 pot holes from a previous job in 2024. Mainstream was wanting to start another project, but needed the new permit signed. John said it would probably be a couple of weeks before they can come fill the holes. The Council decided to not sign another permit until all the pot holes have been filled.

Lee Klemme said the two new Police Officers worked with him and Landon for a week and will start with pre basic tomorrow.

Nate Besse stated a transmitter went bad on the vac trailer. Quote is around $2,468.94. The funds can be split between sewer and water. Mike Brewer motioned to approve the transmitter and quote of $2,468.94. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nate told the Council the motor and gear box for the finishing clarifier went bad. This is something we have to have. A new one has been ordered for about $6,300. Should have it in a couple of weeks.

Nate mentioned that they will be starting to flush hydrants starting Monday, April 21.

Sara Finley had a field use agreement from Ingrid for the baseball/softball teams that use the Town's field. Sara wanted the Council to look at it before she gave it to the Park Board. Mike Sanders approves the field use agreement. Mike Brewer seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sara had emailed the Council about the certificate of deposit. The Council wanted to look into depositing the CD into Trust Indiana. After reviewing Trust Indiana, Mike Sanders motioned to approve depositing the certificate of deposit into Trust Indiana. Michelle Sarault seconds. All in favor. Motion carried.

Claims

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

Adjournment

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

Approved:

Jason Fisher, Council President

Attest:

Sara Finley, Clerk Treasurer