

Town of Fortville

01.16.2024

Town Council Meeting

Opening of Meeting:

The meeting was held at Fortville Town Hall, 714 E. Broadway. Meeting was called to order by Council President Tonya Davis at 6:30 pm.

Present:

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Vanessa Bataglia, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney.

Not Present:

Missy Glazier

Approval of Agenda:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the agenda with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes with correction to spelling of Vanessa Bataglia's name. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

New Business:

- a. Council President to appoint Meghan Britt to the Redevelopment Commission as the Non-Voting Advisor for the Mt. Vernon School Corporation – Tonya Davis appoints Meghan Britt as the Non-Voting Advisor for the Mt. Vernon School Corporation.
- b. LandWorx Engineering to present an update on the Landmark Park improvement plan for Fortville Action Inc - Ben Houle from LandWorx Engineering presents findings and recommendations on parks project (presents PowerPoint) - Erkc Muehlhausen from Prince Alexander architecture presents Council with explanation proposed architectural approach to improvements - Ben provides summary of cost estimates, including

estimated annual maintenance costs, for proposed schematics/project – Keri VanVlymen with LandWorx presents potential local funding sources - Ben presents some examples of other parks receiving conservation funding, which requires a park board - additional council discussion with focus on potential funding mechanisms.

Old Business:

N/A

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager:

Joe Renner reports on salt stores and stock for roads, reports no water main issues in cold temps with the exception of the new water plan where there have been some issues with a couple of rooms, and states that he will be posting the position to replace Ricky – Tonya Davis asks about the timing for fixing the issues with the water plant and Joe responds that the plant is running and should be fixed in coming days – Fritz Fentz asks about the responsibility to keep ADA ramps salted – Joe states that town resolution states property owner adjacent to the sidewalks and ramps are responsible and ramps in construction area should be addressed by INDOT or the contractor.

Parks Manager:

Heath Luther reports that Saturday, July 6 is scheduled for Summerfest 2024 and status of the contract with the Boys & Girls Club – Tonya Davis asks about when B&G Club reached out and HL and additional discussion ensues – Libby Wyatt asks if the publication for the Fortville events still goes out - Heath states the publication still goes out and the parks pays the \$250 fee to be included each year.

Planning & Building Director:

N/A

Clerk-Treasurer:

Not present.

Police Chief:

Chief Bratton introduces Chase Simpson as the newest officer; thanks the streets and parks departments for maintaining roads - no accidents with recent weather; notifies that ammo costs have increased and he will bring an updated request for approval; updates council regarding his mother's health and future time off related to the same.

Town Attorney:

Wishes Council Happy New Year and welcomes Vanessa to the council.

Public Comment:

Bob Sterrett asks about any plans for the complete eclipse - discussion ensues.

Bob discusses the loss of businesses on Main Street and suggests that the Council should be active doing something to maintain and foster businesses on Main Street – Tonya Davis comments that completion of the Broadway project will make new businesses more likely to open in Fortville - further discussion regarding potential incentives to attract new businesses – Libby Wyatt comments that she has seen the changes as a Main Street business owner — Fritz Fentz comments as well regarding the impacts on his business - additional discussion had regarding other businesses and impact of road construction and Vanessa Bataglia clarifies that Main Street and Broadway are separate issues with different concerns and possibly investigate causes and possible remedies - additional conversation regarding marketing budget to promote the town and town businesses.

Rich Case - works at the credit union in town and comments that there are at least 3 businesses ready and willing to open in Fortville now and they are working on financing - discusses other communities' incentive programs - Yorktown, Pendleton – Tonya Davis asks if the businesses have contacted the town and the response - Rich says some have and they are working through it and states that rent is typically set at Fishers rates without Fishers foot traffic - additional discussion on issue.

A resident recently moved to Fortville from South TX provides examples of marketing and fundraising events to support local businesses.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis

N/A

Ryan Rummell

N/A

Libby Wyatt

N/A

Fritz Fentz

N/A

Vanessa Bataglia

Gives a shout out to Jennifer Hancock who rescues bats and squirrels out of people's houses through Hancock Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation - RR comments that he lived in a bat-filled house in Pendleton.

Approve and Sign Vouchers:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve and sign vouchers, with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

Adjourn:

Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 7:54 with Libby Wyatt seconding. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

President: _____



Tonya Davis

Clerk-Treasurer: _____



Missy Glazier