

Town of Fortville

10.21.2024

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 6:33pm.

Present:

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Vanessa Battaglia, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney; and Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Not Present:

N/A

Approval of Agenda:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the agenda for today October 21, 2023, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passed 5-2.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the minutes for the October 7, 2024, Council meeting. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passed 5-0.

New Business:

- a) Council to consider the 2025 Budget presented by Beth Marsh- Bookkeeping Plus. Via Zoom. This budget has been read during the previous two council meetings and during the public hearing. The request is to approve the total budget amount of \$6,027,232. This does not include the Salary Resolution. Salaries will be set by the resolution and not the budget. The adopted tax levy is listed as \$2,750,153.

Ryan Rummell makes a motion to approve the budget as listed for 2025. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passed 5-0.

- b) Council to consider an appointment for the vacant seat of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Fritz Fentz nominates Sean Simmons for this position, Ryan Rummell seconds the nomination. Appointment carried, passed 5-0. Sean Simmons is the new member of the BZA board.
- c) Council to consider an appointment for the vacant seat of the Fortville Planning Commission. Only one application was received to fill this seat. Tonya Davis motions to accept Chris McCreight's nomination. Appointment carried, passed 5-0. Chris McCreight is the new member of the Fortville Planning Commission.
- d) Council to consider adopting Resolution No. 2024-10A, a new 10-year land use map plan as amendment to the 2014 Fortville Comprehensive plan. (See. E1, E2, E3, and E4). Presented by Adam Zaklikowski. Reasons for the clarification of the existing plan is that current plan is very ambiguous and vague. The new plan will address the current plans for development, town rezoning and plot lines. Land use Categories will also be clarified for better understanding of existing and future zoning. Planning commission has already approved the new category clarification.
 - A suggestion was made by a council member that there needs to be a change for the 300/67 area. This should be either multifamily suburb or commercial to facilitate the sewer line connections. This would encourage proper development and a more cost-effective sewer solution. Council discussed potential changes and what that would entail with the Planning Commission.
 - Council member pointed out a discrepancy with a few private property lot lines and categorizing labels. Requested those changes be made prior to plan approval.

Tonya Davis suggests tabling this resolution until the next council meeting to allow for the changes discussed.

Old Business:

- a) N/A

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager:

- Joe Renner discusses the need to purchase a bucket truck, RDC has approved the funds for this purchase in previous meetings. It has been quite difficult to find something in good shape and stay within the \$10K purchase allowance. He is requesting the board allow the purchase of a 2011 truck listed at \$33,000. It has been inspected and is in very good shape. In the long run will help reduce costs for the town as currently they are having to rent a bucket truck any time one is needed.

Ryan Rummell makes a motion to approve the purchase of the bucket truck for \$33,000. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

- Joe Renner gave an update on the water treatment plant. Rust and chloride are still an ongoing issue. They are in constant communication until a good solution has been reached.
- Joe has spoken to Beth Marsh from Bookkeeping Plus, about the funds listed and available to hire new staff for January 2025. Joe is requesting approval to start the hiring process. Council discusses the need for additional personnel and the punchout list of things needed to be accomplished.

Ryan Rummell makes a motion to approve the hire of three additional personnel. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

- Joe also gave an update on the 200/Fortville Pike area. Discussions have been had with a few developers to develop this area and put in a lift station on this property. It has not yet been done and it is creating a larger issue. Joe is requesting permission to engage an engineering firm to create and start laying out what will be needed to put in a lift station. Board agrees this is needed and approves the beginning of this process.

Parks Manager:

- Absent

Planning & Building Director:

- Part time assistant post has been published to the public and will be closed on Friday November 1st.
- The Funeral Home is under consideration for rental. Adam Zaklikowski updates board on conversations being had about future projects in that area.

Clerk-Treasurer:

- No Comment

Police Chief:

- Gives his third quarterly report of 2024. Training during the past three months has been done: Firearms, K-9, active shooter drills and training, counter drug and surveillance enforcement operations training, domestic violence training, human trafficking training, physical tactic, emergency vehicle training, and taser recertification.
- Officer Dylan Grimm, a new hire, will be graduating from the police academy in December.
- Officer Ryan Haynes is also a new hire. He comes to us from Ingles and was introduced to the board.
- There is a third vacancy which he is having a difficult time filling.
- Recruitment problems. Requesting council to provide alternative ways to increase pay or incentives for current and future officers. Example: Pay incentive, Specialty pay,

Comp time should be paid in December if not taken. Holiday pay should be increased from 6 days a year to the full 12 days. Incentive pay for officers working during Summer/Winter fest.

- Shop with Public Safety event will be coming around again this year. We will be providing help to needy community members.
- New trucks have been received. They are currently being outfitted and will be marked shortly. The K-9 vehicle will be new and will be safety outfitted so the dog is safe. This will be over the \$10K spending limit. He is requesting the board make a motion to approve the finalized invoice for the vehicles. Council requests the police chief put both invoices together for payment.

Town Attorney:

- No comment

Public Comment:

- Bob Ferrell, owner of Broadway Place. The closure of the High Street exit onto Broadway has greatly impacted the businesses in that shopping center, i.e. the Diner, Ice cream Shop and the Mobility Store. He is requesting the board to make a motion to commit to investigate the impact of extending his current entrance from 30 feet to 61. He has requested that INDOT do this but has not had much success. Council discusses particulars about this process and the closing of High Street at length.
- Milda Sterrett would like to know if Trees in the Alley would be allowed again this year, as well as setting up some Christmas trees in the patios. Council agrees they should be done again this year, no motion is needed.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis

- No comment

Ryan Rummell

- Wanted to commend the Parks department for their work. The new equipment looks awesome.

Libby Wyatt

- Christmas lighting committee is convening if anyone wants to join.

Fritz Fentz

- He was able to do some research in the last month for the Dora in Richmond and Noblesville. He found that it was going well in those places and sees the businesses are also taking advantage of the Dora.

Vanessa Battaglia

- Wanted to lay out the Open Door Law. She feels there was not enough information provided in advance to some members of the board for the closure of High Street vote. She would like the material in advance. Open Door law prohibits convening outside of public hearings or mass emails so that it does not make public hearings inappropriate or non-transparent.

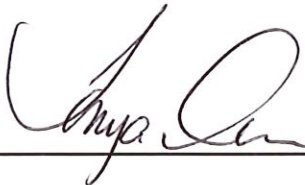
Approve and Sign Vouchers:

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

Adjourn:

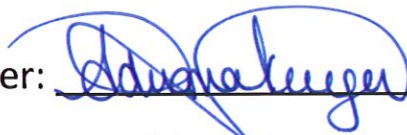
Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries, passes 5-0.

President: _____



Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: _____



Adriana Krueger