

August 16, 2022

The regular meeting and public hearing of the Fremont Town Council was called to order by Council President Steve Brown at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at the Fremont Town Hall. Councilmembers Linda Fulton, Dr. William Stitt, Lon Keyes and Barry Wilcox were also present.

Others representing the Town were:

*Mary K. Parsons, IAMC, MMC, CPFA, CPFIM, CPM, CMO Clerk-Treasurer
Kurt Bachman, Attorney
Joe Patterson, Town Marshal
Travis Smoker, Town Officer
Becky Maggart, IAMC Deputy Clerk
Chris Snyder, Town Judge*

Others in attendance were:

*Jo Dee Hoemig, Town Resident
James Hart, Town Resident
Rick Deller, Town Resident
Isaac Lee, SCEDC Executive Director
Gary Koester, President of Koester Metals
Taylor Drake, Reporter for Herold Republican
Ashlee Hoos, Town Resident
Mike Connell, Plant Manager of Cardinal IG
Debbie Adolph, County Resident
Craig Adolph, County Resident
Lisa Aldrich, County Council
Bill Konyha, Northeast Indiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
Scott Glendening, Town Resident
Ken Wilson, JICI Angola
Ben Roederer, Town Resident
Julia Hewitt, Angola Chamber of Commerce
Chris Pletcher, Allegheny Coatings
Jeff Hall, Allegheny Coatings
Denny Zent, State Representative #51
Will Howard, County Commissioner
Karl VanBecelaene, Carver Non-Woven
Austin Budreau, County Resident
Todd Thurber, DLZ*

Public Hearing- *The Public Hearing was for the Town Council to affirm, modify or rescind the order for the Public Nuisance Ordinance served on June 21, 2022 to Michael DeWitt and Nicole Lensky at 406 E. Michael St., Fremont, IN 46737. Town Marshal Joe Patterson, stated to the council that he presented Michael with pictures of the nuisance on the property, a violation letter and an order letter, along with verbal explanation of nuisances and that he has been working to get the nuisances cleaned up. The property is not in full compliance, however he recommends a continuance for November 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm, before a decision is made. Councilmember Lon Keyes moved to approve the continuance as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor. Public hearing was closed at 5:06 pm.*

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Linda Fulton moved to approve the July minutes, second by Councilmember Lon Keyes, all in favor.

Approval of Claims, Payroll, Comp Time, Fund Report and Appropriation Report: Councilmember Lon Keyes made a motion to approve claims, payroll, comp time, fund and appropriation reports as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on 2021 Street Project –Council President Steve Brown said that API was almost done. Todd from DLZ along with Town Attorney Kurt Bachman recommended to pay API all claims for the work completed and to withhold the retainages as to keep some leverage for final completion of projects. Councilmember Barry Wilcox motioned to pay API as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Update on 2022 Street Project- Council President Steve Brown said the project should all be completed except for restoration by August 27, 2022, and hoped that the project would all be complete by end of October. Council President Steve Brown also mentioned that the road construction on State Road 827 will hopefully be completed and reopened in October.

NIPSCO- Council President opened the discussion by asking Town Attorney Kurt Bachman what the next steps are to continue to our pursuit to get more natural gas in the area. Town Attorney Kurt Bachman recommended that an attorney be hired who could handle the litigations with NIPSCO, so NIPSCO would then have risks in the litigations, but that it would more than likely be costly. Councilmember Barry Wilcox agreed with Town Attorney Kurt Bachman, and Council President Steve Brown suggested to ask for support from surrounding communities, as well as government officials. State Representative Denny Zent agreed with all and was willing to help get the issue addressed to the Governor. Councilmember Barry Wilcox made a motion to give Council President Steve Brown permission to sign documents needed to start the process, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tax abatement request – Allegheny Coatings Councilmember Barry Wilcox made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 for the tax abatement request for Allegheny Coatings as presented by Isaac Lee from the SCEDC, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor. Councilmember Lon Keyes motioned to waive the second reading of the Resolution 2022-02, second by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, all in favor.

Utility Credit- Councilmember Lon Keyes moved to approve the credits as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Park Board Appointment- Councilmember Dr. William Stitt moved to appoint Donna Bond to the Fremont Town Park Board to replace outgoing member Debbie Williams, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Shield Purchase – Town Marshal Joe Patterson requested approval to purchase a single office shield that could withstand rifle rounds. Councilmember Lon Keyes made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, second by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, all in favor.

Discussion on Court Closure – Town Attorney Kurt Bachman suggested getting an Ordinance in place to close the Fremont Town Court on December 31, 2022, which would allow nine months of follow up work to officially close the court by the end of Town Judge Chris Snyder’s term on December 31, 2023. Councilmember Lon Keyes moved to approve the process as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

REPORTS:

Court: Report was submitted.

Fire: Report was submitted.

Police: Report was submitted. Town Marshal Joe Patterson requested retiring the 2014 patrol car, by selling or transferring to the Town of Orland as they would be interested.

Street: Council President Steve Brown reported they have been busy mowing.

Water: Council President Steve Brown reported they are busy doing locates.

Wastewater – Council President Steve Brown reported that the clarifier will be delivered and installed next week if all goes well with the install then the second clarifier will be installed the following week.

Park- No Report was submitted.

Councilmember Barry Wilcox thanked everyone for attending the meeting to offer their support in trying to resolve the NIPSCO issues.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Lon Keyes, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

September 20, 2022

Steve Brown, Council President

Linda Fulton, Vice-President

Dr. William Stitt, Member

Lon Keyes, Member

Barry Wilcox, Member

Attest:

*Mary K Parsons, Clerk-Treasurer,
IAMC, MMC, CPFA, CPFIM, CMO, CPM*