

BOURBON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2025

A regular meeting of the Town Council for Bourbon, Indiana was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 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

MINUTES: Member Best made a motion to approve the minutes from February 11, 2025, regular scheduled council meeting, Member Clemens offered the second and it passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chad Stepp, Bourbon Fire Department Chief informed the Council the department had 11 calls last month. Stepp presented a mutual aid agreement with Argos Fire Department Territory. This agreement is to aid in the Town's ISO rating. Council Member Clemens motioned to move forward with the agreement, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays. He also stated that the air packs are now in service. Stepp also informed the Council of their photo fundraiser that will be on May 3, 2025 and the money raised will be used for a new thermal imaging camera.

OLD BUSINESS: The Bell Tower was discussed after the Council had time to review the quotes. Member Best stated that he had spoken to Kurt Garner concerning a Historical grant that could be applied for to help with expenses, however, the next grant round is not until the Fall of 2025. The council asked Roger Terry, Superintendent of Public Works, which quote he supports and he stated Millwood Construction with a bid of \$48,151.00. Member Best motioned to accept Millwood Constructions quote, Member Clemens added the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The Agreement from Michiana Area Council of Governments for vehicle electric charging stations was revisited after being tabled in January. President McFarland advised the council that the grant funding on the Federal level has been frozen until the end of April. He stated that the Council could approve the grant pending the funds being released to be ahead of the process. Discussion ensued. Council Member Best motioned to table the grant application agreement, Member Clemens offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

NEW BUSINESS: Janis Holiday director of the Marshall County Council on Aging was present to request funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 for 2025. She provided the Council with the information that they transported Bourbon residents on 296 trips last year. President McFarland asked if there was a cost that the patrons had to pay and she responded that there is a small fee and it is based on mileage. Member Best spoke in favor of providing funding. Clerk-

Treasurer Berger reminded the Council that at last month's meeting, they promised the funding allocated for Council on Aging to Dustin's place. After some discussion, Best wanted the funding to be taken out of the line item for maintenance of the Matchett Center. Ms. Holiday asked if she would have to come back to request funding in the future. Berger reminded the council that with the pending changes to the Property Tax funding going at the State House, that even though these programs very worthy, there might not be funding available to help in the future. President McFarland stated that she would need to check back after we knew what the impact of tax cuts would do to our community. Member Best motioned to approve, Member Clemens offer the second and the motion passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Clerk-Treasurer Berger presented the updated Emergency Contingency Plan for the Utilities Department. She advised the Council of the updates to personnel and the addition of Well 3 due to the newly constructed water plant. Council Member Clemens motioned to approve the plan, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Berger introduced Ordinance 2025-01 which would amend the language to add Turn on to the existing Ordinance 1996-2. A very lengthy discussion ensued. Member Best advised President McFarland to meet with Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, Steve Walsh, and discuss the issue further.

Berger then asked for advice from the Council concerning the mowing for the Parks and Matchett Center for 2025. President McFarland was concerned that there was no written contract. McFarland asked Roger Terry to provide the Council with the details of the expectations for the mowing. Being that Spencer Johnson just inquired about mowing Westwood park, the Council decided that they do not want to split the work up. President McFarland motioned to retain Hoffer Lawn Services pending review of the mowing tasks, Member Best offered the second and the motion passed 2 Ayes, 0 Nays, and Member Clemens abstaining.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS: Ms. Berger asked for approval of claims 7222 to 7229 in the amount of \$242,946.52. Council Member Best motioned to approve the claims, Member Clemens offered the second and the motion passed 3 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Clerk-Treasurer Berger presented the Redevelopment Commission Report to the Council for 2025.

Berger also stated that the Utilities department will be flushing hydrants beginning the end of March through the first part of April

Berger recognized Roger Terry for his 34 years of service to the Town and Chief Bill Marting for his 24 years of service and told them how proud she was of their commitment to our community.

Chief Martin submitted the Police Department's monthly report. Chief Martin offered praise to the Street and Utility Departments for their assistance in clean up during a recent accident on Center Street.

Chief Martin asked the council to make a change to Departmental Policy which would allow if a Full-time employee left the department in good standing, then was rehired, that after of year probation, their prior years of service and longevity would be reinstated. Discussion ensued and Member Best asked if Martin would put that into writing for further review and consideration.

Roger Terry submitted the activity reports for the street and utilities department. Terry asked permission to advertise for a part-time employee to aid during the months of April through October. Member Clemens motioned to allow, Member Best seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Terry also advised the council that brush pick up will resume Monday, March 17th and that spring leaf pick up will be March 31st through April 11th.

Susie Schaetzle, Plan Director, presented her report to the Council. Schaetzle stated that the Plan Commission met on Monday, March 10th and voted to change the zoning at 207 W. Park from A to B. She advised the council that the Resolution will be ready for their approval at the April Council meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Attorney Hoover stated that he met with Chief Martin and developed a new procedure to follow for future ordinance violations.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: President McFarland reiterated the years of service for Town Employees Roger Terry and Bill Martin and thanked them.

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business to come before the Council, Member Clemens made the motion to adjourn at 6:56 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

