



Town Council of the Town of North Judson
Regular Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024 – 6:30 PM

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street, North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Rowe, Councilmembers Young and Banks, Clerk-Treasurer Rowe and Town Manager Leszek present as well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Young moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on May 20, 2024. Councilmember Young moved to approve those Minutes. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Old Business:

Stellar Pathways Programs 2024 – LOI/ Town Comprehensive Plan Update

Town Manager Leszek restated he will be finding out if the Town was selected to be one of the finalists by the end of June and he will inform the Council when he finds out more information. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that this correlates with a possible need to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan. If the Town is selected as one of the finalists, we'll be able to determine if the Comprehensive Plan is up to date.

New Business

Renada Sharp – Fundraising/Storage Request

Nothing presented, not present.

Mark Rippy – Park Improvement Project Contributions

Mark Rippy was present to represent Greeters Life Insurance who have funds that they like to give back to the local community from time to time. Rippy spoke about meeting with Clerk-Treasurer Rowe to see if they could help with the improvements to the Town Park. He stated that if the Town had any ideas to please let them know so that he can present them at their board meeting June 20th. Rowe mentioned that they were looking to outfit the new pavilion between the pickleball and volleyball courts. The Redevelopment Commission decided to remove the bid for tables and to outfit the location ourselves. They believed that they could build tables that matched the ones located in Shelters One, Two, and Three. They also have to make sure they had one that was ADA compliant. He put up the question whether or not to make them

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uniform with something better and nicer. Rowe believed that four new tables, with one of them being ADA accessible, could be purchased for well under \$10,000. The other option would be improvements to the hill garage, trees for the dog park, and potentially many other options. Councilmember Young asked if there was a certain dollar amount that they should be aiming for. Rippy stated that it would depend on the project, but it can be as high as \$5,000 to \$8,000. Council President Rowe liked the idea of using the money towards new picnic tables since they were going to need them anyway. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that they could also obtain a bronze plaque to recognize the contribution. Rippy also talked about when the Town would host 'Movies in the Park' and offered to get in touch with the Chamber of Commerce to help get it going again. Rowe stated that his timing is ideal as they would be discussing that topic later in the meeting.

Recognition of Guest

Scott Krzyzanowski had nothing to present.

Anita Goodman had nothing to present.

Department /Representative Reports

Clerk-Treasurer - Andrew Rowe

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe then presented:

P.O. 2581 to WTH Technology, Inc. for Annual Support for Think GIS Software, Invoice 31172, in the total amount of \$1,051.00.

Councilmember Young made a motion to pay P.O. 2581 to WTH Technology, Inc. for Annual Support for Think GIS Software, Invoice 31172, in the amount of \$1,051.00. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Rowe presented a special event permit for Purple Tent of Hope Ministries on June 8th at Norwayne Field. Councilmember Young made a motion to waive the fees and approve the permit. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Rowe presented the following Customer Adjustment Requests:

- There was an adjustment request on Account No. 60500 00 at 713 E Main Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption was 1,340 gallons for a sewer charge of \$48.75. Requesting a credit of \$147.37 off their wastewater, making their amount due \$199.59
- There was an adjustment requesting on Account No. 69880 03 at 6500 S St Rd 39. The customer filled their pool. His average consumption is 6,617 gallons for a sewer charge of \$86.42. Requesting a credit of \$41.38 off their wastewater, making their amount due \$195.31.
- There was an adjustment request on Account No. 200 04 at 205 Leslie Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption is 2,197 gallons for a sewer charge of \$48.75. Requesting a credit of \$149.82 off his wastewater, making his amount due \$200.90.
- There was an adjustment request on Account No. 79300 01 at 6160 S John Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption is 5,950 gallons for a sewer charge of \$79.08. Requesting a credit of \$106.62 off their wastewater, making their amount due \$224.41.
- There was an adjustment request on Account No. 67430 01 at 707 Bradley Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption is 5,950 gallons for a sewer charge of \$54.61. Requesting a credit of \$19.51, making their amount due \$126.90.

-There was an adjustment request on Account No. 56950 01 at 906 Bender Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption is 6,673 gallons for a sewer charge of \$87.04. Requesting a credit of \$99.49, making their total amount due \$232.81.

-There was an adjustment request on Account No. 75650 03 at 4795 W St Rd 10. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption is 5,367 gallons for a sewer charge of \$72.66. Requesting a credit of \$69.11, making their amount due \$190.87.

-There was an adjustment request on Account No. 57510 02 at 304 Lincoln Avenue. The customer filled his pool. Their average consumption is 4,810 gallons for a sewer charge of \$66.53. Requesting a credit of \$45.80, making their amount due \$164.92.

Councilmember Young made a motion to approve the following Customer Adjustment Requests:

-There was an adjustment request on Account No. 60500 00 at 713 E Main Street. The customer filled their pool. Their average consumption was 1,340 gallons for a sewer charge of \$48.75. Requesting a credit of \$147.37 off their wastewater, making their amount due \$199.59

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Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the following Special Event Permit Application:

Purple Tent of Hope Ministries for the use of Norwayne Field on June 8th, 2024.

Councilmember Young made a motion to approve the permit and waive the fees for the following Special Event Permit Application: Purple Tent of Hope Ministries for the use of Norwayne Field on June 8th, 2024. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Rowe directed the Council to information sent via email to the Council President regarding Opioid Settlement funds. He explained that each state gets to decide if they want to be part of the settlement and then there is a second part that includes eligible subdivisions. Rowe stated that if Indiana opts into the

settlement, then the town would be able to participate as a political subdivisions. He stated that if the Council feels like this is something that can get more dollars to help out things locally then they might want to keep it in their radar. Rowe informed the Council that the deadline was August 12, 2024, so they would have time to consider the matter. Rowe mentioned that there was also a local organization that helps fill the need of restricted funds. On the other unrestricted funds side of things, the Town has, so far, been able able to assist local little leagues and the NJ-SP school system. Leszek informed the Council that they recently were able to help the schools purchase two brand new AEDs. Leszek mentioned that it might be a good idea to have Attorney Schramm look it over. Rowe asked Schramm if he had other communities ask about the settlement. Schramm replied saying that this kind of settlement pops up every few months.

Rowe went on to discuss that his Deputy Clerk, Erin Chaja, had put together information and pricing on equipment to start hosting Movies in the Park at Norwayne Field again. He mentioned that Councilmember Young would be able to assist as Heartland Church has the licensing for the movies. Rowe mentioned that with a small fee and some advertising, the Movies in the Park could attract quite a crowd of attendees, saying that it would be a great event to get families together and give them something fun to do. The Town would pick the movies based off what is most entertaining and attractive to families as a whole. Rowe stated it would be a good idea to reach out to the Chamber to see if they knew who provided the projector and the screen when they previously hosted these events. Rippy explained that the Chamber would go through Swank for the Copyright License for each movie and asked if that was what the Town was doing as well. Young confirmed that he had a Copyright License from the Church to play movies. Rippy stated that usually their sponsors would get to pick the movie and they would pay \$500 for the copyright. Then the business would have their name displayed and get to pick the movie they wanted to show. He stated that they had a good response each time. Rowe thought that purchasing a projector would be a valuable asset to have for public entertainment and future meeting use. He mentioned we could get a sponsor to help provide a screen for the movies to be viewed. Rowe volunteered to donate the equipment and time for the audio side of the project. Rowe did state that he wanted to get the approval from the Council before moving too far forward. Rowe wasn't sure if dates have been decided yet, but Deputy Clerk Chaja mentioned that they were hoping to have one on a Tuesday night towards the end of June or early July.

Town Attorney Schramm then stated that he had a projector new in the box that he was willing to donate to the Town and Fire Chief Jackson presented a picture of a 24-foot blowup screen that he volunteered to purchase for the Town. Rowe and those officials in attendance thanked them both for their contributions and stated that he would make contact with the Park Board to inform them of the plans. Rowe asked if anyone had any thoughts or concerns regarding the organization of it all. Council President Rowe stated that he thought it was a great idea as long as there was someone to organize the event. Rowe confirmed himself, Deputy Clerk Chaja and Utility Billing Clerk Lewandowski would be overseeing the project. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe inquired aloud if there was a popcorn machine that could be utilized as well for which someone could sponsor; Leszek said that the Fire Department had a popcorn machine.

School Board – Doug Wilde

Nothing Presented.

Building Inspector– Nick Radtke

Town Manager Leszek stated that Radtke had some pool fills, fence permits and demolish projects that he was handling. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that they also had a sign permit to come in about a Smoke Shop on Talmer Avenue across from the motel. The Sign Company is applying for a sign permit as well as a contractor's permit all at once.

Code Enforcement – Town Marshal Kelly Fisher

Town Marshal Fisher started off by stating that golf carts need to stay off the highways. If residents cannot abide by the Ordinance, then the officers will be revoking the owner's permit. She also mentioned that juveniles are out more often due to the summer season starting. The officers will be enforcing the curfew for under aged juveniles out during the night. Fisher gave a list to the Billing Clerk Kara Lewandowski of vacant lots/houses that have overgrown grass. The ownership addresses range from Laporte, Indiana to Florida and other states. Fisher and Rowe will be working on getting letters out to the owners so that they can get these lots mowed with liens placed on the property. Fisher mentioned that a house on Main Street is claiming to have a bee sanctuary and that they are unable to mow/cut down some plants. She stated that they will be working with the residents about getting their plants pushed back off the sidewalk and confirming that they have a bee sanctuary. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe spoke about how if the residents wanted to keep their plants and glass for the bees then it would need to be fenced in so the plants would not grow out onto the sidewalks. Fisher stated that there were also more alleys that will need cleaned up due to overgrown vegetation and that they had a handful of broke down vehicles with no plates that need dealt with. Fisher mentioned that Town Manager Leszek has been in contact with Bob Barcus (Hyperwave) about creating a form to fill out for ordinance violations that can be emailed between police and Town Hall staff in order to better track of written offenses (for which residents then settle open balances at the Town Hall). Leszek hopes to start the new procedure next week so that they can start getting the deputies accustomed to it and help get everyone on the same page.

Unsafe Hearing

Nothing Presented.

BZA/Planning Commission

Nothing Presented.

Redevelopment Commission

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe discussed beautification efforts. He was thinking about meeting at 6 p.m. since they will also have to go over some billing information and a project update. Council President Rowe had some concerns with walking the downtown area with it being right after the Mint Festival so he suggested that whoever has the ideas should email the information to the Commission then they would be able walk-through Downtown themselves and get back to Rowe and Leszek with their findings and ideas. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe agreed with the suggestion and agreed to have a regular Redevelopment Commission meeting at 6p.m. or 6:15p.m. on June 17th to discuss everyone's thoughts.

Park Board – Nick Radtke

Nick Radtke was not present, so Town Manager Leszek informed the Council that Brown and Brown Construction are hoping to be out of the park by the middle of July. Once Brown and Brown complete their portion, the playground equipment will be installed. Leszek stated that they do have a pavilion – the one placed between the sand volleyball court and the pickleball courts – on backorder. The sidewalk path is poured, and they are currently working on running the electric. The company will have to come back in August to install the pavilion. Council President Rowe questioned what the timeline was for the Park's completion. Leszek answered that the completion of the park is scheduled for the end of October. Leszek stated that all of the sidewalks will be done this week aside from a small portion for trucks and equipment to get through during the remainder of the construction.

Police Department – Town Marshal Kelly Fisher

Town Marshal Fisher started off by saying that while they were testing the radar trailer, it was not picking up the speeds. She has been in contact with the radar company, she believes that the problem is on the programming side. Fisher mentioned that she has gotten several complaints about speeding on Vine Street. She has set up extra patrons and she has been sitting down there with her radar going. She also stated that they are getting geared up for scheduling for the Mint Festival.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Todd Jackson

Fire Chief Jackson went on to say that the Fire Department had twenty-two Runs which consisted of thirteen medical calls, two motor vehicle accidents, one brush fire, one rubbish fire, and some miscellaneous calls including a person search. The Department will be having a busy weekend with the Annual Fish Fry on Saturday, June 8th. They are also currently working on planning out the Poker Run that will be going on during the Mint Festival. Jackson stated that it is pool fill season and they have been able to work with Utility Billing Clerk, Kara Lewandowski, and get several pools filled inside town and outside town.

Utility Department – Utility Supervisor Kimberly Kapp

Utility Supervisor Kapp started reading off her reports. The splashpad is up and running. She stated that the touchpad had gone bad, but they were able to replace it. The Utility Crew has been busy spraying weeds on the sidewalks by Highway 10 and 39. Kapp mentioned that their newest Utility employee would be starting the following day, June 4th. She also stated that they are beginning their Mint Festival preparations.

Kapp then presented:

P.O. 2574 to Republic for Sludge Dumpster Removal, Invoice 0717-001619947, in the amount of \$2,057.46.

P.O. 2575 to Greenmark for Clutch and V-Belt, Invoice P20256, in the amount of \$567.57.

P.O. 2576 to Utility Supply for Leslie Zank's Water Tap Material, Invoice 1482455, in the amount of \$1,708.99.

Councilmember Young made a motion to approve:

P.O. 2574 to Republic for Sludge Dumpster Removal, Invoice 0717-001619947, in the amount of \$2,057.46.

P.O. 2575 to Greenmark for Clutch and V-Belt, Invoice P20256, in the amount of \$567.57.

P.O. 2576 to Utility Supply for Leslie Zank's Water Tap Material, Invoice 1482455, in the amount of \$1,708.99.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Town Manager – Joe Leszek

Town Manager Leszek mentioned that he is still working with INDOT on the Town's current projects. He had to reach out to Town & County Construction since they are supposed to reseed some areas after their 2023 Paving/Stormwater Drainage Project. Leszek stated that Town & County have purchased the materials to fix the yards that were affected and that he has informed the residents that their yards would be fixed soon. Leszek stated that they have been starting to interview potential candidates for the Deputy Marshal position. He also mentioned that the Police Department allowed him to sit in on the FLOCK Camera demonstration and they would be helpful, but they are quite expensive. Leszek mentioned that there are grant opportunities to help pay for them and that Officer Russell was currently looking into them to help

offset the cost. Leszek stated that they are still dealing with Surf Net issues. He is still trying to update the company on the damage as the list continues to grow. The Company is currently getting the damage fixed.

Town Manager Leszek and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe sat down with the Highland Cemetery Fence Committee to go over fencing options for the wrought iron fence and the replacement fence on the east side of the cemetery. The Committee decided it would be best to take a section of the wrought iron fence, one section at a time, to be repaired. The Committee recommended fixing as many sections as possible over the next few years with those repaired sections to be placed on either side of the main south gate once finished. They also agreed that there was a more immediate need to address the fence replacement on the east side. They were able to get a quote from White's Fencing, the original quote was \$30,000 to replace the whole fence around Highland Cemetery. The second quote was \$17,014.90 to implement new fencing on the east side of the cemetery. This would include the swinging gate as well. The Council was unsure about adding the swinging gate since there is no gate currently. The Council decided that they would not add on the gate. White's Fencing stated that if the Town decided that they would like a gate later on they would be able to add it to the fencing. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe also suggested that they need to reach out to a couple more fencing companies to get more quotes for the fence.

Town Manager Leszek stated that he has been working with Hyperwave (HWC) on getting the new ordinance protocol set up. He also mentioned that HWC sent them a quote for adding microphones and cameras to film the Council Meetings, so we are up to code with the House Bill that was passed requiring such technology. Leszek spoke about being able to post the footage to our website, Facebook and YouTube for the public to view. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that there is potential to stream the meetings live on the website as well. HWC estimated that one camera would catch the entire room and a microphone for each table and a wireless microphone at the podium. Leszek presented HWC's Estimate No.13676 for hardware infrastructure, cameras, mixer, microphone, connector, and setup/configuration in the amount of \$8088.90.

He stated that the quote received from Granicus totaled \$30,000 for the basic package outfitting the Town Hall with cameras/microphones/infrastructure and that they had options that cost up to \$70,000 a year and would include multiple cameras, translations of audio and assistance to edit the footage captured by the cameras.

Councilmember Young made a motion to move forward with HWC Estimate No.13676 for Town Hall cameras, microphones, other equipment/infrastructure, setup and configuration in the amount of \$8088.90. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Leszek stated that he would inform HWC of the Council's decision. He also mentioned that he was able to secure the Port-a-Pottys that were requested at the last meeting, which were placed at the Town Park. The only place they were able to be placed was by the foul pole near the baseball fields.

Leszek informed the Council that a citizen came to Town Hall the previous week to get his UTV permitted. It was explained to the gentleman that the Town only allows golf carts in Town as long as they are permitted properly. The gentleman was adamant about why the Town should allow UTVs within the Town. Town Marshal Fisher spoke up about how she thought it was a privilege that the Town allowed golf carts since she has been in contact with several towns that don't allow them on their streets. The Council agreed that they would take all information provided under assessment.

Leszek then presented:

P.O. 2577 to Fleis and Vanderbrink for paving/sidewalk project DES 2003029, Invoice 693859, in the amount of \$7,355.77.

P.O. 2578 to USI for paving/sidewalk project DES 2101695, Invoice 20924, in the amount of \$10,555.00.

P.O. 2579 to Gary & Sons for Mowing of Highland and Pioneer Cemetery, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

P.O. 2580 to North Judson – San Pierre Central Office for two AED FRX Education Value Pack, Invoice 16119, in the amount of 4,088.00.

Councilmember Young made a motion to approve:

P.O. 2577 to Fleis and Vanderbrink for paving/sidewalk project DES 2003029, Invoice 693859, in the amount of \$7,355.77.

P.O. 2578 to USI for paving/sidewalk project DES 2101695, Invoice 20924, in the amount of \$10,555.

P.O. 2579 to Gary & Sons for Mowing of Highland and Pioneer Cemetery, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

P.O. 2580 to North Judson – San Pierre Central Office for two AED FRX Education Value Pack, Invoice 16119, in the amount of 4,088.00.

Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Legal Updates – Town Attorney Justin Schramm

Council President Rowe asked if Winamac was starting to discuss allowing UTVs. Attorney Schramm explained that Winamac was in the same boat, they discussed the topic but were still unsure if it would benefit the town. He stated that most towns are still on the fence about it and that they're mostly waiting for someone to allow them.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by the Council:

Councilmember Linda Banks was wondering who was in charge of the Memorial Day Services. Leszek thought it was the American Legion who hosted the services and cleaned the Memorial at Pioneer Cemetery. Banks stated that her sister and herself have been cleaning it up the last few years and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe had done it before them. Leszek stated that communication between the Legion had been very poor since he had to reach out to them the Friday before to see if they were evening hosting a parade this year. Leszek is going to get ahold of the Legion Commander and inform him that there are some ongoing issues regarding the Memorial Cleanup so that they can figure something out.

Councilmember James Young informed the Council that he and his wife have recently moved out of Town limits. This means that he will have to forgo his spot on the Council. He then read his letter to the Council, thanking them and his constituents for this opportunity to serve the community and help make an impact on the Town.

Payment of Claims:

Councilmember Young made a motion to pay Payment of Claims in the amount of \$203,430.04. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

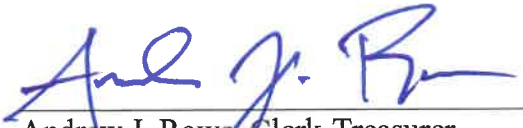
Councilmember Young made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.



John Rowe, Council President

Attest:



Andrew J. Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.