

September 13, 2016

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on September 13, 2016. All council members and attorney Larry Eaton were present. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Andrea Deutsch from IOCRA accompanied Mary McCarty from SIRPC to give the latest information on the storm drainage grant. The final design is 90% complete. John Wetzel from Midwest Engineering would like to meet with the council and superintendent Hensley to finalize the plans. Council President Steve Mathes thanked IOCRA for the \$500,000 storm sewer grant, as well as RSRF and the Tyson Fund for matching funds. Mary also informed the council that construction has begun at TAC.

Paul Sipples representing the Versailles Lions Club requested permission to hold the 2017 Pumpkin Show September 21-24. The council unanimously agreed. This year's grand marshal will be relatives of the late Alfred H. Beer. Marshal Mann requested reimbursement from the Lions Club for additional parade security. The Lions Club will give the town \$500.

Fire Chief Ben Siverding reported 45 calls since the last meeting. The VVFD is training two new cadets, Ethan Morris and Jake Grossman. Ben received a letter stating that the department is no longer in the running for the AFG grant to replace the fire engine.

Chad Ebinger from FPBH presented the council with information on the Pazer program. Through this program, the state will match up to \$1 million for paving projects. The town would first need an asset management plan, rating the town streets on a scale of 1-10 in terms of repair need. FPBH would complete the plan for the town for approximately \$2,800. The council agreed to discuss the issue further.

Dean Ferrier from Rumpke presented a new three-year trash contract. The council requested pricing information for curbside recycling. Dean will email the information to Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Libby.

Sarah Emery approached the council with a proposal for permission to keep her small flock of chickens. Ms. Emery stated that none of her immediate neighbors have an issue with her chickens, and presented letters of support. Ms. Emery is asking that the council consider one of three options; modification of the ordinance to allow chickens in town limits, granting her an exemption to the ordinance, or granting a trial exemption until the impact of the chickens can be determined. Ms. Emery presented photos of the living conditions of the chickens. She stated that 80% or more of the people she spoke with regarding this matter were for amending the ordinance to allow chickens. Steve thanked Ms. Emery for her well thought out presentation. The council's concern is that once you start allowing things like this, then calls start about neglect. Steve stated that the council has a responsibility to keep up property values. Steve asked Ms. Emery if she was aware of the ordinance when she got the chickens. She stated that she was not. The council will discuss the issue further, and let Ms. Emery know of their decision in a week or so.

Steve Buffington requested permission from the council to hold his annual bike show on the square September 17th. Steve Mathes stated that although that is the day that the torch relay will be coming through, they can make it work with minimal interruption. The council agreed unanimously to allow the bike show, providing the events don't disrupt the torch relay and ceremony.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley requested permission to pursue legal action regarding the damaged fiber optics in the gravity sewer. The damage sustained was approximately \$7,000, and Electricom Inc is denying responsibility. The council agreed to go forward with legal proceedings if necessary. Kevin would like to run a 6 inch water line behind UPS to David lane and connect with the existing 4 inch line. This would allow more volume. Materials would cost approximately \$6,200, and a \$1,000 fee for

surveying. The council agreed unanimously to allow Kevin to order materials and move forward with the project. Dustin Scudder has resigned from the town, so the hiring process will need to begin soon for a new street department employee.

Marshal Joe Mann informed the council that he will be employing 4-5 troopers for additional traffic control for the Pumpkin Show parade. Marshal Mann has received complaints about dogs barking excessively, and had a loose dog bite a pedestrian recently.

Judge Cheryl Richmond reported that the ticket volume in the court is decreasing. Judge Richmond held trials in September. Judge Richmond will be attending mandatory training in Carmel IN October 20-21, as well as software training September 30 in Indianapolis.

The council discussed naming a street for Jim Lotshaw. They decided that the alley by the Versailles Baptist Church would be a nice location. The firing range contract with the ISP was signed. Officer Robert Garcia thanked the council, and stated that ISP is doing a lot of work at the range. Berms are expected to be completed by April, 2017, and there will be 12-15 rows of rotating targets.

Roxanne reminded the council that the Tyson Fund grants will be awarded on September 14 at 7 p.m. Roxanne suggested that the council hold a special meeting to review some of the town ordinances. Brian Samples thanked Kevin and his crew for all of the work they have done at the sports complex.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Council President – Steve Mathes

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council Member – Roxanne Meyer

Council Member – Brian Samples