

**Town of Georgetown
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Council members present: Everett Pullen, Chris Loop, Kathy Haller and Billy Haller. Also attending: Kristi Fox, Bob Woosley, Julia Keibler, Jessica Alexander and Officer Travis Speece.

(Shelly Trent, newly voted Council Member [due to Josh Cavanaugh resigning], attended the meeting but had not been sworn into office yet).

Approval of Minutes

Kathy Haller made a motion to approve the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes on September 10, 2019. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes on September 11, 2019. Seconded by Kathy Haller and approved 4-0.

Kathy Haller made a motion to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes on September 16, 2019. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes on October 10, 2019. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Clerk Treasurers Report

The website has had more problems but should be up and running by the end of the week. There have been multiple problems with the hosting and DNS changes but those are close to being resolved.

Town Engineer

Bid Openings:

1815 Kepley Rd Drainage Improvements:

Fulkerson Contracting \$19,832.00

Temple and Temple \$28,199.00
Libs Paving \$27,927.58
Harbison Excavating \$49,958.00

Bob Woosley recommends accepting the bid of the apparent low bidder, Fulkerson Contracting, for \$19,832.00 contingent upon Bob and Kristi's review.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve Fulkerson Contracting for \$19,832.00 to be paid out of Stormwater. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Payne Street Drainage Improvements:

Fulkerson Contracting \$10,320.00
Temple and Temple \$13,799.00
Harbison Contraction \$23,210.00

Bob Woosley recommends accepting the bid of the apparent low bidder, Fulkerson Contracting, for \$10,320.00 contingent upon Bob and Kristi's review.

Chris Loop made a motion to accept the bid from Fulkerson Contracting for \$10,320.00 contingent upon Bob Woosley's review and to be paid out of Stormwater. Seconded by Kathy Haller and approved 4-0.

Don Loop is in the process of putting together a Stellar Community Application. It is a regional approach to a very competitive grant program. The County Commissioners have selected a firm to help them go through this process. They are putting together a steering committee and would like for the Town to have two representatives. The first meeting will be October 28 at 6:30 at Pine View Government Center. There is an April application deadline. There is no upfront cost to the Town. If there was a project that we wanted to fund it would be a 10-20% cost of the project. It would be up to the Town to decide on any projects.

Chris Loop made a motion that he and Shelly Trent will serve on the steering committee and work with Floyd County on the Stellar Community Application. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Officer Travis Speece

There are some needed upgrades in the department. New light fixtures and two handicap accessible ramps are needed. The current ramps and porch are falling apart.

There have been breakdowns with the department's vehicles this last month at significant cost. There are also increased maintenance costs. The average mileage of the departments vehicles is around 100,000. Chris Loop thinks that we should look into replacing a vehicle or two in 2020.

Training has continued and they are working with Floyd County to meet department mandates.

Public Works

Nothing to report.

Town Attorney

Nothing to report.

Town Engineer

Community Crossings Matching Grant announced that we have been awarded \$150,418.66. That money is restricted and must be used for paving and road improvements. There is a 25% match that the town will be required to pay. The town will be responsible for \$50,139.56.

Waste Water Treatment Plant project is basically finished. There are only a few items left on the final punch list and there is one final change order to approve. The asphalt replacement is being completed today or by tomorrow. The screen room discharge pipe is too long and needs to be cut off. A heater needs to be installed and they are waiting on the electrical subcontractor to show up.

Change Order #4 now needs to be approved. Three of the items have already been approved. A new item was added because PVC piping needed to be changed out to HVC piping. Also, the air header pipes that were broken need to be fixed.

Bob Woosley recommends approval of Change Order #4 which has been vetted by the State and approved by SRF in the amount of \$48,941.00.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve Change Order #4 for \$48,941.00. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

With all of the change orders that we have had, at the end of the job we will have a net increase of the overall contract of 2.9%. The final contract is for \$3,264,329.00. This is good news given the size of the project.

Pay Request #18 is the final pay request for \$53,240.85. This will close out the remaining billing on the project with the exception of retainage. 5% of the total contract has been withheld which is \$163,216.45. A final walkthrough will be scheduled for next week and they will probably be requesting the final retainage be released before the next meeting.

Chris Loop made a motion to approve Pay Application #18 for \$53,240.85. Seconded by Kathy Haller and approved 4-0.

The official ribbon cutting has been scheduled to celebrate the successful expansion and completion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The ribbon cutting will be held on October 24, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.

The MainStreet Sidewalk and Wall Project had a preconstruction meeting with Koetter Construction. The wall here in the meeting room has the wall samples and a final selection will need to be chosen. The project should begin sometime in February. They hope to complete the project by the end of March or early April if there is good weather.

EZ Construction is working on the 9060 Walnut Street Project. When the bottom of the channel was cleaned out it was discovered that it was all debris. There was not any newly found material that could be used. The pictures show the walls that are being built. There will be erosion if additional stones are not added there. The additional cost will be somewhere between \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00. The project did come in under budget.

Kathy Haller made a motion to approve the change order for up to \$25,000 for the 9060 Walnut Street Project to be paid out of Stormwater. Seconded by Billy Haller and approved 3-0. Chris Loop abstained.

Lakeland Estates had a follow up meeting with their board and homeowners on October 2, 2019. They discussed how to move forward and work with us. We have traded information back and forth and it has now been passed onto the attorneys.

Georgetown Park had a meeting to discuss what the next steps will be. They have been preparing an overall budget with phases. This would be perfect to link with the Stellar Grant Program.

Railroad Agreement has been given to Kristi Fox to review for Novaparke. The County has to build all of the utility lines for the entire project. In order for them to cross the railroad it requires a utility agreement with Norfolk Southern. Kristi Fox has some questions as to the language of the agreement. This will be deferred for now.

Novaparke will bring a new pump station to our system.

Plan Commission

Nothing to report.

Storm Water Board

Nothing to report.

Old Town Hall Committee

Nothing to report.

Ball Park Committee

Nothing to report.

Redevelopment Commission

Nothing to report.

Agenda Items

1312 Cedar Drive

James Mercer lives at 1312 Cedar Drive. He would like to request a leak credit to his sewer bill. It has been going on since March and no one was able to notify him. He is requesting an adjustment since the leak has been repaired in his yard.

Chris Loop made a motion to allow the Clerk's Office to adjust Mr. Mercer's bill at 1312 Cedar Drive for two previous bills with usage based off of the most recent Indiana American read. Seconded by Billy Haller and approved 4-0.

Ordinance G-19-01

Chris Loop made a motion to approve Ordinance G-19-01 an Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance G-19-01

Chris Loop made a motion to approve Ordinance G-19-01 an Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Salary Ordinance

Chris Loop was not prepared to discuss salary ordinance. Billy Haller would like for the name, job title and pay to be on the ordinance. Billy Haller is getting a 1.6% increase in his social security and thinks that the elected officials should not get an increase. Chris Loop thinks that a special meeting needs to be scheduled.

2020 Holiday Schedule and Meeting Dates

Chris Loop made a motion of approve the 2020 Holiday Schedule and Meeting Dates. Seconded by Kathy Haller and approved 4-0.

Parking at Old Town Hall

Mr. Glenn has been parking there for the last couple of years. Parking is not longer allowed at the Old Town Hall. He would like to continue to park there. Billy Haller would like to make some kind of arrangement. Chris Loop made the point that this is parking but it is not for long term. Kathy Haller is concerned that if the Old Town Hall building is sold that it would be up to the new owners. Mr. Glenn would like to be notified if there is a change. Kristi Fox said that there is an ordinance in place that the town will follow. Chris Loop said that they will be working on a solution.

Tree Removal Quote

There are two clusters of dead ash trees next to the highway on Wolfe Cemetery Road. There is concern that they will fall onto the road. They are in town and in a right-of-way, although they are not owned by the Town. Quotes have been received from Avery Tree & Landscaping and Eager Beaver Tree Service Inc. The town is responsible for clearing a downed tree in the road but then the tree would go back into the owner's yard. It was decided to not proceed with the tree removal.

Slide Gate

West of the Waste Water Treatment Plant there is a swinging gate that had posts that are coming out of the ground. It is currently leaning and needs to be fixed. It needs to be anchored down. Abbott's Lawn & Fence Co. provided a quote but it was decided to put this on hold.

Electric Quote for Ballpark

Todd Dome has done some lift station work for us and has offered to do some electrical work at the Ballpark for free. The needed work would supply electric to the Town's Christmas Tree.

Deck Quote for Police Station

A quote was received for a concrete desk but it was too high.

Electric Quote for Police Station

A quote was received from Aimco/Aspire Industries for \$2,030.00. The work would include replacing lighting at the Police Station, replacing an emergency exit light at Town Hall and installing an emergency light in the garage at the Utility Shop.

Chris Loop made a motion that we approve the estimate of \$2,030.00 for electrical repairs and upgrades to be paid for out of CCI. Seconded by Billy Haller and approved 4-0.

Claims Docket

Kathy Haller made a motion to approve the claims docket. Seconded by Everett Pullen and approved 4-0.

Personal Statement Regarding Georgetown PD By Chris Loop

It appears social media has taken a drastic turn for the worst. Opinions are running wild and being mistaken for fact. While I have stated publicly and privately that I do not want to be involved in discussions about the future of the Georgetown Police Department given my relationship to the Sheriff of Floyd County, it has become clear to me that I am also the only one on the board who can articulate what has and is happening.

Fact:

Some members of the town board did explore providing 24/7 police coverage for the incorporated Town of Georgetown through a partnership with the Floyd County Sheriff's Department.

Why?: The Town of Georgetown currently spends approx. \$350,000 annually for police coverage of 4 officer salaries and benefits, vehicles, equipment, etc. Georgetown PD has experienced significant turnover in our paid positions in the last 3 years. Due to the towns budget it can be difficult to compete with the salary and benefits of larger agencies and we often train officers to lose them later to officer positions elsewhere.

Fact: Georgetown PD doesn't provide 24/7 coverage. The Floyd County Sheriff's department responds to calls within the Town of Georgetown when Georgetown PD is unavailable, or if GPD needs assistance. This occurs daily.

Fact: There has never been a vote to "dismantle" the Georgetown Police Department. It has never been a meeting agenda item. Discussions with some members of the board and the Floyd County Sheriff's Department ended in early August as those members concluded the cost savings were not great enough to be beneficial for the residents of the Town of Georgetown. IF those members of the board had found a beneficial option with the Sheriff's department, they would have brought it forward to the full board for public discussion.

Fact: No votes can be held in secret, nor were held in secret. The board consists of 5 members. Therefore, a quorum consists of 3 members. Any meetings of 3 or more members must be open to the public and notice given within what the state statute requires (in general 48 hours). The exception to this are executive sessions. Notice must still be given, and in addition the state statute must also be referenced in the notice. Examples of acceptable items for executive sessions include but are not limited to: Personnel matters, or pending litigation. These are fact finding sessions only, typically dealing with sensitive matters. Votes must still be held in a public meeting.

Fact: I publicly stated at the August 19th, 2019 board meeting that if a vote to dissolve the police department were to occur, I would abstain since my father is the Floyd County Sheriff. I am quoted in the News and Tribune with exactly that and the statement remains true.

Fact: It was publicly stated by the Town Board at the September 16th 2019 board meeting that there is no plan dissolve the Police Department. That remains true.

Fact: The Indiana State Police investigation of two Georgetown officers is unrelated to the discussion with the Sheriff's Department. A member of the public saw the August media coverage of Georgetown and its police department and brought forward allegations. The Board looked into the allegations and had no choice but make sure a full, impartial, investigation took place.

In order to make sure a fair and thorough investigation takes place full details can not yet be made public. Once the investigation is finished, details can and will be released.

Fact: Timing of the allegations and investigation is extremely poor. Yes - I and other members of the board understand some of the public perception. However, after examining evidence around the allegations there were no other options than to turn it over to a law enforcement agency (with no local ties) for further investigation- or risk being complicit should the allegations be true.

Fact: ISP doesn't take on an investigation just because you ask them to. They want to understand and see evidence before committing time and resources to an investigation.

Fact: No disciplinary action has been taken, and one officer remains on PAID leave until the investigation is concluded.

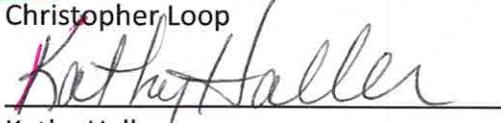
Adjournment

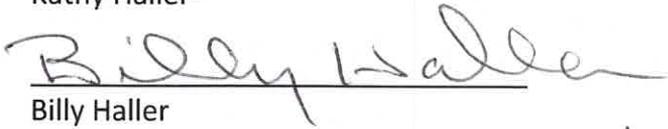
Kathy Haller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Loop and approved 4-0.

Minutes approved by:


Everett Pullen, President

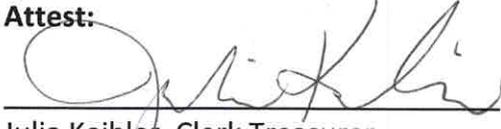

Christopher Loop


Kathy Haller


Billy Haller

Shelly Trent

Absent.

Attest:

Julia Keibler, Clerk Treasurer