

Town of Cambridge City
Council Meeting
Monday, March 4th, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Cambridge City met in a regularly scheduled meeting Monday, March 4th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the regular place, the Town Hall, 127 N. Foote Street, Cambridge City, Indiana.

The Town Council President Jim McLane presided. The Town Clerk-Treasurer Sherry Ervin was present to attest the proceedings. Nick Anderson began the meeting with a prayer and was followed up by President McLane leading the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call: Present on roll call Mike Amick, Debbie McGinley, Jim McLane, Gary Cole, and Jim King. A quorum was attained.

Also, Present: Bob Bever, Town Attorney; Richard Roberts, Police Chief; Ken Risch, Superintendent of Public Works and WCTV. Several guests were in attendance including Adam Sitka from Wessler Engineering, Valarie Shaffer from EDC, Darlena Roberts, and Millie Emery from Western Wayne News.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Jim King made a motion approving the February minutes and was seconded by Debbie McGinley, the motion carried. Jim King made a motion approving claims #9153-9841 and all payroll claims that were presented for payment. Gary Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried. Debbie McGinley approved the February financials and was seconded by Gary Cole, the motion carried.

Guests: Adam Sitka from Wessler Engineering presented changes to the Phase II water project for the water tower at the Industrial Park. Amendment #1 will be EDA funded with local match dollars from EDC instead of SRF funding as anticipated in the beginning of the project. Amendment #2 removes the design, permitting bid phase, and land related to the project. A motion was made by Jim King approving Amendment 1 & 2 as presented by Adam Sitka and was seconded by Gary Cole and the motion carried. A motion was then made by Jim King to move forward with the EDA grant application and authorizing Jim McLane to sign the application contingent upon EDC and Wayne County splitting the cost with the town. Gary Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Darlena Roberts, current owner of 411 and 415 W. Front Street, is asking for more time to sell both "solid homes" because she's been in the hospital. President McLane advised both homes have been declared unsafe based on Ken Risch's assessment. A motion was made by Jim King to table enforcement of the demolition order for a month allowing Roberts to sell the properties. The future owner will need to come to the April council meeting with a plan of action and a written improvement plan. Mike Amick seconded this motion and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Updates on blighted properties were given by Ken Risch. 308 W. Main Street has been cleaned up by the property owner. 314 West Main Street has received another letter regarding the home. The council has asked if the house could be deemed unsafe and Ken has not confirmed it to be unsafe. A previous letter that was sent has been returned with no response, but the town can go in and do the required repairs and the company can be billed the expenses. Gary Cole has agreed to take over the blighted project and work with Risch. The house on Plum and East Church has begun cleaning up. 14 N. Plum received a letter from Risch asking for car parts to be picked up. 502 E. Main has received

another letter regarding the trash in her yard and another citation will be placed if the yard has not been cleaned up.

A motion was made by Mike Amick approving Ordinance #1-2024 to charge disposal agents \$25.00 per load to dump brush at the cemetery. Debbie McGinley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Resolution #2-2024 was presented to the council which will temporarily waive certain provisions of the town code regarding Creitz Park only on a temporary basis and during the total eclipse special event. Mike Amick moved to adopt the temporary change to the town code. Debbie McGinley seconded the motion, Gary Cole opposed the change, but the motion passed unanimously.

Jim McLane nominated Julie Roettger as the volunteer to score applications for Wayne County's new downtown revitalization grant program. Gary Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim King to apply for the Creating Places matching grant and to approve the park project for the new playground equipment. Gary Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried. To receive the matching funds, the town must raise at least \$50,000. and so far, have commitments from Sugar Creek, First Bank Richmond, and EDC of Wayne County.

Clerk Ervin gave an update on Pershing fire protection contract. Pershing council have requested a 5-year contract and to freeze the contract at \$3000. Council was not in favor of the long-term contract agreement and agreed to leave the contract as is.

New Business: A motion was made by Mike Amick approving Jim Cohen to the Western Wayne Regional Sewage Board, Seat 4 and was seconded by Debbie McGinley. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Staff Reports: Superintendent Risch will begin advertising a part-time mower to help during the summer months. Risch also announced Wayne County highway has plans to replace the bridge on Mulberry Street in the fall of 2026 with a completion date in 2027. A brief discussion was made on installing the horseshoe pits in the park. Risch will have more information about where the pits will be placed at the April council meeting.

A motion was made by Mike Amick approving a 10 x 10 mausoleum to be installed at Riverside Cemetery for an above ground burial. Two lots will be purchased for the mausoleum and no fees for the opening or closing of graves as this will not be needed. Risch advised the mausoleum would not be tall in size and will be in an area of the cemetery that would be perfect for the structure. Gary Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Debbie McGinley approving Ordinance #2-2024 as amended by town attorney Bob Bever to remove section 36.12 & 36.14 of the personnel policy and adding a new section for School Resource Officers allowing 40 hours of time off which can also be used in hourly increments in a calendar year regardless of service. Mike Amick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Grass in the Bicentennial Park is being ruined by dog waste and urine and needs to be reseeded when the problem has been resolved. Signage has been considered noting the owners have to pick up after the animal. Attorney Bever will prepare an Ordinance for the April meeting prohibiting dogs in this park.

With nothing further to discuss, Mike Amick made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Gary Cole. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.