

September 10, 2015

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on September 10, 2015. All council members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Deen Rogers from Umbaugh was present for the public hearing for the water and sewer rate increase. Versailles property owner Rodney Sellers asked if the increase was expected when the council decided to go with Hoosier Hills for the town's water source. Council member John Holzer stated that such a large increase was not anticipated, however, the water rate has not increased in twelve years. Mr. Sellers asked why the increase was warranted, if the town was functioning without it before. John stated that the cost of chemicals had been increasing over the years, and the town's water supply was rated the worst in the country by USA Today. By contrast, Hoosier Hills is rated the third best. The town had to procure a new water source, and Hoosier Hills requires a minimum amount of water to be purchased. The rate increase is essential to meet the minimum water payment, as well as operating costs. Mr. Sellers asked if the town was aware of the minimum payment before signing the contract. The council agreed that the minimum cost was an oversight. Versailles resident Jim Busted asked if the town was purchasing more water than needed to fulfil the minimum requirement. John confirmed that was the case. Council president Steve Mathes stated that the sewer rate increase was justifiable, as the rates had not increased since 2001, and the infrastructure needs repaired. Steve confirmed that the minimum was a miss. Mr. Sellers stated that household budgets would be greatly affected by the considerable increase. John agreed that household budgets would be affected, but added that Versailles still has one of the lowest utility bills around, and that the town offers a lot of services to residents such as limb pick up and trash service. Steve added that the Versailles lake would not be a viable source of water in the future. Mr. Sellers stated that anything could happen, and asked why the town had demoed the water plant. Steve stated that the town wanted to try to purpose the building for other things. Superintendent Kevin Hensley has been trying to find a buyer for the fittings and parts but no one was interested thus far. Mr. Sellers asked who owned Hoosier Hills. John stated that it is a co-op, with their home office being in Milan.

Fire Chief Ben Sieverding reported that the Marathon station had paid the first installment of their outstanding bill. Napoleon fire department was experiencing an issue with water pressure, and the VFD will assist them.

Jim Busted addressed the council regarding the easement he was asked to sign. He would like clarification that if the storm drain project does not proceed, that the property will revert back to him. Attorney Eaton will be contacted, and language will be added to the easement to ensure that it is not a perpetual easement. Mr. Busted would also like to be compensated if the trees on his property die as a result of the storm drain project.

Steve Buffington requested permission to block the streets surrounding his bike shop on the square on September 19 for the bicycle rally. The council approved 3-0.

Marshal Joe Mann consulted an electrician regarding the additional lighting at Pangburn Park. The total cost estimate is \$3,000-\$3,500 for equipment and installation. Steve asked Joe to get several quotes, and suggested that the town could possibly cut costs by helping with labor. Pumpkin show clean-up will be Sunday, September 27 from 4-9 p.m. Steve asked Joe for his assistance with the cruise in on Saturday, September 12. Joe agreed to help.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley will get prices for two streetlights to be placed in the Sunset Strip subdivision. The town is requesting that residents with excessive water flow on their property write letters to support the storm drain project. Kevin will start working on the sewer on Floyd Drive next week. The meter at 152 Chad Drive was tested per the property owner's request. The meter is working at 100%.

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Libby presented the 2016 budget. The council approved 3-0. Ordinance number 2015-02 establishing a water rate schedule, and ordinance number 2015-03 establishing a sewer rate schedule were presented and approved unanimously.

Marshal Mann asked the council to have the old tan and tone building inspected. Mildew or mold is growing in the ceiling tiles. John has received a request from Tri-Kappa to use the firehouse for their meetings. The council approved. Although there will be no cost to rent the building, the town will need a structured agreement for using the building.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council President – Sue Meisberger

Council Member – John Holzer

Council Member – Steve Mathes