MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA April 24, 2023

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council members William Daily, Rick Graverson and James Leeper were present. Also present were Trend Weldy, Director of Operations; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Chief Brad Kile, Police Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Keith Fraine, Cemetery Sexton; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

MINUTES: Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer also presented the payroll allowance for review. Ms. Anglemyer gave the Council Members a summary statement of the ARPA funds. Ms. Anglemyer then presented Ordinance 6-2023, an amendment to the sewer rate ordinance. Jeff Rowe appeared from Baker Tilly to discuss the ordinance. He reminded the Council Members that the utility will need an increase, but the full extent would not be known until the loan terms and total bid information for the project were determined. He explained that the ordinance called for a two-phase rate adjustment, with a 20% increase beginning June 1, 2023 and another 20% increase on January 1, 2024. He cautioned the Council that another increase would most likely be required once the full cost of the project was determined. Mr. Wagner asked the Council to approve the Ordinance on first reading today, with the second and third readings to take place at the May 22, 2023 meeting. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve Ordinance 6-2023 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 5-2023, regarding the modification of zoning for certain parcels of real estate as petitioned by Christopher Hundt. Mr. Wagner asked the Council to approve the ordinance on second and third reading. Mr. Graverson made a motion to approve Ordinance 5-2023 on second and third reading, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner asked the Council to set executive sessions to review information regarding the director of operations position. The Council Members set executive sessions for April 28, 2023, May 3, 2023, May 4, 2023 and May 5, 2023. Mr. Wagner also told the Council that he would review a recent public information request to determine whether the Council should adopt a policy.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Daily asked Mr. Wagner the status of the former Mama Rina's building. Mr. Weldy described the communications that he had with the owner, and Mr. Wagner told the Council that he and Mr. Weldy would make certain that they continue to move forward in addressing the building.

<u>PUBLIC COMMENTS:</u> Jack Cannon appeared on behalf of the Indiana Attorney General offices and described some of the services that the office offered.

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Joe Blakley appeared before the Council and asked if the lines on the eastern parking lot would be painted in the near future. Mr. Langdon explained that his department had signed a contract to have the lines painted approximately one month ago, but he was not certain when the contractor would be able to perform the work.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Weldy told the Council that he had met with Southwire regarding their expansion and told the Council that the new facility would be ready in the first half of 2024. He also told the Council that he had scheduled four interviews for the town mechanic position. Mr. Weldy reminded the Council of the May 11, 2023 solar park dedication event, but told them he was still waiting on final details. Mr. Weldy asked Mike Reese to give an update about the Jackson Street project. Mr. Reese recommended that the Council award the bid for the Jackson Street project to Brown and Brown, Inc. with the alternate bids, #1, 3 and 5 included for a total amount of \$1,303,700.00. Mr. Leeper made a motion to award the bid for the Jackson Street project to Brown and Brown, Inc., with alternates 1, 3 and 5 in the amount of \$1,303,700.00, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright submitted his report on behalf of the Electric Department.

Mr. Aguayo told the Council that he and Mr. Wright had attempted to find a meter reading system that would allow them to read both electric and water meters simultaneously, but the systems were too expensive in their opinion. He explained that the department had budgeted for a new system, as the hand-held equipment is dated and the batteries are due to be replaced. He explained that the new meter-reading system would allow the Clerk's office to collect information directly from any meter electronically. Mr. Aguayo added that the manufacturer is the same as the most recent meters installed for the department. Mr. Daily asked for a timetable for installing the new meters, and Mr. Aguayo replied that all of the meters would be replaced over a five-year cycle. The Council asked Mr. Aguayo to proceed.

Chief Kile informed the Council that the department had hired a new dispatcher, who would begin full-time employment on May 8, 2023. He also told the Council that Officer Rodriguez had passed his personal agility test, and that Officer Siple would be leaving the department sometime in May. He also warned the Council that another officer could be leaving the department in the near future as well.

Mr. Langdon told the Council that his department had budgeted to replace the department's loader, which was 12 years old. He obtained quotes for a new loader, and he found that West Tractor in South Bend offered the best trade-in value and price on a John Deere loader, which he noted was \$7,000.00 under budget. He asked the Council for permission to purchase the new loader from West Tractor in South Bend for \$133,100.00 with a \$62,000.00 trade-in credit. The Council approved the request.

Mr. Cunningham submitted his report and told the Council that his department had begun cleaning the Lake of the Woods sewer lines. Mr. Cunningham requested that the Council promote Anthony Schrock to a class B operator and briefly described Mr. Schrock's positive performance and confirmed that he met all requirements for the promotion. Mr. Leeper made a motion to promote Anthony Schrock to class B operator as of April 24, 2023, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Main had no new information to report on behalf of the Park Department.

Mr. Fraine informed the Council that the department had begun running new water lines through the cemetery.

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Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No Council comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Leeper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Graverson and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:

Janet M. Anglemyer,

Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

William Daily, President