

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA  
February 5, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on February 5, 2024 in the Union County Commissioner's Chambers.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were: Jerry Kahl and Derrek Jenkins.

Also in attendance was Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer; Matt Reuss, Todd Dickenson, Jim Barnhizer, Matt Barnhizer and Oliva Chewning.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2024. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**ORDINANCES**

All present members approved suspending the rules and vote on Ordinance 2024-1 on first reading. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

All present members approved suspending the rules and vote on Ordinance 2024-2 on first reading. Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-2. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss discussed issues with the main pumps at the Town's pump house. Both pumps have had little maintenance done since they were installed. Ortman's is getting a quote to pull the pumps and make repairs. The cost could be around \$ 100,000.00. Discussion occurred as to how the Water Fund could pay for the expense. A loan from the General Fund may have to occur to fix the problem. Ms. Shepler stated that she would know more about the state of the water fund, once the books were closed, the reimbursement from water grant is determined and if the Town is going to pay back the General Fund what it loaned for the water line project.

Fire Chief Jim Barnhizer reported that he had nothing to report. He was waiting for the Council to determine which truck would be approved for purchase.

Chief Todd Dickenson showed the Council the new patch Officer Creech had designed with the Courthouse tower clock on it. Officer Creech will be attending armory school that is sponsored by Glock on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Officer Moffett will be returning from his deployment at the end of February or the first March. Chief Dickenson has been looking to get Officer Moffett's new uniforms delivered before he arrives home. The supplier the Town has used for uniforms is going out of business. He has been looking for new suppliers of uniforms. Chief Dickenson also informed the Council that the department is looking to upgrade their service weapons while their current weapons are worth something.

**MISC. BUSINESS**

A short discussion occurred regarding the condition of the Ramey property. Mr. Bias stated that he believed the property to be about 65% compliant. The property still has a camper, tires, a trailer with materials and the storage bins are still viewable. He asked Ms. Shepler to access a fine on Mr. Hundley and this will be reviewed each month until the Council considers the property to be compliant.

The bids for the medic truck were presented once again since Wetzel had not included the specifications with the quotation. After a short discussion with the members of the fire department who were in attendance, Mr. Kahl made a motion to accept the Wetzel bid for a 2024 Chevy 3500HD for \$ 55,325.25. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Kahl made a motion to approve the Union County Development Corporation agreement for 2024. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve adjustments in the amount of \$ 1,885.40 for the write of bad accounts to send to collections as well as customers who have passed away. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

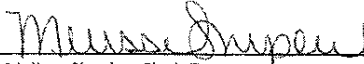
Mr. Kahl requested information from Chief Dickenson regarding skateboards on US 27 as well as the sidewalks. After a short discussion, it was decided that Ms. Shepler would look into the situation once the Annual Financial report is submitted to the State.


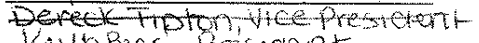
Discussion occurred regarding the Town's current website. Ms. Shepler has been informed that the State is looking to have meetings recorded and broadcasted as well as minutes being made available online. Mr. Reuss that the Wellhead Protection Program and the CCR's are also supposed to be available online. Mr. Bias stated that his son, Conner, is still interested in assisting the Town to upgrade the website. His son will be traveling with several race teams in the near future but he will get with him on the Town's website needs. Any decisions made on the website, once Conner starts working on it, he will recuse himself from any opinions or voting.

Olivia Chewning, Director of the Union County Foundation, discussed the position she had held as the Special Projects Coordinator. The Foundation would be the employer of the coordinator with the Town, College Corner and the County contributing to the salary. Mr. Williams is working on a new agreement outlining the position and the financial aspect of it. She also went on to say she was assisting Officer Creech in obtaining grant money for new tasers. The Foundation is also bringing in a new consultant to come up with a strategic plan using all the other plans that have been written. The meeting with the consultant is February 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be sending emails with the meeting information in it soon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Mr. Jenkins and supported by Mr. Kahl the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:   
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer

  
  
Derek Tipton, Vice President  
Keith Bias, President