

April 12, 2012

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on April 12, 2012. All council members and attorney Larry Eaton were present. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read & approved.

Citizens Ron and Debbie Young came before the council to express concerns with the emergency sirens. They stated that on March 2, the day of the tornado, the siren that they heard at their home at 204 South Main Street sounded like a fire siren. Fire chief Ben Sieverding informed the Youngs that the siren sounds that way because it is a rotating siren. Concerns were also raised that there is only one working siren in town, and many citizens were not able to hear the alarm at all. Chief Sieverding said that this has been an issue for quite some time, and he would like to get a resolution soon.

Jerry Gilpin with the Versailles Lyons Club asked permission to use the town's parking lot for the Pumpkin Show. The Lyons club would like to put craft booths in the parking lot. The council approved unanimously. Mr. Gilpin also said that the Pumpkin Show will be extended through Sunday this year, with one ticket rides for the kids from 1-5p.m. Mr. Gilpin also said that the Lyons Club is looking into grants to possible purchase the old Spencer Tyson building.

Jeff French presented a request to re-zone the Shell station from local business to general business. The council approved unanimously. Mr. French also stated that the owners of the Shell station would like to donate \$500 to the town of Holton for disaster relief. Mr. French was also in attendance on behalf of the Safe Route to School project. He stated that several design teams had been interviewed, and that the committee was ready to apply for the \$75,000 planning grant. Mr. French asked the council to support the project by funding \$2,700 for the grant preparation. Steve Mathes motioned to fund, John Holzer 2nd, motion passed 3-0.

Gil Landwehr from the sports complex board requested that the town approve contracts with Brian Samples & Shawn Halcomb to run the complex, as well as a contract with Raymond Turner to lease Pangburn Park for the summer. Attorney Larry Eaton recommended that the contract with Mr. Samples & Mr. Halcomb include that funds should be turned over to the clerk-treasurer on a regular basis, at least monthly. The council approved both contracts unanimously, with the stipulation that the recommended change be made. Mr. Landwehr said that 397 kids have registered for summer leagues, and 9 sponsors were secured so far. Copeland Excavating will be starting on the soccer fields in 7-10 days. Barb Hensley and the girls basketball team will be running the concession stand at the complex. Ms. Hensley will be the only paid concession employee, with the basketball team receiving a percentage of the profits. This percentage will be determined at a later date, and an agreement signed. Mr. Landwehr thanked the career center for use of the field roller.

Fire Chief Ben Sieverding informed the council that the department had responded to 82 calls in the past two months. The VFD assisted the town of Holton for six days, and donated equipment to replace some damaged equipment. Chief Sieverding presented quotes for new emergency sirens. The sirens would cost \$7,750 each, not including poles and installation. Chief Sieverding said that it is imperative that two new sirens be installed, especially in light of the recent devastation in Holton. The council agreed that if grant money could be secured, the town would put in matching funds, and help with the installation costs. Tyson Methodist Church and Versailles Church of Christ are the two designated emergency shelters for Versailles. These shelters will be open and manned in the event of an emergency. Chief Sieverding also stated that a fence was blocking the fire hydrant at 331 Harvest Ct. He requested that someone speak to the owner concerning this matter.

Marshall Joe Mann requested permission to host a South Ripley student who wished to job shadow him. Attorney Eaton said that there were no concerns with the town's liability, and the council agreed to allow the job shadow. Marshall Mann stated that several complaints had been made regarding loose animals in town. The Versailles Police Department has arrested several people selling drugs in town. Marshall Mann said that the drug problem is expected to get worse over time. School Resources Officer Dan Goris would like to work part time for the town through the summer. Steve Mathes requested that a special meeting be

held to discuss this. John Holzer commended Marshall Mann and Officer Goris for their grant work with the school.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley informed the council that Jared Keck was hired for summer help. The street department installed a new water tap at the career center. One leak was reported on North Main street, and the meter setter was replaced.

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Libby brought a request from Louise Mitchell for two no parking signs to be placed in front of her property at 107 North Washington street. John motioned to approve one customer parking only sign. The motion was approved.

Steve Mathes asked attorney Eaton if letters had been sent to citizens who may possibly be annexed into town limits. Attorney Eaton said the letters would be sent out Monday.

John Holzer has spoken with one individual about the possibility of purchasing Tyson Auditorium. He has also spoken with the town of Holton about the water contract with Hoosier Hills. The towns of Versailles and Holton should have new water by the end of 2013. John also had a request from Steve Woolum for the town to blacktop the alley by his apartment building on North Washington street to prevent water run off. Sue declined the request, and the other council members agreed.

Sue presented a request from Mary Ann McCoy that Lee Mathews help with the upcoming election on May 8. The council approved unanimously pending Officer Mathews approval.

John suggested holding a special meeting on Thursday, April 20 at p.m. to discuss the hiring of Officer Goris and the possible sale of Tyson Auditorium. The meeting was set for that date & time.

Jerry Gilpin requested that the Lyons Club be given permission to hold their annual chicken fry on the square on June 23, 2012. The council agreed unanimously.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Council President – Sue Meisberger

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council Member – John Holzer

Council Member – Steve Mathes