

North Liberty Town Council Minutes – September 2, 2015

The regularly scheduled meeting of the North Liberty Town Council was held at the North Liberty Community Building. Gerry Brown, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and Council Member Matt Peterson gave the Invocation.

Will Groves, Jr., Brett Voreis, and Tom England Council Members, Town Marshal Michael Sawdon, Attorney John Peddycord, Utilities Manager Skip Davidson, and Vicki Kitchen Clerk-Treasurer were in attendance. There were three citizens present. There was no representation from the press.

Will Groves, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent agenda including August 5, 2015 regular and executive session Minutes and the vouchers as presented. Matthew Peterson seconded the motion. All voted to approve.

Pete Seal inquired about the use of the fire station; that will be vacant upon completion of the new Liberty Township Emergency Facility, for the possibility of a gym open to the public. He was interested in any please in our community for the location of the gym.

Renee Allsop was in attendance for the sidewalk bids. Carol Holderbaum is the only applicant to complete her paperwork. Gene Davis has paperwork but it is not yet been returned to the clerk's office. Vicki Kitchen will notify Renee Allsop if more paperwork is received.

Town Marshal Michael Sawdon submitted the Monthly Police Reports. A copy is filed with the minutes. He reported the department had received three defibrators from Heartreach and the training would be October 16, 2015. Town Marshal Sawdon and Chief Deputy Walls will be attending Attorney General School in Indianapolis September 9th – 11th.

Halloween Trick or Treat hours were discussed. Matt Peterson made a motion for the Trick or Treat hours to be 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. on Halloween. Will Groves, Jr. seconded the motion. All voted to approve. The Haunted Police Station will be after Trick or Treating.

Skip Davidson stated water plant service pumps have not yet been returned from Ortman Drilling & Water Services. The wastewater improvements project is moving forward. The wastewater fence was discussed. Will Groves, Jr. made a motion to approve Schuell Fence quote for \$11,210.00 for the wastewater plant and to have the 4 foot fence at the wastewater ditch be done at the same time as recommended by IDEM. Tom England seconded the motion. All voted to approve.

Skip Davidson has received the estimate from Walsh and Kelly regarding the completion of curbs and streets in Tamarack Knolls for \$161,687. The developer is requesting the reduction of his performance bond. There is no construction scheduled for the work to be done. The water and wastewater lines are installed. Discussion followed regarding safety, patrol, emergency vehicles, etc. Attorney Peddycord did not know if the statute allowed for the Town

to hold a performance bond larger than the construction estimate. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Problem properties were discussed. Attorney John Peddycord has issued the Notice of Order as defined in the North Liberty Unsafe Building Ordinance for Jerry Hardman Lot 950 Industrial Parkway, Thomas Murray at 110 E. Rupel Avenue, and William Ringle aka Liberty Motors at 407 S. State Street. Attorney Peddycord will contact the St. Joseph County Building Department regarding the condition of 110 E. Rupel St and Lot 7 in the Industrial Park. Code violation letters has been sent to all property owners on the problem property lists by the Town Attorney.

Attorney John Peddycord received a request from the Liberty Township counsel regarding the requirement for screening and sidewalk. Discussion followed. Matt Peterson made a motion to waive the screening requirement from the Liberty Township Emergency Facility. The Town Council concurred a sidewalk was still required but tabled pending the review of the final site plan from the St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission regarding South Street. The sidewalk along S. State Street to Maple Street will still be required. The township can take advantage of the 50/50 sidewalk program.

Matt Peterson submitted a list of trees and stumps for removal.

The Town Council discussed new entrance signs into the Town to replace the existing North Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce signs. Vicki Kitchen requested a new sign for the clerk-treasurer's office once the Liberty Township Trustee moves to the new township building. Tom England will meet with the sign company and bring examples back to the council.

Employee strategy was discussed. The Town of North Liberty needs to review the employee structure with the award of Stellar and other new Town facilities. The employee strategy was tabled until the November meeting.

Alley maintenance was discussed. Brett Voreis would like to see a 50/50 alley Program implemented or another maintenance program. The Town discussed getting out of the alley business and closing unnecessary alleys. Skip Davidson will begin looking at maps for alley closures.

The Stellarbration ceremony will be held on September 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. at the North Liberty Community Building. This event is open to the public. Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann will be in attendance.

There were no questions regarding the INDOT School Trail and Tamarack Progress Reports. DLZ Progress Reports are filed with the minutes.

Nominations for torch carriers for Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration must be submitted by December 31, 2015.

Unsafe Building Ordinance Hearings will be held September 16, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. for 110 E. Rupel, 950 Industrial Drive and 407 S. State Street.

412 W. Maple Avenue wants to construct a garage overlapping two lot lines. Attorney Peddycord would like to draft a policy similar to overlapping lots in other communities. The garage that was in the fire at 412 W. Maple Avenue has not been torn down.

Wes Walls has met with Walkerton Judge Chamberlin about running tickets and ordinance violations through the Walkerton Town Court. Attorney Peddycord requested copies of the Ordinances from New Carlisle, Lakeville, and Walkerton.

With no further business before the North Liberty Town Council, Matt Peterson made a motion to adjourn at 8:07. Brett Voreis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Vicki L. Kitchen, Clerk-Treasurer