

TOWN COUNCIL

October 7, 2019

The Flora Town Council met Monday, October 7, 2019 in the Board Room of the Flora Town Hall. Those present were: Grant Richardson, Cory Mahan, Emily Albaugh, Jim & Marcus Hedrick, Kate Leach, Atlee Oyler, Ron Fritz, Todd Trent, Sarah Hanaway, Jessica Young, Kevin & Jill Clothier, Charlotte Hicks, Susan Scholl, Pam Beck, Paul Redmon, Bill McCarty, Vince Seward, Darrell Yoder, Jacob Adams and Joretta Tinsman.

Vince Seward opened the meeting with welcome.

Public Hearing for Resolution 2019-02 authorizing the submittal of the Blight Clearance Program application to the office of Community and Rural Affairs was led by Emily Albaugh with Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Plan Commission. If the \$336,346 project is approved it will include demolition, engineering, environmental and clean-up. The Town of Flora's share would be \$33,667. Emily explained the bid process is competitive and requested public input in the form of a survey which would strengthen the application. Surveys are available at the town office. The application will be submitted to OCRA on October 15th.

Public Hearing for the first reading of the 2020 Budget Ordinance was held. The 2020 levy will be 1.5696 up from 1.56 in 2019. There being no public questions or comments, Darrell moved to approve the 2020 Budget first reading, Jacob seconded. Motion carried

Darrell Yoder moved the minutes of the previous meeting (Sept. 3, 2019) be approved as presented; Jacob Adams seconded. Minutes approved. Claims and payroll signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Close Easement – Jason Teel requested the easement closed West of his residence at the September council meeting. The council discussed and denied his request at this time because it would land lock the property behind Jason. Clerk-Treasurer will send a letter to notify Jason of the council's decision.
- B. Recycling- Darrell presented a suggestion for a self-service recycle drop off site. He has located a source for covered bins at no cost and mentioned that cardboard would be the only thing the residents would have to separate. The estimated cost would be \$17,000 a year compared to 34,000 to 41,000 a year for curbside pick-up. Jacob Adams suggested not making a decision until residents have an opportunity to voice their input. The council tabled the matter until further discussion at the November Meeting.
- C. Sidewalk and Curb reimbursement- The town currently reimburses property owners at a rate of \$7.39 per running foot for curbs and \$10 per running foot for

sidewalks approved in March 2012. New rate for consideration will be presented at the November meeting.

- D. Monroe Twp Trustee Room Rental- Sarah Hanaway, Trustee signed a 1-year lease agreement for office space on the second floor at the Town Office Building for \$150 a month. The town will provide utilities. Sarah is responsible for obtaining phone service.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Girls Softball Field- Grant Richardson, incoming President for the girls' softball league, presented a request for funding to upgrade the dugouts and fencing. Grant has secured materials and labor to cover half of the upgrade costs. He requested funding of \$1,960 to finish the project. Jacob made a motion to pay for the upgrades in the amount of \$1960. Darrell seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Apartment Ordinance-Jim Hedrick ask the Council to consider amending Ordinance 2014-06. He would like to have an apartment at ground level on East Columbia next to his existing business. The council discussed and held the first reading of Ordinance 2019-02, amending Ordinance 2014-06.
- C. Baker Tilly- The tracking factor for the fourth quarter will decrease slightly and amount to \$1.61 per 1,000 kilowatts consumed. Darrell moved to accept the rate. Jake Seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

- A. Police- Paul Redmon reported the department had 88 calls for service. The department participated in the active shooter drill at Carroll Jr-Sr High School.
- B. Plan Commission – 3 permits issued for the month of September. Ivan Garber ~ New house. Perry Brewington ~ Carport. Jill Profitt ~ Pole Barn.
- C. Fire Department – Todd Trent reported the department had 4 medical runs and 7 fire related calls. Purdue's aerial truck has been secured and is parked at the town's maintenance shop until the fire station doors can accommodate the truck. Todd is obtaining quotes for the construction. 1963 model truck being replaced will be advertised and sealed bids will be opened at the 10/28/19 meeting.
- D. Park Department – Atlee Oyler reported the park will shut down the first of November. The storage for boats and campers will be November 1 to April 1.
- E. Airport – Ron reported Airport is in good shape.
- F. Utility Manager/Water Superintendent –Ron Fritz submitted his monthly report. Water Plant Open House will be Oct 18 from 9:15 to 2pm with ribbon cutting at 12. Leaf pick up and tree trimming will start soon, he indicated no sticks in leaf piles. The water project is finished except for a few minor punch list items. Civil Engineer Cory Mahan reported all the town streets have been rated and a 5-year

plan will be created. Grant submission will be Dec 1. The installation of the walking trail lights is progressing and positive comments are being heard. Ron and wastewater foreman Bill McCarty will attend a 2-day seminar Oct 22-23.

- G. WWT Superintendent – Bill McCarty submitted report. The sewer plant ceiling needs replaced. The condensation from the duct work is leaking onto the ceiling tile and creating black mold. Bill will obtain quotes.

OTHER BUSINESS: Darrell submitted a proposal to beautify the town’s property on Columbia Street located by the United Methodist Church with a fence and 3 large trees. Jacob made a motion to accept the proposal. Darrell seconded. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Office will be closed October 14, 2019 in observance of Columbus Day.
- 2. Water Plant Open House October 18th 9:15 am to 2 pm
- 3. Trick or Treat night will be Thursday October 31st, 6 am to 8 pm.
- 4. Next Meeting will be November 4, 2019 at 6 pm.

Jacob made a motion to adjourn. Darrell seconded. Motion carried.

TOWN OF FLORA

Vincent A. Seward, President

Darrell Yoder, Vice President

Jacob Adams, Finance Chairman

ATTEST:

Joretta L. Tinsman, Clerk-Treasurer