

Town of Fortville

02.03.2025

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 Battaglia, Council Member; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Internill, Town Attorney; Adriana Krueger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

Not Present:

N/A

Approval of Agenda:

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the agenda for February 3, 2025, Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2025, town meeting. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

New Business:

- a) Council to consider a Special Event Request from the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce to hold a "Chocolate Walk" in Downtown Fortville, May 16 from 5:00-8:30 pm. Retta Livengood, President of the Chamber of Commerce, talked about the event. It's the 16th year that the chocolate scavenger hunt fundraiser is being held to promote healthy community/commerce interactions and local business. This event is rain or shine. Retta is confident they will fill all 300 scavenger hunt spots again this year and make it a success.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the special event request for the "Chocolate Walk" on May 16th. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

b) Waste Management's Daniela Schrock: Account Executive, to address the council. She introduced Hunter Waning: District Manager, and Keith Walker: Senior Operating Manager. They explained some of the reasons behind the turmoil experienced by citizens of Fortville in the last few months and wanted the public to know they are committed to improving customer service and care, as well as them being in the midst of creating a dedicated Fortville WM website for the town. There are 4 dedicated route drivers and 1 spare driver that will be available to serve the community. The staffing shortages/sicknesses/injuries had created the issues.

c) Council to consider 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-2A, Amending the Town's Sewer Use Ordinance. Joe Renner presents. Amendments include some housekeeping changes, verbiage changes and elimination of redundancies as per State Regulations. They will be reviewed and submitted to INDOT. Vanessa Battaglia requests that all changes be presented in a red-line manner in the future.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-2A. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0.

d) Council to consider awarding the contract for the 2024 CCMG, Timber Ridge Pavement Project. There were seven bids received, with the highest bid coming in from Smith Projects at \$1,650,661.00 and the lowest bid came in from DC Construction Services at \$802,252.78. Joe Renner presented. INDOT has awarded the Town of Fortville 75% of the cost of this project. Joe recommends going with the lowest bid. Council discussed.

Ryan Rummell made a motion to award the contract to DC Construction. Libby Wyatt seconds the motion. Motion carried, passed 5/0

e) Chief Bratton presented the Fortville Police Department 2024 Yearly Report. Posted for public view on Town website and distributed to Council Members for review.

f) Council to review updates to the Independent Contractor Agreement for providing certain services related to Fortville Festivals. Heath Ledger presents the red-line changes to the agreement. Council members made suggestions:

- i. Putting a date next to signatures, defining of time frame of contract.
- ii. Marketing of festivals needs to be addressed as to scope within the agreement.
- iii. Defining who is going to be responsible for addressing issues with contractor.
- iv. Defining compensation for contractor and what gets done with the proceeds of the fees.
- v. Defining vendor caps and placements considering the space the Town is willing to close off streets.

Bob Sterrett comments: as someone who ran these events in the past, no one is going to do all this work for free, but if it costs the town (as a taxpayer) that is ok. Most of the town agrees that it's a good thing, no need to be cheap about it.

Stacy Molander stated that she and 3 other business owners would like to take over the entire organizing, planning, and implementation of Summerfest and Winterfest. She would like to see the businesses benefiting from these events responsible for all the events on a voluntary basis, so the funds go back to the town. Council discusses in depth. If the volunteer group takes over the events, they will submit a Special Event Request form, with the understanding that the Town of Fortville will only be supporting them during these events. Heath stated the need to figure out what will be happening with these events soon as it will be too late for this year. Council members Fritz and Battaglia supported the idea of the volunteer takeover of these events. Planning and further discussion will need to be held.

Old Business:

N/A

Department Head Reports:

Town Manager: Joe Renner

Kammy's Kause will be submitting special events form for August 22 & 23. Dave announced a leak issue earlier in the day, luckily it was not a water main break. There are two new hires that will be introduced soon.

Planning & Building Director: Adam Zaklikowski

Absent.

Parks Manager: Heath Luther

Working with consultant companies to dial in on the park's master plan as a whole. Waiting for two more bids. i.e. Redoing online survey for community feedback, funding and development of park plans, etc. We need help to plan and implement what, when and how things will happen.

Police Chief: Chief Patrick Bratton

He will be out on February 19-23rd.

Town Attorney: Alex Intermill

No comment.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: Adriana Krueger

No comment.

Public Comment:

Dave Beatson spoke about how much the festivals meant to the citizens and businesses of Fortville. He does not want the Town to nickel and dime the cost of these events since the benefits are greater than any small costs.

Council Members:

Tonya Davis:

She wanted to publicly apologize to Natalie Tucker for the issues that have gotten out of hand regarding Summerfest/Winterfest. It is sad that so much misinformation is out there. She appreciates all the work and effort that Natalie gave the Town of Fortville during the three years she helped bring together the events.

Ryan Rummell:

No Comment.

Libby Wyatt:

No Comment.

Fritz Fentz:

When FAI was in charge, they did everything, and no one had any issues. He looks forward for the new people to pick up the baton and run with it.

Vanessa Battaglia:

She was made aware of photo prizes not being given to winners. We should not have any individual making money off a Town event.

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 8:13 pm, Ryan Rummell seconds the motion. Motion carries passed 5/0.

President: _____



Tonya Davis

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: _____



Adriana Krueger