

A meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Williamsport was held on September 4, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall with the following officers present –Dave Banta, Council President, Dick Briles and Traci Latoz, Council Members, and William Lucas, Clerk Treasurer. Also in attendance were Nancy Litzenberger, Town Attorney, Kevin Strickler, Mark Hutson, Greg Taylor, Mike Hutchison, Amy Cushman, Vickie Strickler, Jim Lanham, Jerry Lucas, Gene Snoeberger, Randy Wurtsbaugh, Kathy Peterson, Kyle Bonebright, Steve Eberly, Kurt Hartman, Marchelle Silcox, Mark Kyburz, and Adam Gilbert for the Review Republican.

Dave Banta called the meeting to order.

Bill Lucas presented the council with the proposed budget for the 2019 calendar year. The public can access this information online on Gateway. As this was the budget hearing, all present had the option to ask questions and/or make objections to the proposed budget. No one came to object. The Budget Adoption Meeting is set for September 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Dick Briles made a motion to approve the August minutes. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Kevin Strickler spoke about work being done in town.

Dave Banta spoke about the OCRA grant through KIRPC. The town may be able to get \$700,000 instead of the \$600,000 for the sewer project if the sewer rate increase is a 50% increase vs the 48.8% increase proposed by Steve Brock. Dave Banta wants to know when Steve Brock can have his work done so the grants can be applied for. Kevin Strickler is to contact Steve Brock.

Kevin Strickler gave updates on several properties that needed cleaned up in town.

Gene Snoeberger is trying to get Eric Haley from the Fountain-Warren Health Department to come over and look at a property.

Kevin asked the council what they want him to do about cleaning up a property in town that would involve having to partially remove a section of fencing and going inside the fenced in area. Should they go in and clean up the property without the owner's consent? The council discussed what could be done. Traci Latoz said she thought the town marshal's department and the town's attorney, Nancy Litzenberger, could find out what can be done.

Kevin Strickler spoke about the pavilion at the park. He has two quotes and is waiting on another.

Traci Latoz spoke with Emily Albaugh from KIRPC. KIRPC has a grant that matches funds raised by crowd funding that the town may be able to get for the pavilion.

Vickie Strickler said she has raised \$6,420.00 for the pavilion so far. Another \$1,000.00 is being donated, but not yet received. Vickie also stated she is working with another group or individual that could possibly end up in additional funding between \$15,000 and \$20,000. She will have more information on this at the October meeting.

Dick Briles said we should take a bid on the building now. Kevin Strickler said the pavilion won't go up until 2019 due to the businesses that have given the quotes having no availability to begin work until next year. Dick Briles would like Kevin to get another quote from a business out of West Lebanon.

Vickie Strickler asked if the town would be willing to donate a family pool pass for 2019 for the Chocolate Festival. Traci Latoz made a motion to donate the family pool pass. Dick Briles seconded. Voted and passed.

Dick Briles spoke about the unsafe building ordinance again. Once one is complete, another can be done.

Traci Latoz asked Kevin Strickler about utility disconnect charges. Reconnect fees are not charged to customers if their service has not been disconnected during shut offs for non-payment.

Mark Hutson spoke about problems at the sewer plant. All is now going well. Mark did say the amount of product used to get phosphorus levels down is about double what was projected.

Gene Snoeberger spoke about the property that could possibly have a cistern.

Amy Cushman's review for the last 90 days is complete. She is to receive a \$0.50 an hour increase to take effect September 1, 2018. She will then be on the same schedule as the other employees.

Nancy Litzenberger had the statement of benefits on TMF equipment and findings to be signed. Dave Banta will sign the statement of benefits. All council members are to sign the findings.

Kurt Hartman spoke to the council about a tax abatement for AHW. Nancy Litzenberger told the council she had concerns about the area not being considered an economic revitalization area.

Steve Eberly spoke about Tax Abatement and the advantages to the community.

Dave Banta had a Thank You card from the Abolt Family for flowers and a Thank You card from Vickie Strickler for the Summer Park Program.

Dave Banta spoke about a letter he sent to Wabash Heartland Innovation Network.

Traci Latoz asked if anything could be done to slow down traffic on Washington Street. She also spoke about the posted speed limit of 30 mph on Third and Fourth Streets in town. Dave Banta said they have checked on reducing the speed limits in town before and we are unable to do it.

Kathy Peterson spoke about a security light in the alley behind her house. The light is directed to Kathy's property, but benefits more than just her property. She has requested if the light can be redirected so she will no longer have to pay for it. The council said they will have it looked into.

Kyle Bonebright spoke about the house and property next to him that needs to be fixed or removed. It was discussed that the house was purchased in a tax sale and nothing may be done by the new owners for twelve months so the prior owners don't have the chance to come back and pay back taxes and take possession of the house again.

Mark Kyburz and Marchelle Silcox purchased the building where Arni's used to be. They will be opening a restaurant/bar named High Falls Saloon. They wanted to introduce themselves to the council and see about the possibility of acquiring the small strip of property next to the building that belongs to the town, for the purpose of building a deck with an outdoor seating area.

The council will look into appointing a committee that will begin looking for a new town attorney. This will be discussed further at the September 17th meeting.

Traci Latoz spoke about the April Nowicki property. John Kuiper had tagged the property as an unsafe building. By tagging the house, she should not work on it.

Traci Latoz made a motion to adjourn. Dick Briles seconded. Voted and passed.

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST _____, President

_____, Member

_____, Member