TOWN OF BUNKER HILL



101 WEST BROADWAY Phone: 765-614-9043 PO BOX 565 Fax: 765-689-0822 BUNKER HILL, IN 46914\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

**Monday December 9, 2024**

**At 6:00 PM**

**Call to Order:** Councilman Mercer called the meeting to order. Clerk-Treasurer Stephens led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk-Treasurer Stephens called the roll call, and the members of the Town Council were present or absent as follows:

**Present:** John Mercer **Absent:** Morgan Armstrong

Rachel Colwell

Robert Cox

Von Mozzone

Declare a quorum present.

**Others Present:** Claire Powell - Utility Clerk

Troy Gornto - Town Marshal

Rodney Deckard - Utility Superintendent

Carl Wade - Building Commissioner

Shannon Stephens - Clerk-Treasurer

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

* The meeting minutes from the November 18th council meeting were approved. Councilwoman Colwell made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Mozzone seconded; motion passed 4-0.

**Approval of Claims:**

**Financial Packet**

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**Approval of Requests:**

1. Troy Gornto states Miami County has offered Bunker Hill Police Department a Durango; completely outfitted, light bar, everything for $10,000. Troy states he’d like to sell the black Charger that’s been sitting around for a year as well as the Explorer and replace it with the Durango. Council President Mercer asks how many miles it has on it. Troy says he does not know. Councilman Cox asks what year the Durango is and Troy says 2020. Councilman Cox then asks what year the Explorer is and Troy says 2016. Troy says the black police Charger is decommissioned and the motor is bad on the number seven cylinder. Councilman Cox suggests putting it up and taking sealed bids and running an ad in the newspaper for the next 30 days. After 30 days, open up the bids and sell to the highest bidder. Troy says besides the motor being bad on the Charger, that it is a good car and the suspension is good. Councilman Cox suggests selling the Explorer to another department versus the public because the process is easier. He continues to say if it’s another government agency, Troy can just directly sell it to them and bids wouldn’t have to be taken. Council President Mercer verifies that the black Charger will be put up for sale and Troy will ask different agencies to see who’s interested in the Explorer. Councilman Cox makes a motion that the town sells the Dodge Charger that’s in their inventory on a sealed bid process starting December 10th. Council President Mercer asks Councilman Cox if the town wants to go with bids for the Explorer as well. Councilman Cox tells him that it’s an inter department agency transfer, so Troy could solicit the Explorer on some police websites. Councilman Mozzone seconded Councilman Cox’s request; motion passed 4-0.

**Attorney’s Report:**

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**Building Commissioner's Report:**

* Carl Wade states he went to the public hearing in regards to Miami County wanting to take back the two mile jurisdiction. The planning commission voted unanimously to take it away from Peru, Converse and Bunker Hill. Now the vote will go to the county commissioners and they make the final decision. Carl talks about shrinking the two mile radius down a little bit, which would not hurt Bunker Hill. He states what he’s looking at is 600 South to 900 South, which would be like a big rectangle out to Strawtown and then out to the industrial park at the base. He says he is going to bring that up at the next meeting regarding the two mile jurisdiction. Councilman Cox asks Carl if the vote the commissioners are going to take in order to remove the jurisdiction will be unanimous of the three or majority of the two. Carl says it is the majority of the two. Carl says he spoke with Jim Tidd and it was rumored that there was a company that would like to put a housing edition in Bunker Hill. Carl says those houses would be on Peru Utilities which would not help Bunker Hill’s utility bill go down. He says there is a business going in right now that’s putting in the fourth isotope plant. He says he also has a person interested in buying the lot across from the post office. Carl says the person is wanting to put a liquor store in.

**Council Report:**

1. Councilwoman Colwell states she is still working on the audio and visual for the meeting room. Clerk-Treasurer Stephens says the utility office is a priority as well. Clerk-Treasurer Stephens says that since there is such a huge gap in between quotes and Councilwoman Colwell has already scratched the surface on getting info, that the town will evaluate exactly what each quote is saying and make the best determination from there. Councilman Cox states contractor or not, it’s over $2,500 and needs to be put out for fair bid. He says we have run it in the paper and taken bids on a job over $2,500. He continues to say even if the town has/had a contract, they have to get three quotes from three different contractors. Councilman Cox asks if the town still has antennas on the water tower. He says the original agreement with the antenna being on the water tower, is that the internet from the antenna was supposed to be free for the Town Hall building and the utility office for the length of the antenna being on the water tower.
2. Council President Mercer says he found out that Bunker Hill can go ahead and do the sewage rate increase for the residents and keep negotiating with the town of Miami since they’re on a separate contract.
3. Councilman Cox makes a motion to have a special meeting on December 23rd to discuss the sewage rate increase. Councilwoman Colwell seconded; motion passed 4-0.

**Marshal Report:**

**Utility Superintendent Report:**

**Special Business:**

**New Business:**

1. **Utility Ordinance Policy Change:** Councilman Cox suggests changing the disconnect dates in the water and sewage ordinances. He tells the public it should be the Monday after disconnect notices go out. Councilman Cox says he will have more information about it at the special meeting on December 23rd.
2. **Restitution Updates:** Councilman Cox says he wants to start digging into how much is still owed on the restitution payments from past clerk-treasurers. He states if they are not being paid on, that the town moves forward with the collection process.
3. **Notice of Council Vacancy:** Council President Mercer tells the public that the Miami County Republican Chairman asked Von Mozzone if he wanted to be on the Bunker Hill Town Council and Von accepted.
4. **2025 Employee Handbook:** Council President Mercer says he’s not sure how much updating is needed for the 2025 employee handbook.
5. **Establishing Salaries for Fiscal Year 2025:** Councilman Cox says the salaries for 2025 need to be discussed during the special meeting on December 23rd so it can be done before January.

**Old Business:**

1. **Property Rental Agreement(s):** Council President Mercer says Councilwoman Armstrong was asking who all needed keys for the Town Hall building. Rodney Deckard says people actually signed them out and put names on a paper. He said there should be a paper/file on it in the utility office.
2. **Internal Audit for Clerk-Treasurer Office:** Councilman Cox tells the public that in the past, internal audits have been done when the SBOA is not able to do an audit that year. He states he wants to formally request the approval of the motion to conduct an internal audit of the clerk-treasurer’s office and utility office for a period of January 1st, 2022-October 31st, 2024. He states January 1st is the date that the final SBOA audit was concluded. He says the audit is to ensure the transparency and strong internal control practices have been followed moving forward. Councilman Cox makes a motion for an internal audit to be conducted. Councilwoman Colwell seconded; motion passed 4-0.

**Public Comments:**

1. Clerk-Treasurer Stephens reads a letter aloud to the public that Virginia Blair had written since she could not be at the meeting tonight. She is asking the board for one big room in the Town Hall building now that more rooms are empty. The Mainstreet Committee has two rooms right now in the Town Hall building and Virginia is wanting to move everything into one room.
2. Jason Iliff asks the board if Bunker Hill has property for sale uptown. Carl Wade tells him no, not yet.
3. Jason Iliff asks the board who the town building commissioner is. Carl Wade tells Jason that he is. Jason then asks him if he’s Converse’s building commissioner as well. Carl tells him he does inspections for Converse.
4. Jason Iliff asks if anyone on the board was put on through a vote or if they all have been appointed. Council President Mercer tells him that he’s been through two elections.
5. Jason Iliff asks the board what was done with the COVID money. He tells the board that Peru gave their utility workers a bonus with their COVID money.
6. Mitch Birchfield asks the board what the town is going to do with the old accounting building. Councilman Cox tells him that there is a developer in Kokomo who’s wanting to redevelop the buildings downtown.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Council President Mercer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**The next Bunker Hill Town Council Meeting will be on December 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Bunker Hill Town Hall meeting room.**

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**John Mercer- President**

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**Morgan Armstrong- Vice President**

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ATTEST:

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