

Town of Eaton
September 12, 2023
Regular Meeting

The Eaton Town Council met in a regular meeting. In attendance are Daniel Blankenship, Dustin Reese, Meghan Deckman and Teresa Welsh. Roger Wells was absent.

President Daniel Blankenship called the meeting to order.

Dustin Reese made a motion to suspend the regular meeting rules. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Mr. Greg Kile and Scott Blakley from Delaware Community Schools, Discussed hiring a 2nd Resource Officer for the school. They would like to hire Officer Matt Medaris for this position. They are asking that he be deputized in the Town of Eaton. They would supply him with a vehicle, vehicle insurance, his salary and benefits will all be covered by the school. The new vehicle will be allowed for Officer Medaris to use while on duty in the Town as well. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to move forward with this arrangement. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Dustin Reese made a motion to return to regular meeting rules. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Travis Hunt stated that two residents at Franklin Street and Hartford Street are having sewage issues. He believed the sewer lines had separated from each other. Town should be able to fix it if this is the issue. He is still waiting on the plumber to run a camera down the pipes.

Police Chief Turner turned in his two weeks on September 5, 2023. He stated that it's been an honor to work for the Town and the officers. The council thanked him for his service.

Chief Tuner presented the Council with an invoice from Battery Masters for \$119.98 for two lapel mics.

The Council asked Andrew Storie if he would take the Town Marshal position if offered. Officer Storie said yes. Teresa Welsh made a motion to hire Officer Storie as the new Town Marshal. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Teresa Welsh made a motion that the salary for the Town Marshal stay at fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). Motion dies due to a lack of a second. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion to start the Town Marshal salary at forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00). Discussion followed. Dustin Reese rescinded his motion. Teresa Welsh made a motion for the Town Marshal Salary to be forty-nine thousand (\$49,000.00) with a thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) raise once the New Police Chief Executive Course through the academy has been completed. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Meghan Deckman voted no. Vote was 3/1. Motion carried. Start date is 9/16/2023.

Fire Chief Newby presented the Council with a quote from Rural King for a 60-gallon Quincy Air Compressor for \$1,600.00. It is a two-stage for the air brakes. The one at the Fire Station is old and not working correctly. Dustin Reese made a motion to approve the purchase of the air compressor for \$1,600.00. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Newby talked to the Council about HB 1454. It allows for Fire Departments to do a special public safety tax at 0.05% based on the area's assessed value. It is important that is done as a county community project to the county. Discussion followed.

Zach Neukam with Commonwealth Engineers stated that the substantial completion meeting for Division B is Thursday September 21 at 11am.

Mr. Neukam told the Council that Division C insertion Valve are to be completed by September 15. Water Main installation for Area Two will begin September 18. The tree removal is set to start October 2. He presented the Council with a letter to USDA approving a list of alternate Resident Project Representatives. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve and sign the list of alternate Resident Project Representatives. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried. Meghan Deckman asked about boil orders during the project. Mr. Neukam said there would be none.

Daniel Blankenship made a motion to table the Union Fire Contract. No one has gotten ahold of the Council with questions or concerns about the 2024 Fire Contract. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Daniel Blankenship made a motion to approve Trick or Treat hours for October 31 from 6pm to 8pm. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

The Council was presented with a quote from Leap It to install and upgrade the server at the Town Office. Starting in October there will be no more security updates for it. To lease one, it will be \$283.40/month for 63-months and purchase for \$1 after. To purchase up front with installation is \$12,525.00. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion to lease the server for \$283.40/month. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

The Council was presented with a quote from Leap It to install and upgrade the server at the Police Department. To lease one, it will be \$245.75/month for 63-months and purchase for \$1 after. To purchase up front with installation is \$11,272.75. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion to lease the server for \$245.75/month. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

The council went over the building permits.

1102 S. Romy Street would like to build a single-family home on the property. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the building permit. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried. Dustin Reese made a motion that after the home is completed the current building, they

are living in is to be removed from the property. Teresa seconded the motion. Vote as 4/0. Motion carried.

2525 E Stacey Street would like to remove the current house and place a single wide trailer. They have been through the trailer process. The Planning Commission recommended that it be approved allowing up to nine (9) months to remove the house and place the trailer on the property and have it ready for inspection. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion to approve the trailer based on the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Teresa Welsh abstained. Vote was 3/0. Motion carried.

520 E South Street would like to do a room addition to their home. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the room addition. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

The Council was asked to approve the Great Pumpkin Bash Parade and its route. The Parade will be on October 29 at 3pm. The lineup will be in front of the school around the front of the Fire Station. It will run from Volunteer Road to Center Street on Harris Street. Judges for the parade will be sitting in front of the Town Office. Dustin Reese made a motion to approve the parade. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Daniel Blankenship asked the audience if they had any questions or comments.

Eric Laughner of 409 E. Church Street asked about the trees marked for removal in front of his home. Discussion followed. Zack Neukam took his name and phone number and will get back with him.

Jan Russell of 403 E. Indiana Avenue is concerned about a tree not marked but possible getting root damage. Zack Neukam took her name and number to get back with her.

The Council set an Executive Session for September 29 at 4pm to go over Employee Evaluations with the employees.

The Clerk-Treasurer stated that on October 2, Second Harvest Food will have their food truck here and was asking for help to distribute the food. Discussion followed. The Town Office may need to be closed from 3pm on if she can't get enough help.

Teresa Welsh made a motion to sign the claim dockets. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

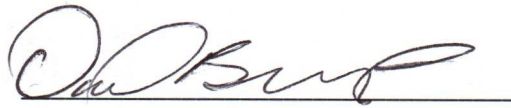
Walter Hageman of 715 E. Harris Street is having flooding on his property due to a backed-up storm drain in the road. Discussion followed. Mr. Hageman stated that he has no issues with the curb being cut if needed. Travis Hunt is to get a revised price for the storm drain work.

Mike Foster with Eaton EMT's just wanted to let the Council know that they are still going strong despite rumors. They just recently purchased a building on the corner of SR 3 and 1000 N. They were established in 1978 and plan to be here much longer.

Newly appointed Police Chief Storie asked about filling his previous position. Daniel Blankenship told him to get the previously interviewed list and make contact to see if any of them are still interested.

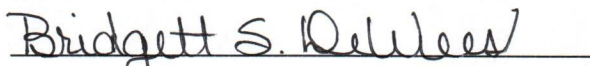
Delinda Martin of 407 E. North Street thanked everyone for getting Meridian Street and North Street intersection visibility fixed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Council at this time Dustin Reese made a motion to adjourn. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.



Daniel Blankenship, Council President
10/10/2023

Attest:



Bridgett S. DeWees, Clerk-Treasurer
10/10/2023