

Council Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jill Gross, Shelly Krueger, Timothy Croy, Amanda Yaprak, and Andrew Grossnickle

Members Absent:

Employees Present: Keaton Schopf

Guests: Jackie Gorski (Times Union), community member Sharie Davis, Kriston Rude with KABS.

6:30 PM Call to Order

Timothy motions to approve November 6th meeting minutes. Shelly second. Carried.

Guests:

Sharie Davis, a community member, attended the meeting to give a huge thank you to Josh, Corbin, and Amanda for helping her navigate the replacement of the water line from the shutoff to the house. She voiced that Construction Services of Indiana was great to work with and her family has noticed a significant increase in water pressure after replacing the old galvanized water line.

Kriston Rude attended the meeting to introduce Kosciusko Area Bus Service aka KABS to the community. She answered questions and provided flyers for community members.

Old Business:

Salary Ordinance 24-483 – Andrew reminded the council of Salary Ordinance that would take effect January 1st, 2025. *Shelly motions to accept Salary Ordinance 24-483. Jill Second. Carried.*

Employee Policy – Amanda reminded the council of the NewFocus HR Agreement. *Shelly motions to accept the agreement from NewFocus HR and allow them to organize an employee policy book for the Town of Mentone. Timothy second. Carried.*

K21 Application – *Timothy motions to allow Jill to sign the K21 Grant Agreement when received. Shelly Second. Carried.*

Truck Lights – Keaton stated he has received all the parts to fix the truck, and it is still a work in progress.

Fall Leaf Pickup – Josh & Cobrin picked up a total of 41 truckloads of leaves.

New Business:

Craft Show Event – Timothy reminded the media of the Bell Museum Craft Show on Saturday, December 7th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Fire Station.

Free Meal Event – Timothy announced the Chamber & Methodist Church will be hosting a free meal December 14th, starting at 5:00 PM at the Mentone United Methodist Church. The event will be a drive through service. Meals can also be delivered if pre-scheduled.

Anti-Nepotism policy – Amanda provided each council member with an annual certification with municipal nepotism policy involving direct line supervision and contracting. She thanked the council members for providing her with the signed certificates.

Downtown Master Planning Committee – Amanda announced a meeting scheduled for December 12th at the town hall from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Anyone who would still be interested in joining the committee can contact Amanda for details.

2025 Council Meeting Schedule – Amanda requested any potential conflicts with the 2025 meeting schedule. No conflicts were identified. Amanda will post the schedule and provide it to her media representative.

Water Meters – Amanda stated she discussed the process for bidding out meters with Josh and Chris from Commonwealth Engineers. She stated there were a few options to consider as the process can be done in house with the help of an attorney or via an On Call Professional Engineering Service agreement with Commonwealth with a not to exceed \$6,500. Andrew advised the council to wait till January and discuss the process with the future legal counsel.

Eman's Engineering - *Timothy motions to accept the On Call Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Eman's Engineering for 2025. Shelly Second. Carried.*

Legal Services – Jill provided all council members with a contract for legal services for their review. *Timothy motions to accept the contract for legal services with C. Austin Rovenstine from Lemon, Keirn & Rovenstine, LLP to take effect January 1st, 2025. Shelly Second. Carried.*

American Tower – Shelly stated she had received information from Amanda and will contact the American Tower in January.

Council Health Insurance – Shelly requested the council consider allowing elected officials the option to participate in the Town of Mentone health insurance. There was discussion about increasing the incentives to attract individuals interested in joining the council.

Deputy Interviews – Keaton requested the council consider starting the interview process for a deputy. The Council requested Keaton to schedule interviews for December 17th at 6:00 PM.

Andrew Grossnickle – Everyone thanked Andrew for his services to the community and congratulated him on his new opportunity.

Timothy motions to accept claims. Shelly second. Carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM

Shelly motions to adjourn. Jill second. Carried.

Council President _____ Attest: Clerk-Treasurer _____
Jill Gross Amanda Yaprak