

Town of Fortville

11.18.2024

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 6:31 pm.

Present:

Tonya Davis, President; Ryan Rummell, Vice President; Libby Wyatt, Council Member; Fritz Fentz, Council Member; Vanessa Battaglia, Council Member (VIA ZOOM); Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney.

Not Present:

Clerk Treasurer

Approval of Agenda:

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the agenda for today, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2024, Council meeting. Vanessa Battaglia seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

New Business:

- a) Council to consider the 1st reading of the 2025 Salary Ordinance 2024-11A. Joe Renner read the ordinance. The ordinance is similar to those used in prior years with a 3% increase across the board. Differences:
 - a. Building inspector's pay will be raised to equal the salary of the other department heads.
 - b. Police retention: Longevity pay will return for the officers that stay on the force with a max of \$5600 per year after 29 years.
 - c. Bonus will increase from \$1875 to \$2000.
 - d. Additional benefits/pay raise for: Lieutenant is \$192.30 biweekly, Sargent is \$115.38 biweekly, MS4 operator is \$152.85 biweekly, Utility office manager is \$153.85 biweekly, and commercial driver's license is \$57.70 biweekly.
 - e. Council willingly forfeits their 3% raise this year.

Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2024-11A. Fritz Fentz seconds the motion. Motion carries 5/0.

- b) Council to hear from Kevin LaBarr, owner of 305 Wine Garage, concerning the possible Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). He is requesting town council give their blessing and consideration for them to formally request the RDC adopt and implement the DORA as it:
 - a. Potentially creates and stimulates economic development and growth for the businesses of Fortville by encouraging individuals and visitors to spend time and money in designated areas. This will increase foot traffic and increase sales as visitors go from store to store within the DORA boundaries.
 - b. DORA can create opportunities for socializing and community involvement within.
 - c. Potential revitalization of outdoor spaces and events.
- Discussion was had by council and public about who will manage DORA. Alex Intermill states that public safety will be monitored by Fortville PD. Business will have to self-regulate to some extent, and Town Council will address complaints and issues as they arise.

Council agrees unanimously for this to go up in front of the RDC for consideration.

Old Business:

None

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager: Joe Renner

Gives updates: The town applied for and was awarded the Community Crossing Matching Grant. \$892,282 was awarded by INDOT. Annual update to the road mileage, 1.352 miles have been added to inventory. Sydney Townsend passed her Water and Sewer plant operator's certification class WT3. Ribbon cutting for the reopening of the previously closed intersections and roads will be on Friday, November 22 at 10:00am. Winterfest planning and coordination has been ongoing for December 7th from 12 noon to 7:00pm. Clerk Treasurer's office requests approval for \$2700 town holiday dinner. Ryan Rummell makes the motion to approve the \$2700 expenditure, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carries 5/0.

Parks Manager: Heath Luther

Not present

Planning & Building Director: Adam Zakikowski

No comment.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: Adriana Krueger

Not present

Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton

Request for a change in the Town Handbook for holiday benefits for police officers. Currently they only have 6 out of the 12 holidays that are customary and established for all other town employees. Chief Bratton requests that it be once again returned to the standard 12-day holiday pay. Alex Intermill will create an Ordinance to be read at the next Town Council meeting for its first reading. Shop with the public safety day will be on December 14th.

Town Attorney: Alex Intermill

No Comment.

Public Comment:

Bob Sterrett brings to the attention of the council the dangers in the middle-dotted lane for turning Left onto Garden Street and the Right turn into the Dollar General parking lot. These two turning lanes are right on top of each other and drivers are having a difficult time navigating both. Joe Renner explained it has been brought to INDOT's attention as an issue and it will be addressed.

Sharon Beatson expresses her admiration for the lights, banners, and decorations on Main Street. She also brings to the attention of the council the inefficacy of the crosswalk signals. The lights to allow pedestrian traffic are there and functioning, however, vehicles are not stopping nor adhering to them. Pedestrian traffic is being affected.

Becky Davis is requesting clarification of the letters being sent out to residents about the water lines going in from the street to the individual homes. Are they supposed to get an outside, independent inspection done to give the town of Fortville the information it needs or is this something the town will be addressing. She indicates the letters are somewhat easily misunderstood and residents are throwing them away. Joe Renner stated that individual homeowners are not required to pay for independent inspectors. The instructions on the letters do come out a little confusing, however, it does give directions on how to get this done online at no cost.

Rich Case from FAI- Small Business Saturday Event will be held in the Alley at 6:00pm on November 30, He is encouraging the residents of Fortville to come out for the tree lighting and support of our local businesses.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis

Congratulations to Sydney Townsend. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Ryan Rummell

No Comment, Happy Thanksgiving.

Libby Wyatt

No Comment, Happy Thanksgiving.

Fritz Fentz

No Comment, Happy Thanksgiving.

Vanessa Battaglia

No Comment, Happy Thanksgiving.

Approve and Sign Vouchers:

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

Adjourn:

Tonya Davis makes the motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm, Ryan Rummell seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: _____



Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: _____



Adriana Krueger