

Town of Roachdale
Roachdale Community Building; 204 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN 46172
August 15, 2024, Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Roachdale Town Council held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Roachdale Community Building, 204 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN.

President Zach Bowers called the monthly meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. after recognizing that the agenda was posted pursuant to the Indiana Open Door Law and that a quorum was present.

Council Members Present: President Zach Bowers, Paul Wireman, Amanda Newcomer

Council Members Absent: None

Also Present: Clerk-Treasurer, Town Marshal, Deputy Town Marshal, Maintenance Operations Coordinator, Town Attorney

Guests Present: Larry Kersey, Carole Cloncs, Jim Cromwell, Brent Wireman, Tonya Bowers, David Ruark, Lauren Ruark, Scott Siple,

- i. Wastewater Project Update – Scott Siple, Midwestern Engineers, gave an update on the project and stated that the manhole rehab crew has been here the last several weeks and anticipate that they will be done in the next 1 ½ - 2 weeks. After the manholes are completed, a punch list of the collection system side of the project will be done and the video of the project will be reviewed at that time as well. Scott Siple asked if the Council wanted to be included in the review and they responded that they did not. Scott Siple stated that Maintenance Operations Coordination Mark Ketchem and Bryce Carter, Midwestern Engineers, can complete the punch list and review the video on their behalf.

The plant side of the project was discussed, and Scott Siple stated that there are no concerns at this time, but there may be concerns later on due to the anticipated 6 – 8 week delay in the steel delivery. Scott Siple stated that this will be discussed at the next progress meeting. President Zach Bowers asked if OCRA need to be contacted about an extension and Scott Siple stated that he does not anticipate that it will be an issue that will need to be addressed with OCRA.

A. Pay Applications

Scott Siple presented pay application #16 from Mitchell & Stark in the amount of \$121,695 to be paid from SRF funds and pay application #17 from Midwestern Engineers in the amount of \$36,693 to be paid from SRF funds.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve pay application #16 from Mitchell & Stark in the amount of \$121,695 to be paid from SRF funds.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve pay application #17 from Midwestern Engineers in the amount of \$36,693 to be paid with SRF funds.

- ii. 2024 Community Crossings Matching Grant Update – Scott Siple stated that everything has been submitted and grants will be awarded in November or December. Scott Siple submitted an invoice from Midwestern Engineers in the amount of \$4,899.56 for project development and application assistance for the Community Crossings project.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve the invoice totaling \$4,899.56 as presented.

Scott Siple presented hard copies of the water study to the Council for review.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. June 26, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session
- B. July 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- C. July 23, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session

President Zach Bowers presented the June 26, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session, the July 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the July 23, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session for approval. Debbie stated that the June 26, 2024 Memorandum of Executive Session was not included on the July 18, 2024 Council Meeting agenda and that was why it was being approved tonight.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Approval of Claims 07/19/2024 – 08/15/2024. President Zach Bowers presented claims for 07/19/2024 -08/15/2024 for approval.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve claims 07/19/2024 – 08/15/2024 as presented.

Approval of Payroll – 07/19/2024 – 08/15/2024. President Zach Bowers presented payroll for 07/19/2024 – 08/15/2024 for approval.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve payroll 07/19/2024 – 08/15/2024 as presented.

V. July 2024 Bank Reconciliation – President Zach Bowers presented the July 2024 Bank Reconciliation for approval as prepared by Suzy Bass, Local Government Services, as part of our internal control.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to approve the July 2024 Bank Reconciliation as presented.

VI. Public Comment Time

Larry Kersey asked if the corner of Main and Washington Street could have flashing lights added to the stop sign. Larry Kersey stated that the company that has been doing the sewer work has done a good job. Larry Kersey stated that they had asked if they could park their heavy equipment in front of his house when they were in his area and when they moved the equipment the rock needed smoothed out. Larry Kersey thanked Maintenance Operation Coordinator Ketchem for smoothing the rock out after the equipment was moved. Larry Kersey stated that the town looks good, and he noticed that buildings have been painted that haven't been painted since Greg Poole was here.

VII. Old Business

- A. Speed Limit Signs – Maintenance Operations Coordinator Mark Ketchem stated that he is ready to place the order for 80 speed limit signs. President Zach Bowers asked for the timeframe for the signs and Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he was not sure.

President Zach Bowers asked what the cost would be for the signs and Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated the signs are \$30 each and he will also need to order posts for each sign.

- B. Ordinance 05-2024 An Ordinance Amending Fines for Violation of the Ordinances of the Town of Roachdale Status Update – Town Attorney Dave Peebles stated that the ordinance has been sent to the Banner Graphic for publication and will be published next Tuesday. The new fines will be in effect 30 days after the publication date.

IX. New Business

- A. Appointment of Town Marshal - President Zach Bowers thanked Deputy Marshal Bryson Tash for his work as Interim Marshal and stated that he had done a good job of taking on the extra work plus his normal duties.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to appoint Ty'waun Burks as the next Marshal for the Town of Roachdale.

Marshal Burks introduced himself and gave his background. President Zach Bowers stated that he would let Marshal Burks get settled in his new position and then the Town would host a meet and greet with Marshal Burks and the rest of the department.

- B. RRCA Rib and Blues Festival Street Closure – President Zach Bowers presented a request on behalf of RRCA President Joe Buser to close Railroad Street between Indiana Street and Meridian Street, beginning September 27th, for the annual Rib and Blues Festival. It was also requested that no truck parking be allowed from 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 26th to midnight on Saturday, September 28th.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, to grant the request as presented.

- C. Ordinance 06-2024 Town of Roachdale, Indiana Amended Salary Ordinance for 2024 – President Zach Bowers stated the ordinance adds Town Marshal Ty'waun Burks and extends Deputy Marshal Bryson Tash's stipend to end on September 12th due to Deputy Tash putting in extra effort to get Marshal Burks up to speed.

Motion by Paul Wireman, second by Amanda Newcomer, vote unanimous, on first reading.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to waive second and third readings.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve on final reading.

X. Property Cleanups

Town Attorney Peebles stated that we have five ordinance violation lawsuits pending. Town Attorney Peebles stated the order from the judge for the AKG, LLC lawsuit states that we can do what we want for public safety at the old grocery store. We need to knock down awnings and shore up the building. President Zach Bowers stated that Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem can solicit quotes and bring those back to the September meeting. A second option was discussed to establish a do not exceed amount on quotes received, give President Zach Bowers the authority to approve having the awning removed, and have Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem secure the areas. The Council also discussed having Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem clean up the weeds between the store and the post office and remove the air conditioning unit to prevent the kids from climbing on the roof due to safety

concerns. Paul Wireman stated that he liked the option one of getting three bids and discussing it at the September 19th meeting. Amanda Newcomer stated that safety is an issue now and she prefers the quicker method and she thinks we need to move now. President Zach Bowers stated that he thinks it is a hazard and an eye sore, it's not getting any better and with the RibFest coming up there will be more people in town and we need to move fast. President Zach Bowers stated that he remembers at one meeting Mark Ketchem stated the town employees could do it and he stated that he thinks a third party would be better. Town Attorney Peebles stated that it would take 48 hours to call a special meeting once quotes are received if the Council wanted to do so. Carole Cloncs asked what would happen to the current tenant that lives at the apartment and President Zach Bowers stated that removing the awning would not affect them. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated they could be asked to leave temporarily while the awning is removed. Paul Wireman asked to get three quotes, potentially call a special meeting and then decide. No further action was taken.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that the Kristin Stein case had been heard in court and the judge gave the deadline of August 23rd for the Town to file a report that they have been in litigation for two years and are seeking recovering of costs associated with the case. Town Attorney Peebles asked the Council if they wanted to seek reimbursement for fines and court costs. President Zach Bowers stated that he thought the Town should at least seek reimbursement for court costs and attorney fees. President Zach Bowers stated that a lot of time had been spent and he feels that the Town should recover the attorney fees, court costs and add an additional \$500 fine. Paul Wireman stated that he seconded, and Amanda Wireman stated that she agreed. Town Attorney Peebles will do the prep work and get it to the judge and send Kristin Stein a copy.

Town Attorney Peebles stated he is scheduling a teleconference with the Ring's attorney.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that he had received a handwritten response from Sandford Horn denying a hearing and that he was representing himself. Town Attorney Peebles stated that he would schedule a pre-trial hearing. President Zach Bowers asked if it had been scheduled, Town Attorney Peebles stated no, and President Zach Bowers stated that it needed to be scheduled.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that it has been over a year since anything has been done on the Patsy Bradley lawsuit and he will now obtain Sherriff's service and see what happens next.

Town Attorney Peebles stated that Deputy Marshal Tash had served Robert Williams and there has been no contact from Robert Williams with either the Council or Town Attorney Peebles.

Robert Williams has stated that he wants to scrap the metal himself. Town Attorney Peebles asked if the Council wants to file a lawsuit against Robert Williams.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to move forward on a lawsuit against Robert Williams.

Deputy Marshal Tash stated that he had tagged the Ring's vehicle, and it has been resolved.

Deputy Marshal Tash reported that the vehicle at 103 S Main Street has been towed. Deputy Marshal Tash stated that he has also served ordinance violation warnings on dogs and ordinance violations for property cleanups. President Zach Bowers asked Deputy Marshal Tash if he can start adding the dates of when things are served to the reports.

Jim Crowell asked about the property at 207 N Walnut and asked if Deputy Tash can look at it since it still has not been mowed in the back and the storage shed has a large hole in the back

and is being used to store trash and garbage. Deputy Marshal Tash stated that he had served it today and they were given 14 days to clean and if not, it will be cited.

- XI. Interim Town Marshal Report – Deputy Marshal Tash presented his monthly report. Deputy Marshal Tash congratulated Marshal Burks and stated that he is looking forward to working with him.

Deputy Tash stated that he is still waiting on the third decal quote and said that the decals will be the same look with different pricing. Deputy Marshal Tash stated that the quote he received last month was \$1400 for reflective and the new quote being presented tonight is \$1200 for reflective. Amanda Newcomer asked if he had pictures of the decal, and he stated that he does not yet, but it will look close to the current decal on the Durango.

Deputy Marshal Tash stated that he and Reserve Officer Swindle have completed firearm training, and they will complete a free narcotics training class in September.

Deputy Marshal Tash reported that Reserve Officer Kole Williams has resigned.

Deputy Marshal Tash reported that the Durango is back at 3D Tire for a new alternator and fuel pump.

Deputy Marshal Tash stated that on the first day of school he had met with the principals at Roachdale Elementary and North Putnam Middle School and that school safety training had been discussed.

- XII. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Report

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported that the IURC had done a town walk through and the gas system was given an A rating with only minor issues which included vegetation around meters. The IURC noted that no smoking signs needed to be installed, and three meters needed painted. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported all issues noted were immediately taken care of.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that there will be a Damage Prevention Conference November 12th and 13th in French Lick, and he has applied for a scholarship to attend.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he has been working on the park and on getting the buildings back in order and painted, rocking alleys and has ordered the gate for the wastewater treatment plant with a lead time of 8-12 weeks. Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem reported that they have the panel and the wiring for the gate done.

- XIII. Clerk-Treasurer Items

Debbie presented adjustments totaling \$231.17 for approval.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve the adjustments totaling \$231.17 as presented.

Debbie presented a quote from Utility Supply totaling \$11,600 for new a new meter reading device and software since our Trimble is no longer working.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to approve the quote from Utility Supply in the amount of \$11,600 as presented.

- XIV. Items from Town Council Members

Amanda Newcomer – Amanda Newcomer asked what the procedure was for work orders such as was it word of mouth or paper or electronic work orders. Amanda Newcomers discussed a

program called Work Yard that could be used to submit work orders and said it would be a quicker method that could be used by both the utilities and police department. Maintenance Coordinator Ketchem said that he has a program now that he and Chris use and said that he is not opposed to it. Debbie stated that she currently has a system that her and the utility department use to keep track of the meter cards.

President Zach Bowers stated that they have to be careful that the Council has no comments and do not insinuate an electronic meeting is being held because everything is public record.

President Zach Bowers stated that he is not opposed, but he would like to look at several different options.

Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem stated that he can leave work order forms at the Town Office that can be used if anyone has anything they need done.

Amanda Newcomer stated that we are going into September and asked if the Council could have quarterly reviews done. President Zach Bowers stated that they could be done. President Zach Bowers stated that if he has something to say, he will say it and not wait, and Amanda Newcomer said that she wanted to be sure she is not required to have a meeting and asked about the pros and cons to doing so in the future.

Paul Wireman- No items.

President Zach Bowers – President Zach Bowers stated that the fertilizer plant needs to be served a cleanup notice. Jim Cromwell stated that they are removing truckloads over there.

Debbie stated that she will contact Lisa Ziener and ask what progress the County has made with the building.

President Zach Bowers stated that the 2025 Budget Public Hearing will be at the September 19th meeting and anything Maintenance Operations Coordinator Ketchem or the Police Department wants included will need to be submitted by August 31st and needs to include why and 2025 costs and either emailed or brought to Debbie. President Zach Bowers stated that we need to have a budget workshop before the next meeting.

Motion by President Zach Bowers, second by Paul Wireman, vote unanimous, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

TOWN COUNCIL:



J Zachary Bowers, Council President



Amanda Newcomer, Council Member

Attest



Debbie Sillery, Clerk-Treasurer



Paul Wireman, Council Member