

BROWNSBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Brownsburg Town Council Meetings are live-streamed and archived

01. CALL TO ORDER - Town Council President Travis Tschaenn called the meeting of the Brownsburg Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 23, 2020 in the Brownsburg Town Hall, 61 N. Green Street.

02. INVOCATION/PLEDGE – Brian Jessen led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

03. ROLL CALL – Members of the council present were Travis Tschaenn, Matt Simpson, in Chambers and Dennis Dawes, Jeff Gracey and Brian Jessen, via Zoom. Also present were Ann Hathaway, Clerk-Treasurer; Jeff Eder, Town Manager; and Tricia Leminger, Town Attorney via Zoom. Ethan Pierce, Assistant to the Town Manager, was present in Chambers

04. CITIZENS COMMENTS RELATING TO April 23, 2020 AGENDA – None

04.01. A Proclamation declaring Friday, April 24, 2020 Arbor Day was read.

05. CONSENT ITEMS

05.01. Minutes of April 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

Brian Jessen made a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded by Matt Simpson. Passed 5-0. Roll Call: Brian Jessen, Dennis Dawes, Jeff Gracey, Matt Simpson and Travis Tschaenn – in favor.

05.02. Civil Town and Fire Territory Claim Dockets for April 10, 2020 through April 23, 2020 in the amount of \$1,444,045.77.

Matt Simpson made a motion to approve and was seconded by Dennis Dawes. Passed 5-0. Roll Call: Brian Jessen, Jeff Gracey, Dennis Dawes, Matt Simpson and Travis Tschaenn – in favor.

06. BID OPENING AND/OR AWARD - None

07. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS – As submitted in packet. There were no presentations.

07.01 Fire Territory Report was submitted to the Council by Chief Alcorn. There was no discussion.

08. TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - None

09. PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED ITEMS

09.01. Resolution #2020-08 A Resolution Authorizing the Exercise of Eminent Domain to Facilitate Water Intertie Project. Jeff Eder described the need to use eminent domain at this time. The property owners have not responded to the offers on their farmland to acquire easements to facilitate the project. Travis Tschaenn asked if this is an action that needs to move forward now. Jeff Eder stated that the timeline needs this to move forward. If action is not taken the project would come to a halt. There is, also, a lengthy court process once action is taken on this resolution. Jeff Gracey asked if anyone has received comments on this topic from any citizens. No questions or comments have been received by any Council Members.

Dennis Dawes made a motion to approve Resolution #2020-08 and was seconded by Matt Simpson. Matt Simpson explained that normally he is not in favor of eminent domain, but due to fact that these are easements and the property owners will still own the land up to the road, he is okay with it this time. Travis Tschaenn agreed with those sentiments.

Roll Call Matt Simpson, Dennis Dawes, Jeff Gracey, and Travis Tschaenn in favor. Brian Jessen opposed. Passed 4-1

10. NEW FOR CONSIDERATION - None

11. TOWN MANAGER ITEMS –

Jeff Eder reminded the public that the Town is still conducting business daily. Significant changes have been made on how business is being conducted. Town employees are taking the social distancing very seriously and have handled this crisis very well.

12. CLERK-TREASURER ITEMS –

Ann Hathaway reported that letters regarding passed due utility balances have gone out to those who would have normally been shut off. We normally send approximately 450 late notices. This month there were approximately 650 letters that were sent in place of late notices, giving instructions on how to pay balances or make payments arrangements. All outstanding balances will be due on May 17th. There is a need to discuss penalties and shut offs moving forward. Travis asked for that discussion to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

13. TOWN COUNCIL ITEMS –

Matt Simpson discussed grants to help small business acquire PPE. Jeff Eder has been working on a potential grant program. Tricia Leminger recommended that she and Jeff work through the details and application process. A special meeting will be scheduled to present a plan to the Council. Dennis Dawes participated in a meeting in which the speaker was Dr. Michael Kauffman with Homeland Security regarding Coronavirus situation in Indiana. Dr. Kauffman lives in Brownsburg and would be accessible.

14. TOWN ATTORNEY ITEMS - None

15. CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

16. ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made by Matt Simpson at 7:26 p.m.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Brownsburg Town Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <http://brownsburgin.swagit.com/play/04232020-1209> for as long as this media is supported.

Brownsburg Town Council

By: 

Travis Tschaenn, President

ATTEST:

By: 

Ann Hathaway, Clerk-Treasurer

* President Trump has declared a national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak. Consistent with that, Governor Holcomb has issued an Executive Order regarding certain orders and directives in response to COVID-19. The Brownsburg Town Manager has issued a press release regarding the Town's continuing efforts to curtail the spread of COVID-19, including a direction that based on guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Indiana, Brownsburg Parks administrative office, and field officers will close to the public effective Wednesday, March 18 to Monday, April 13, 2020. The Town of Brownsburg is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control concerning public gatherings.

Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-09 suspends the requirement of governing bodies of public agencies to explicitly adopt a policy for electronic participation and suspend the requirement to have any members be physically present for meetings deemed to be essential. (See Ind. Code § 5-14-1.5-3.6(c), (f), (g) & (11)). All other provisions of Ind. Code § 5-14-1.5 et seq. remain in effect. Therefore, for the duration of this public health emergency, all governing bodies may meet by videoconference or by telephone conferencing so long as a quorum of members participate and any meeting is made available to members of the public and media. Any political subdivision or entity subject to the provisions of Ind. Code § 5-14-1.5-3.5 may comply with the provisions of section 3.6 as modified by Executive Order 20-04 and as amended in Executive Order 20-09 in conducting public meeting for the duration of this public health emergency. At the date and time of the scheduled public meeting, any member of the public may also view this meeting livestream. In addition, a recording of the livestream meeting will be available on the Town's website until at least the meeting minutes for that meeting are adopted. Please note that although public attendance is strongly discouraged until the threat of the Coronavirus subsides, the public is still welcome to attend the meeting at Town Hall; provided however the number of attendees permitted in the meeting room will be limited in accordance with the recommendations that have been made for social distancing in addition to any other restrictions that may be determined reasonably necessary during this time. To assist the public and members of the press during this emergency declaration, comments or questions regarding Town matters can always continue to be directed to the Town Manager at jeder@brownsburg.org or 317-852-1120.