

TOWN COUNCIL
November 4, 2019

The Flora Town Council met Monday, November 4, 2019 in the Board Room of the Flora Town Hall. Those present were: Eric Walsh (Baker-Tilly), Jeff Walker (Baker-Tilly), Bill McCarty, Cory Mahan, Jim Hedrick, Marcus Hedrick, Joyce Yoder, Jill Clothier, Todd Trent, Ron Fritz, Angie Brown, Jason Burns, Paul Redmon, Pam Beck, Vincent Seward, Darrell Yoder and Joretta Tinsman.

Vince Seward opened the meeting with welcome. Darrell moved the minutes of the previous meeting (October 7 & October 28, 2019) be approved as presented; Vince seconded. Minutes approved. Claims and payroll signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Cory Mahan- A five-year plan was submitted. The Council will review for additions and corrections. Submission date to LTPA is Dec 1st.
- B. Recycling- Business cardboard will continue on Friday's and taken to Wampler's. Darrell made a motion to have a recycle dumpster placed at the municipal shop. Vince seconded. Motion carried
- C. Baker-Tilly representatives Eric Walsh and Jeff Walker presented an overview of the electric rate study associated with upgrading the Town's Electric Utility. Vince explained last major upgrade was in 1964. The equipment is outdated and repair parts are harder to locate. Walsh explained the town does not have the capitol to do the upgrade at an estimated cost of \$4.3 million therefore, a bond issue would be required. Walsh explained the bond repayment structure and the advantages of doing the project all at one time. No decision was made at this time.
- D. Trencher Bids- 3 sealed bids were received and opened. Lowell Johnson \$1,580, Ed Underwood \$1,100 and Wilmer Mack \$2,000. Darrell moved to accept the high bid from Mr. Mack, Vince 2nd, motion carried.
- E. Blight Grant- The Blight rehabilitation grant has been awarded to The Town of Flora to be used to tear down the old Brethren's Home Cory explained the project will begin in the next few months.
- F. Apartment Ordinance 2019-02 second reading – Darrell moved to suspend the rules and read by title only to pass the Ordinance 2019-02, exempting from prohibition of ground floor apartment use an area in the downtown district at Columbia St. Vince 2nd. Darrell moved to accept the 2nd reading. Vince 2nd. Darrell moved to accept the 3rd reading. Vince 2nd Motion carried.
- G. Sidewalk Reimbursement- Darrell moved that the Town raise the cost per-running ft. to \$15 for replacement. Vince seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Liquor Retailers Permit Ordinance- Darrell moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-03 that allows liquor to be served in establishments within the town limits. Vince seconded. Darrell moved to suspend rules and read by title only, Vince seconded. Darrell moved to accept the second reading, Vince seconded. Darrell moved to accept the third and final reading, Vince seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

- A. Police Department- Chief Paul Redmon submitted his report. The activity for October consisted of 8 arrests, 5 felonies, 13 citations, 33 warnings, 80 calls for service, 6 accidents and 2 warrants served. The new police pick up should arrive by the end of the year
- B. Plan Commission – Issued 2 building permits in October including Deanne Lambert for a deck and Bret Hanaway for wrecking a small office.
- C. Fire Department – Fire Chief Todd Trent reported for the month of October the department had 10 fire and 8 medical calls for service. He submitted 4 quotes for enlarging the fire station door to accommodate the new fire truck. The quotes received were 2 for the entire project and 2 for different parts of the project. The council discussed options with Todd and decided to use three of the contractors for the project at an approximate cost of \$10,000 compared to \$20,000 for one contractor doing all the construction.
- D. Park Department – Closed for the season. The crew are still mowing and mulching leaves. There have been 3 new trees planted. Storage buildings are almost full with the winter rentals.
- E. Airport – Ron reported the water lines have been winterized. Furnace has been checked and is in working order.
- F. Utility Manager/Water Superintendent – Ron submitted report for review.
Street: The leaf pick-up is on hold due to motor problems with the truck. The 5325 tractor is in the shop with steering issues and will be expensive to fix. After council discussion it was decided to have the tractor just serviced at this time. Cory Mahan has the 5-year street plan ready to submit to the state for CCMG. **Water:** Starting in 2020 the IFA will require a yearly water loss report to be done and every other year a certified audit is required by an outside source. The water line locator needs to be replaced at a cost of about \$2,000 with bids ranging from \$800 to \$6,000. Ron and Bill attended the Alliance conference and earned 10 contact hours for their license. A rebate request has been sent to IMPA for \$2,700 for the new VFD's at the water plant. **Electric:** IMPA has a plan to help communities that can not afford to pay for the AMI system up front. Ron ask if he should pursue the program. The council discussed and indicated for Ron to add the Town's name to the list. Ron ask if Joanna Plunkett, who works

at the park during the summer, could stay on and help do the GIS inputting for a couple of hours a day until Spring. Council approved.

- G. WWT Superintendent Bill submitted report to be reviewed. Bill obtained a quote for the repair of the ceiling at the waste water treatment plant. Camflo submitted the only bid. Council suggested to hook up cold air return, fix duct work and wrap it for now at the cost of \$1,300.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Town Office will be closed Monday Nov 11 in observance of Veterans Day.
- 2. Town Office will be closed Thursday & Friday, Nov 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving.
- 3. Next Meeting will be December 2, 2019 at 6 pm
- 4. Town Christmas Party will be at Ethan’s on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 pm.

Darrell moved to adjourn, Vince seconded; motion carried.

TOWN OF FLORA

Vincent A. Seward, President

Darrell Yoder, Vice- President

Absent
Jacob Adams, Finance Chairman

ATTEST:

Joretta L. Tinsman, Clerk-Treasurer