

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA  
October 26, 2020**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2020, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council members William Daily, Mike Leman, Rick Graverson and James Leeper were present. Also present were: Trend Weldy, Director of Operations; Jay Stoneburner, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Alex Mikel, Superintendent of the Street and Water Department; Trent Stouder, Police Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Keith Fraine, Cemetery Sexton; Ken Jones, Town Engineer; and Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer. Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

**CLERK-TREASURER:** Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer asked the Council to approve Ordinance 14-2020, regarding the reimbursement of certain payroll costs from CARES Act Funding, after declaring an emergency in order to pass the ordinance on all three readings. She explained that she had already submitted a claim for funding on behalf of the Town. Mr. Leman made a motion to declare an emergency and approve Ordinance 14-2020 on three readings, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then asked the Council to act on the health insurance quote provided by Miller Insurance, and specifically recommended that they retain the employer HSA contribution amounts of \$2,200.00 per family and \$1,700.00 per individual employee. She added that she had checked with a second source regarding the quotes and was advised that the Town was unlikely to find a cheaper option than this 4% increase. Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the health insurance quote, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer then told the Council that she, Mr. Weldy, and Mr. Mikel had met with Baker Tilly representatives regarding the separation of the Street and Water Departments, and that they had been advised that the separation should have minimal effect on water rates. Ms. Anglemyer stated her own opinion that the NVH revenues will cover the other aspects of the change as well. The Council discussed how to begin the process of separating the departments. Mr. Leeper made a motion to begin the separation of the Street and Water Departments as requested by Mr. Mikel, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. The Council set an executive session to discuss the allocation of employees and their respective job performances for November 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Anglemyer also informed the Council that her office was experiencing their first virtual audit.

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 8-2020 regarding the Park Board reorganization, for second reading. He explained to the Council that he had updated the Board to consist of five (5) members, with four appointed by the Town Council and one appointed by the School Board, to bring the Town Code in line with the current statute. Mr. Wagner also explained that these exchanges could be revisited at any point in the future. The Council discussed the Ordinance. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve Ordinance 8-2020 on second and third readings, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner also presented Resolution 2020-18, regarding the adoption of the standard specifications and development standards for the Town of Bremen. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-18, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a





vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Weldy asked Mr. Wagner to submit the final draft of the revised Zoning Ordinance to the various authorizing bodies for consideration.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mary Grebe, Ernie Yockey, and Maria Mikel appeared on behalf of the Holy Walk committee to explain their plans for the event this year. Ms. Grebe explained that the school was allowing the Holy Walk to use outdoor areas on the school property as well as several busses, and that they would be using a radio system and a website for reservations and notifications to visitors. She also explained that the Holy Walk would be using smaller groups and social distancing throughout the program; that all food had been eliminated from the village and the final tent, and that masks would be required on all of the busses. The Council expressed concern that it was too difficult to evaluate whether the event should occur at this time, and asked when the committee would need to know from the Council whether the event could occur before beginning their set up efforts. The committee members explained their schedule, and Mr. Weldy suggested that the Council make a decision at the November 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Wagner stated that he would recommend revising the lease to include a cancellation clause that would allow the Town to cancel the lease at any time, even after the November 23, 2020 meeting.

Several members of the public appeared in support of allowing chickens within the municipal limits. Mr. Leman asked if anyone had appeared in opposition of the request, and there was no response. George Friez stated that it was a good exercise for young people to learn about local government. Becky Hawkins-Friez added that chickens provide insect control, youth activities and encourage household self-sufficiency. Mr. Graverson asked Isabella Clinger, one of the original petitioners, why she was interested in having chickens, and Ms. Clinger explained that she had always like chickens from a young age and that her family used their chickens to teach her younger siblings responsibility. Ashley Sumpter claimed that store eggs are not as healthy as home grown eggs, and added that she was open to whatever restrictions or guidelines the Town Council would impose. Mr. Graverson asked whether roosters were necessary for egg laying, and Mr. Friez replied that roosters were not necessary and that chicken droppings made great fertilizer. Mr. Daily expressed some concern based upon the recent complaints about coyotes. Mr. Leman noted that Chief Kile had reported 15 calls opposed to the request and 11 calls in favor. The Council discussed the request, and Mr. Wagner listed off a number of restrictions that he had already researched. Chief Neher raised concerns about fire hazards created by heated coops. Mr. Weldy expressed concern about the additional complaints that he and the Police Department may be required to spend time investigating. The Council asked Mr. Wagner to prepare a draft ordinance as they gathered more information.

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:** Mr. Weldy submitted his report and told the Council that patching on the downtown streets would begin on Wednesday and the streets would be milled when all patching is completed. He also noted that the weather looked good for the next two weeks for the planned work. Mr. Leman asked when the stoplights would be available, and Mr. Stoneburner stated that the lights were only set to ship on December 15, and could possibly be installed by the end of the year if they arrive quickly. Mr. Weldy explained that he would put a 4-way stop at the Plymouth – Center Street intersection until the lights were available.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Mr. Mikel had no new information to report on behalf of the Street and Water Department.

Lieutenant Stouder had no information to report on behalf of the Police Department.

Mr. Stoneburner asked the Council to act on his request to hire Cordell Matteson as an apprentice level line worker to start November 9, 2020. Mr. Graverson made a motion



to hire Cordell Matteson as an apprentice level line worker beginning November 9, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Leman and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Cunningham had no new information to report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

Mr. Fraine had no new information to report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

Mr. Main told the Council that the Park restrooms had closed for the season.

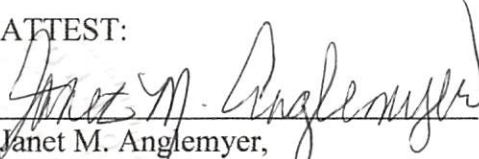
Mr. Leman made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

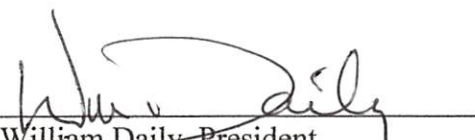
**TOWN ENGINEER:** Mr. Jones told the Council that he would be seeking permission to bid the North Center Street utility project at the November 9, 2020 meeting.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** No Council comments were offered.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Leman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

  
Janet M. Anglemyer,  
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

  
William Daily, President

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