

BOURBON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Town Council for Bourbon, Indiana was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, with Council Members, Les McFarland, Jonah Best, Terry Clemens, Clerk-Treasurer Kimberly Berger, and Attorney Alex Hoover present in person. The meeting was opened to the public and livestreamed via You Tube.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD REORGANIZATION: Member Clemens nominated Les McFarland as President, Member Best offered the second and the nomination passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Member Clemens nominated Member Best as Vice President, President McFarland seconded the nomination and it passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS: Member Clemens will serve as the Liaison to the Bourbon Fire Department, Member McFarland will serve the Street and Utilities Department, and Member Best will be the Liaison to the Police Department, Plan Commission and Triton School Corporation.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Member Clemens motioned to retain the current Department Heads for 2025, Member Best offered the second and the motion passes 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

MINUTES: Member Best made a motion to approve the minutes from December 10, 2024, regular scheduled council meeting, Member Clemens offered the second and it passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Viki Brown of Dustin's Place was present to give the Council on the happenings of the non-for-profit and need for grief support for children in Marshall County. Ms. Brown asked for financial support for Dustin's Place in the amount of \$10,000.00. Member Best asked for this to be tabled so Clerk-Treasurer Berger could look into the finances, President McFarland agreed, and the table passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The Agreement from Michiana Area Council of Governments for vehicle electric charging stations was discussed. Attorney Hoover stated that he had concerns about the security expectations within the contract and asked for clarification for it to be more defined. Council Member Clemens motioned to table the agreement at this time, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Council Member Clemens motioned to appoint Kimberly Berger to the Marshall County Unsafe Building Commission for 2025, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Nepotism forms for 2024 was presented and signed by all members. A conflict-of-interest form was signed for Les McFarland as he is a member of the Marshall County Sheriff's Department and they are a vendor for the Town of Bourbon.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS: Ms. Berger asked for approval of claims 7051 to 7160 in the amount of \$471,171.15. Council Member Clemens motioned to approve the claims, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Berger presented the end of the year appropriation, revenue, and fund balances as well as the end of the year transfers. She also presented the Cancellation of Warrant totaling \$926.48 with \$875.50 being redeposited into the General Fund and \$50.98 to the Water Fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Berger stated that she received an invoice from the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation for funding in 2025 in the amount of \$10,000.00. Discussion ensued with President McFarland stating that he felt that we should pay the first quarter and then the Council could reassess further payments.

Berger asked the Council for approval to write off two utility accounts; Lisa Riley in the amount of \$381.66 and Erica Alexander for \$118.71. Many attempts have been made to locate them for collection and all has failed. Member Best motioned to allow, Member Clemens seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chief Martin submitted the Police Department's monthly report.

Roger Terry submitted the activity reports for the street and utilities department. Terry asked for approval to hire Ray Hamblin retro back to January 6, 2025. Member Best motioned to approve, Member Clemens seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Terry also stated that the Town will be applying for the Community Crossings Grant that is due January 31st.

Chad Stepp, Bourbon Fire Department Chief was not present. Clerk-Treasurer Berger informed the Council the department had 9 calls last month; 3 car accidents, 4 medical assist, 1 mutual aid with Bremen and 1 signal nine.

Susie Schaetzle, Plan Director, presented her report to the Council. Schaetzle stated that the Plan Commission met and appointed their officers for 2025 as follows: Amber Van Ness, President, Melea Hoffer, Vice President and Anna Gilsinger Secretary. Schaetzle asked to reappoint Amber Van Ness to the Plan Commission for a 4 year term. Member Best motioned to approve Van Ness, Member Clemens seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The BZA did meet in January but did not have a quorum, so no business took place. Schaetzle stated that the fence at 412 W. North Street has been removed.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Attorney Hoover gave an update on the Karen Holm's ordinance violation. He stated that her attorney would not accept the counter offer and there has been a bench trial set for February 3rd. Hoover advised the Council that a letter has been sent to the Owners of Parkview Place Apartment and they have 30 days from December 31, 2024, to respond.

PATRON'S COMMENTS: There were no patron's comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Member Clemens thanked the Town Employees for all they do. President McFarland reminded the employees of the upcoming Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, January 18th.

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business to come before the Council, Member Clemens made the motion to adjourn at 6:41 p.m., a second was offered by Member Best and the motion carried by a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

ATTEST:

Kimberly A. Berger, Clerk Treasurer

Les McFarland, President