

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE CORPORATION OF LIBERTY, INDIANA
May 6, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Liberty, Indiana met in regular session on May 6, 2024 at the Town's Street Department Garage.

Town Council President Keith Bias called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Jerry Kahl, Derrek Jenkins, Dereck Tipton and Ross Keasling

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2024 regular meeting. Mr. Kahl supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

ORDINANCES

President Bias polled all members that were in favor of suspending the rules and voting on Ordinance 2024-6 on first reading. All members were in favor of suspending the rules and voting on the ordinance. Mr. Tipton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-6. Mr. Keasling supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Police Chief Todd Dickenson reported that Officer Young was at the academy and had passed his initial testing. Officer Moffett attended instructor's school.

Fire Chief Jim Barnhizer passed out fire run information to the members of the Council. He informed the Council that the new chassis will be in next week or the week after.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Reuss requested that the Council consider changing the public nuisance ordinance from a ten (10) remediation period to a five (5) one the continuous enforcement order has been applied to a property because allowing ten days makes it harder to mow the lawns. After a brief, discussion the Council told Ms. Shepler to bring an amended version of the ordinance to the next meeting changing the period from ten (10) to five (5) days. Mr. Reuss received a message from the office that resident of 318 Southview Drive is requesting the street in front of his driveway be cold patched. The property is located as a dead end of Southview Drive. Mr. Reuss stated that there is a hydrant that the department clears in the winter time that would be considered their driveway. Mr. Reuss asked if that would be the homeowner's responsibility for the cold patch or the Town's? Mr. Bias stated that the homeowner should come to the meeting to make the request of the Council rather than Mr. Reuss bringing it to their attention. Mr. Reuss also addressed pictures that were included in their packets. The pictures pertain to 479 N Parkhill Drive. Mr. Reuss requested direction on how to satisfy the resident since she is not happy with the lack of drainage under her driveway in relation to the previous waterline rehabilitation project. After a lengthy discussion as to the condition of the driveway and culvert pipe under the driveway before and after the completion of the project, the Council advised Mr. Reuss to make sure the pipe is exposed on the north side of the driveway and to put some rip-rap around pipe as it shows in the original picture. If homeowner requests anything other than that, she will be asked to attend a Council meeting. Mr. Reuss presented three tap-ins requested by the Gillman Group for a building to be constructed with three different "suites." According to the developer, they will run the sewer to the manhole. Mr. Reuss addressed concerns that the Area Plan Director is allowing the developer to pave over the easement that is known to have a water main, telephone and gas lines running through it. If any repairs have to be made, the utility will have to dig up the asphalt, repair the line and the property owner will be responsible for paying to have the asphalt re-patched. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Keasling made a motion to approve the three tap-ins. Mr. Jenkins supported the motion. Upon a vote viva voce, motion passed.

She spent time in the Recorder's office looking at plat maps and discussing the situation with Town Attorney, Jim Williams. Mr. Williams advised that in all the years of dealing with the school, the Davis Park Pillars were considered to be where the school's property started in relation to Union Street. Anything to the east of the pillars, is the school's responsibility and anything to the west of the pillars is the Town's responsibility. Ms. Shepler informed the Council that she would draft a letter explaining as such to the Eldridge's. Their request should go to the school.

Ms. Shepler advised the Council that they will have to appoint a person to the County Health Board per changes made in Indiana Code. The members were given a list of criteria that has to be met. Ms. Shepler was asked to inquire if this person needs to live within in the Town limits or can they reside outside of the limits.

The Council tabled the adjustment request for 112 A East Campbell Street. The amount for the adjustment being requested was not included with the paperwork and the Council has concerns that the leak was detected in December and was not fixed until April.

Ms. Shepler received approval to offer \$ 17.50 per hour for the new hire in her office.

Mr. Keasling asked that a weed complaint be addressed for 207 E Union Street.

Mr. Tipton asked if fences were required to be installed around the retention ponds located at the Family Dollar/Dollar Store property? Ms. Shepler stated that the Area Plan Office is in charge of that. Questions should be addressed to Jeff Mathews.


Mr. Bias addressed the possible issues with the new wrecker service in Town located at the old cabinet outlet. Since there is not a defined street, vehicles are being parked where motorists are unable to maneuver through area especially buses. Mr. Shepler stated that she would check the mapping to see where the street is located.

ADJOURN

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



Keith Bias, President

ATTEST: 
Melissa Shepler, Clerk-Treasurer