

February 16, 2022
TOWN OF AVILLA
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
108 S. Main St. Avilla, IN 46710

THOSE PRESENT: Bill Krock, Phil Puckett, Paul Shepherd, Rita Grocock, Denny Mast, Glen Wills, Seth Tipton, Kevin Kelly, Brian Carroll, Chad Geiger, Mark Demske, Lynette Garard, Tena Woenker.

Town Council President, Phillip Puckett, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Claims in the amount of \$475,675.35 was submitted to the council for approval. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3–Nays 0

Paul Shepherd made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting as submitted, William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3–Nays 0

Town Managers Report, Tena Woenker, gave her report for the month.

Tena Woenker, Town Manager, reported to the council that she would like reimbursed for a hotel room and parking for the AIM Dinner she attended last Wednesday in Indianapolis. She originally told the council she would not need a hotel as she was going to drive home. The cost of both for one night was \$246.00. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the payment of \$246.00, Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Superintendent, Brian Carroll, gave his report for the month.

Brian Carroll, Superintendent, gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. Taking steps for the upgrade will be more beneficial for the town financially. The Aeration Basins and Blower Mods upgrades were estimated to cost \$336,000. Covers for the Sedimentation Tanks were estimated to be around \$145,000. Brian indicated that he received a quote from Pulver Asphalt Paving, Inc. to build a pole barn over the Sedimentation tanks instead of buying covers at an estimated cost of \$55,595. Which would be a cost savings of \$90,000. over purchasing the covers, both projects will be paid for out of ARP Funds. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve both expenses. Paul shepherd seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Superintendent, Brian Carroll, reported to the council that the Lift Station for the Chester Street Project, he would like to complete as an in-house project. The cost for the project would be \$50,000. for the lift station. They also need to install a manhole and some piping. If the Town Employees do the work, they will need to rent an excavator and purchase the materials. The total cost would be under \$60,000. This will all be paid out of the Sewer Operating Fund. Paul Shepherd made a motion to approve the expense. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Brian Carroll, Superintendent, explained to the council that while he was out on leave in December, Evapar tried to contact him about the PM's on the generators and since he did not get back with them, they proceeded to complete the PM's. The invoice was for \$3900. Brian also reported to the council that he needs to order pipe for the Ley Street Project that will cost \$1595.00. William Krock, Jr., made a motion to approve both expenses. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Town Marshall, Glen Wills, gave his report for the month.

Fire Chief, Chad Geiger, gave his report for the month.

Chad Geiger, Fire Chief, reported to the council he is looking into purchasing refurbished radios for the Fire Department and the Police Department. He had a couple quotes from AMK Services from Jonestown, OH. The first quote is for ten refurbished radios for a total cost of \$26,518. The second quote was for thirty refurbished radios for a total cost of \$79,917.00. Chief Geiger indicated that he could start with purchasing ten and get the rest of them later, but the company would not guarantee the price for the additional purchase later. After some discussion, William Krock, Jr. made a motion to allow the purchase of all thirty radios now, at a cost of \$79,917., to be paid out of LIT Public Safety Funds. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Park Report, no one present to give a report.

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, presented the council with the yearly cancellation of warrants.

Old Business:

Town Council President, Phillip Puckett, Jr. introduced the new timecards. With the new timecards employees would be required to enter the time they start work, take lunch, leave work etc. Currently they are only entering the total amount of hours worked. Councilman Paul Shepherd disagreed with making employees show actual times. Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, said it is an audit issue to not show actual times on your timesheet if you are an hourly employee. We only have hourly employees, no salary employees. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the use of the new timecards effective on the week of 2/21/22. Philip Puckett, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 2 – Nays 1

New Business:

Resolution 725-2-22 Business Personal Property Tax Reduction or Elimination was presented to the council. This is a resolution to mailed to the state objecting them from passing a law to reduce or eliminate business property tax, as it will affect the income for the Town of Avilla at an estimated loss of \$338,655.65 annually. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve Resolution 725-2-22. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Next item on the agenda is on call pay for town employees. Currently the Utility Department and the Police Department each have two rotating employees that must be on call in seven - day cycles. During which time they should be available to respond within 30 minutes of a call, cannot consume alcohol or travel because they need to be able to respond quickly. It was agreed that the town would pay on call employees \$100/week payable in quarterly payments before taxes. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the on call pay. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, reported to the council that the payroll timeframe needs to be changed to paying for the previous week worked, not the week you are currently in. This has been done like this since before the present Clerk Treasurer too office in 2012. In order to accomplish this, there are two options. 1. Make employees go a week without a paycheck. 2. Pay twice for the week of 2/12/22 – 2/18/22. Rita did not think it would be fair to the

employees to make them go without a paycheck one week for something that happened years ago. So was asking the council for permission to pay employees twice for the above referenced dates. This would put the town on the correct schedule. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the payment above. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vote: ayes 3 – Nays 0

Open Discussion:


Superintendent, Brian Carroll, reported to the council that when he had COVID and stayed home, because a council member told him not to come back until he tested negative, he thought he should be paid by the town for this. The COVID Emergency Order expired on 12/31/2020 which would have enabled him to be paid. So, now the decision to pay people off work with COVID will be on an individual basis. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve Brian to be paid for his time off. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

With no further business to conduct for the evening William Krock, Jr. made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Paul Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0


AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL


Philip Puckett, Jr. Council President

Paul shepherd, Council Member


William Krock, Jr., Council Member

ATTEST:


Rita Grocock Clerk -Treasurer