

APRIL 24, 2024

The Brookston Town Council met in regular session with CM Thomas absent.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. VP North made a motion to approve minutes as read. Second was made by CM Girard. Motion carried.

Bills were examined on the Payable Voucher Form. CM Hasser moved to pay bills listed on the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. Second was made by CM Girard. The bills totaling \$240,127.62. Unanimously approved.

Tony Cain candidate running for District 1 Commissioner was present to introduce himself. He like seeing renewable in which help tax rates go down. He knows solar farms are coming not sure how many. He will try to get UTV's side by side's road legal in all White County, would like to see more housing develop, there is not enough housing. He is President of Contractors Natural Land of Improvements. They are starting program for veterans to take classes to train for heavy equipment operators after they leave the military. The organization partnered with Saint Joe College for the classes. He is going to be more involved in all Towns.

Emily Albaugh with KIRPC was present for the Public Hearing on the water Grant. Brookston is applying for a \$600,000.00 grant through the Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs to improve the water filtration system. This grant will also be used to replace the old meter reading system. Looking at hydrants. Have 71 hydrants on system and 29 not on system. Local match through SRF is \$1,000,224.00 and total of project cost is \$1,000,825.00. Surveys were sent out to residents and will also be available at Town Hall. Residents are also asked to send letters of concerns with their water quality. These letters can be sent to Town Hall Office. Pres. Butz mentioned the previous loan town has will be paid off soon and this will help with Towns part of loan and hope to not increase water rate to residents. Emily presented form for Pres. Butz to authorize her to submit her minutes along with application. Resident Jack Tatman asked what causes colored water in toilet then it clears up. Supt. Emmett says when iron is built up in lines and any flushing some of the iron becomes loose and makes water have color. Tony Cain asked if lines will be cleaned out after installing. Eng. Ken said yes profate will coat the lines and a chemical will clean it out. Proposals are due this Friday.

New/Old Business

Ron & Careen Newkirk, Greg & Jamie Lynch were present with concerns regarding being infested with feral cats. Neighbor on Argold St. has at least 10 bowls outside feeding at least 20 feral cats. They have made their way under their crawl space and now they have to pay to get it closed up but before they do they need to make sure there are no more in there. Careen is allergic to cats and she cannot go outside to work in her yard for they shed, spray and litter on their property. Jamie said they are around their property also and the neighbor next to Clerk-Treasurer has totes for bedding for the feral cats. Clerk-Treasurer said she did speak to her neighbor and she was told she isn't feeding them now. Is there anything the Town can do? Pres. Butz said this will need to be directed to County for they over rule Town ordinances. Marshal Yeoman has talked to White County Deputy Animal Control. Residents can trap them to relocate them. Jamie asked if residents trap them and relocate them will they get arrested. Marshal said no arrest. Town might be able to adopt an ordinance not to feed feral cats. After much discussion, CM Hasser said he will ask at the next Area Plan Commission meeting about an ordinance. Marshal will purchase traps if anyone needs one to use.

Ken reports: presented a list of donors to be put on sign who donated for the new fire station. Will need to ask Fire Chief for his list of donators to add to sign. Will be taking paving bids to be presented at May 22nd Council meeting. Milestone to start first week in June for the 2023-2 paving grant and hope to get 2024-1 paving bid done for it can get started around the same time. Would like to get Park Street done as soon as possible with ball starting. Eng. Ken presented to Council a proposal for professional services related to INDOT CCMG paving grants. VP North made a motion to accept Eng. Ken of Municipal Civil Corporation for professional services for Town of Brookston. Second by CM Hasser. Motion unanimous.

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Clerk-Treasurer reports: Town Hall Office hours to change June 3rd to 7:00a.m-4:00p.m Monday thru Friday. Was able to finish the water apprenticeship grant. The picnic tables have arrived.

Terry LaOrange reports: 2 more things left on the work plan to do. One is to replace breakers by storage that feeds west side of Town. Resizing wires in 2-3 weeks and will be looking at what poles to replace.

Fire Chief Jason reports: none

Pres. Butz announced he and Eng. Ken and Fire Chief Jason met with Monticello Fire Chief and other firemen to scope what is needed for full time ambulance at the new fire station for the 24 hour ambulance service. Then will go to the White County Commission for funding for the new changes. Goal is to have everything done by the end of this year CM Girard asked if they have enough staff. Pres. Butz said they are going to be hiring.

Supt Emmett reports: sewer plant going pretty good with all the rain no by pass. There was maintenance on the pumps. VFD switch at the Wastewater Plant went out will need to be repaired. Cost around \$3,400.00. Water going well. VP North asked if painting was done inside. Emmett said the lab building was done. Will be going to an IFA meeting on Monday. This is to be once a year. Bunch got both sidewalks done. Received the new Town truck. Need to put the stickers on then the lights to be put on next week. VP North asked about the digging going on across the street of his house. Emmett said they are surveying property and the digging was for a point spot. CM Hasser asked about gravel for alleys. Supt. Emmett said he was waiting on them to get the right size gravel needed.

Pres. Butz told Supt. Emmett to call Family Express to fix Ripley Street they (Family Express) dug into while tearing down the house they owned.

CM Hasser would like the Town to purchase 2 grills, one to go to the ball park and the other one for the Wood St Park. They are 380.00 apiece through Uline. Council approved. Supt. Emmett said should also purchase steel cans for the hot coals so they don't melt the plastic trash cans. Council approved.

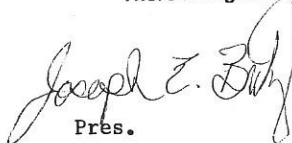
Marshal Yeoman reports: Patrolled 386 miles; 1 case report; 1 domestic disputes; 3 traffic warnings; 3 traffic stop; 3 ordinance violations; 2 abatements served; 11 other police services. Vehicle back to Gutweins and was able to figure out this time why miss firing. Needed a spark plug and new wire, it was still under warranty. Will be attending the Marshal Conference in May.

CM Girard asked if they figured out the street light on SR 43. Supt. Emmett said it is the photo eye. Will check it out tomorrow.

VP North mentioned he spoke to Max Eldridge who is on the TIF board and Max told him there is around \$39,196.77 in TIF fund and is looking into how these funds could help with a grocery store in Brookston. He mentioned a meat store owned through Krogers called Rulers. He sent them an emailed that the Town needs a grocery store.

Jack Tatman presented an invoice for \$2373.00 on materials he has purchased for fencing around central air unit outside of fire station. Clerk-Treasurer said she received his invoice for the shelter before office closed today and will pay it tomorrow since that had already been approved and if Supt. Emmett is satisfied with the work. Supt. Emmett said it looked good. Cm Hasser approved the material invoice to be paid along with the shelter invoice. Second by VP North. Motion unanimous.

There being no further business, Meeting to be adjourned.


Pres.


Clerk-Treasurer