

## **Regular Town Council Meeting/ Public Hearing on Street Vacation 7.17.25 6:30pm**

- Roger Hammer initiates the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.
- The roll call is conducted by Clerk-Treasurer Bart Whitesitt listing the Town Council members that are present: Roger Hammer, Bruce Brown, Kevin Richey, Jeffrey Van Hoy, and Desiree Payton were all present. Meghan Haynes from The Courier-Times was also present.
- Roger Hammer initiates the motion to move into a public hearing for vacating the town Street. Gregg Morelock suggests a motion to recess the public meeting. Roger Hammer reiterates the motion to recess the public meeting.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes the motion to recess the public meeting and open the public hearing, which is seconded by Bruce Brown. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Introduction to the Public Hearing**

- Gregg Morelock introduces the public hearing on Monroe Street vacation.
- Harold Gibson from Hancock Regional Hospital is mentioned as being present to provide input. The purpose of the hearing is outlined as an opportunity for questions and comments regarding the application. Harold Gibson, Director of Property Development at Vancouver Regional Hospital, begins his presentation. Gibson explains the need to vacate a portion of Monroe Street due to environmental conditions discovered during due diligence. The hospital has purchased the property and plans to build a new clinic instead of rehabilitating the existing one. Gibson highlights the need for the vacated area to accommodate the new building and parking facilities. Gibson elaborates on the specific area to be vacated, including the coordinates. The hospital aims to expand its services and needs the vacated area to fit the new building and parking facilities. The current clinic is smaller than the proposed new building, necessitating expansion. The hospital assures that access will still be provided through the parking lot.
- There were no public comments.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes the motion to adjourn the public hearing and reconvene the Regular Town Council meeting, which is seconded by Kevin Richey. Motion carried 5-0.**
- **Public Hearing adjourned at 635pm.**

## **Town Council Meeting 7.17.25 6:36pm**

### **Approval of Minutes and Public Comments, Discussion on Alley Vacation**

- Roger Hammer initiates the meeting by calling for the approval of minutes from June 19, 2025, and June 30, 2025.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to approve the both the 6/19/25 and the 6/30/25 minutes, which is seconded by Desiree Payton. Motion carried 5-0.**
- Roger Hammer opens the floor for public comments, inviting anyone to speak.
- Joetta Savas 18 E Brown St and Mark Thompkins 117 N Franklin St, address the council regarding a petition to vacate an alley for property line adjustments and future development. Joetta Savas mentions the support of Ben Bowling and the survey conducted to gather community feedback. Kevin Richey asks questions about the alley and the reasons for its vacation. Joetta Savas elaborates on the benefits of vacating the alley, including additional property space and potential for a fence and her pool.

### **Ice Cream Truck Proposal**

- Mike Carnes introduces his new ice cream truck business and seeks council approval to operate in town. Roger Hammer and Mike Carnes discuss safety measures and the truck's operations, including serving from the curbside and potential stationing locations. Mike Carnes mentions the truck's registration with the state and the council's decision to allow the business to operate.

### **Police Department Update, Body Camera Purchase Decision**

- Landon Dean provides a detailed update on the police department's activities, including call responses, security checks, and traffic stops. Dean highlights the department's efforts in addressing intoxicated drivers and drug-related arrests.
- Landon Dean discusses the need for upgrading body cameras and the potential cost and service plan from Axon.
- Jeffrey Van Hoy and Landon Dean discuss the number of body cameras needed with Roger Hammer and the benefits of the service plan, including warranty and upgrades.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to purchase Axon body cameras for the police department over a five-year period, up to \$6500.00 for 9 cameras, which is seconded by Bruce Brown. Motion carried 5-0.**
- Roger Hammer and Bart Whitesitt discuss the budget allocation and the need for additional cameras.

### **Utility Department Updates, Cemetery Maintenance and Appropriations**

- Randy Anderson provides updates on various utility projects, including paving on Washington Street and ongoing sewer and water main work. Randy discusses the need for refurbishing the clear well and the importance of maintaining the water system

- Randy mentions the upcoming flow testing of fire hydrants next Tuesday July 22, 2025. Randy advised that they need help with weed-eating and mowing at the cemetery and the challenges in finding suitable personnel for the cemetery. Randy advised that he was not very pleased with the way the cemetery has been looking since Memorial Day. Randy also advised that he is hoping to get some hot patch done next week. Randy said that he and Roxanna were going to get together and get the sewer job posted. Doug is scheduled to take his DSM test next week.
- Jeffrey Van Hoy asked when the flow test was going to be done. Katie Smith asked Randy if we needed to post something online about it beforehand? Randy said that would not be a bad idea! Susan Van Hoy, trustee, asked if we tested the hydrants every 5 years how do we know if they are working properly? Randy advised that we do flush hydrants in the spring and the fall. Susan asked if she could have a list of the ones that they test on Tuesday and when they flush the hydrants. Randy also reminded the council that we do charge every resident \$5 for hydrants, but the money had never been put in another account. Randy said he thinks we need to start getting that money moved over so we could start replacing the hydrants. Jeffrey Van Hoy said that he would like to start seeing the fire hydrants tested every other year and not every five.

#### **New Business: Waive permit fee for church and Street Vacation Ordinance**

- Ben Bowling requested two permit fees be waived for the Church that is doing work for two families. Ben said that he will go into each home and inspect them like he normally would do. The amount for both permit applications was \$90.00. Linda Santoro asked if she could just pay the fees for the church doing the work? Ben instructed Linda to come see Katie in the Clerk's office Friday morning.
- Roger Hammer introduces Ordinance# 061925 to vacate a public way for residential property.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to approve Ordinance# 061925 on second reading, which is seconded by Bruce Brown. Motion carried 5-0.**
- Kaleb Buchanan discusses the need for new fire hydrant fittings to improve response times during emergencies. Kaleb explains the benefits of using quick connect fittings. Roxanna provided a quote from Mid America Fire and Safety for \$3,919.84.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to approve the quote from Mid-America Fire and Safety for buying 16 new fittings at \$244.99 each, total amount of \$3,919.84, which is seconded by Desiree Payton. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Discussion on New Employee Position**

- Bart Whitesitt proposes creating a new employee position to assist with various departmental tasks and paperwork.

- Roxanna Bova emphasizes the need for additional personnel to handle the workload and ensure proper coverage.
- Roger Hammer suggests creating a detailed job description and application process for the new position. The council agrees to discuss the position further and consider the need for additional staffing.
- Bart Whitesitt discusses the need for additional appropriations for the cemetery due to ongoing maintenance and repair costs. Whitesitt provides an update on the insurance claim for cemetery damages and the decision to pay out of the cemetery fund. Bart Whitesitt mentions the need for additional appropriations for the cemetery repairs and maintenance line item.
- **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to approve up to \$20,000.00 for cemetery damages and repairs, which is seconded by Desiree Payton. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Approval of Payroll and Claims**

- Bart Whitesitt presents the General Council docket of \$570,596.24. **Bruce Brown makes a motion to approve the General Council docket of \$570,596.24, which is seconded by Jeffrey Van Hoy. Motion carried 5-0.**
- Bart Whitesitt presents the Payroll docket of \$248,438.50. **Jeffrey Van Hoy makes a motion to approve the Payroll docket of \$248,438.50, which is seconded by Desiree Payton. Motion carried 5-0.**
- Roger Hammer advised that FPBH needs to be updated to Gonzalez now. Bruce Brown said we need to open up the bidding process to get another Engineering firm in. Jeffrey Van Hoy said we need to give the new Engineer from Gonzalez a chance. Roger Hammer discussed additional funding capabilities and said that he would be worried about changing firms in the middle of the 109 Corridor project.
- The council thanks Jesse Riddle for his efforts in setting up the new system and ensuring smooth operations. Kevin Richey asked about public access to the streaming of the live meetings. Jesse walked Kevin through how to find the page youtube.com\@townofknightstown.
- **The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm**