

October 21, 2024

° The Town Council of the Town of Oxford met for a regular meeting on Monday October 21, 2024. Rusty Hoaks, Jim Deckard, Tina Coffman, Terry Zink and Larry Barnard were present. Town employees and department heads present included Clerk-Treasurer Tina Porter, and Fire Chief Justin Bice.

Regular session called to order at 7:03 pm – Quorum present

Public Hearing was opened at 7:03 pm by Hoaks and turned over to Emily Albaugh

Albaugh explained how the town is applying for a \$30,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community Rural Affairs (OCRA) to their Planning Program to hire a consultant to create a Revitalization Plan for the downtown area of Oxford. There is a local match from Discover Oxford of \$3,340. If the grant is awarded the plan could then be used to apply for other grants and funding as well as discussions with partners about actual projects. Albaugh answered resident questions and encouraged everyone to continue sending her feedback and suggestions of what they would like to see for the downtown area. Barnard made a motion to authorize the grant application. Deckard seconded. None opposed.

Coffman made motion to close Public Hearing. Deckard seconded. None opposed.

Public Hearing was closed, and regular meeting was reopened at 7:05 pm

Minutes: Minutes were submitted to the board for approval. Barnard motioned to approve. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

Claims: Claims were submitted to the board for approval. Coffman motioned to approve. Deckard seconded. None opposed.

Ordinances and Resolutions: The 2025 Budget for adoption was presented for approval. Deckard made motioned to approve. Zink seconded. None opposed.

A proposed resolution for reduction of the current 2024 budget was presented for approval. Porter and Council answered questions from residents about the reduction. Coffman made motion to accept resolution. Barnard seconded. None opposed.

A proposed Ordinance Authorizing Advanced Payments by the Clerk Treasurer was presented to allow payments to be made in a timely manner. Deckard made a motion to accept. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

A proposed Ordinance Amending the Bond Requirement for the Town Clerk to be in line with Indiana Code was presented. Barnard made a motion to accept. Zink seconded. None opposed.

A proposed Resolution to make and accept electronic fund transfers was presented to allow more secure and timely payment processing. Coffman made a motion to accept. Deckard seconded.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report: Quotes were provided for a server and a new Clerk Treasurer desktop. Discussion took place. Coffman made a motion to approve new desktop. Barnard seconded. None opposed.

Utility Clerk's Report: N/A

Superintendent Report: Two quotes for two new tractor tires for the backhoe were presented. Coffman made a motion to accept the quote from Etter Tires for 1357.20. Deckard seconded. None opposed.

Discussion was had about mowing notices being mailed. One resident was present to speak, and another resident sent in a letter requesting their fee be waived due to the issue. Barnard made a motion to waive the mowing charge for the resident who sent in a letter to the council. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

Marshal Report: N/A

Fire Dept. Report: Fire Chief Justin Bice presented quote for pest control for the Fire Department building. Deckard made a motion to approve. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

Bice presented a quote for a tanker without a pump. Discussion ensued about funding options, to include what might be available through the Township. Council decided to table the discussion until more financials are clear.

Old Business: Porter updated the council about the Mainstream service contract for the water tower use and that the first invoices have been sent to Mainstream for payment.

Update about email services that were affecting the decision to switch office phone services for the town along with two quotes for new phone service were presented. Deckard made a motion to approve switching phone service. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

Paperwork from the town attorney for the council to look over in regards to the donation of the Federated Church was presented.

An update was provided to the council on the resident who has an inside meter and had been behind on water bills. A motion to continue with the removal of the meter was made by Deckard. Coffman seconded. None opposed.

Flowmeter that had been approved to be replaced was installed on the 18th and has been working as expected.

New Business: Porter presented a notice received by the Clerk's office of a resident seeking dual zoning for a currently residential property. Discussion ensued on the topic of business and residential buildings on the square and effects on town.

County requested to book the town hall meeting space for early voting on Oct 26th and Nov 2nd. Voting will take place both those days from 8am to 12pm.

Request to participate in the Discover Oxford Annual Christmas Tree Festival was presented. Barnard made a motion to approve the representation of the town. Zink seconded. None opposed.

Request from Tdeez B.A. Creations for the council to attend their ribbon cutting ceremony on the 26th was presented. Coffman stated she would attend.

Comments/Questions from Residents/Businesses:

Emily Albaugh explained about how KIRPC is working with Benton County and Economic Development to demolish the old school due to health concerns. They are working to get a grant from OCRA and need letters from residents from anywhere within the county expressing their concerns about the hazards. Emily also explained about the Federal grants that were already awarded and how that resulted in a sign that brought concern to some residents being placed on the property. Concerns were also discussed as to ownership of the property once the cleanup is completed.

Comments and questions from residents included discussion about stormwater charges, concerns about vandalism /break-ins at Rommel Park. consideration of extending the deadline for mowing letters instead of hand delivery, the councils stand on hiring a Town Manager, more police presence, request for town to place a streetlight on a dark section of E. Wilson.

Board Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

The next regular Town Council meeting is Monday November 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxford Town Hall. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Submitted by Tina Porter
TINA PORTER, CLERK-TREASURER

Approved by Russell Hoaks
RUSSELL HOAKS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Date Approved 11-4-2024