

**OSSIAN TOWN COUNCIL** – Town of Ossian, Indiana

September 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Collier's – 215 North Jefferson

Council President, Josh Barkley called the meeting of the Ossian Town Council to order with Council members, Brad Pursley, Jason House, Jeff Kemper and Joe Lewis present.

Barkley opened the public hearing for the 2022 budget. There being no public comment, Pursley motioned to closed the hearing, Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. House seconded. Passed 5-0

Ben Fenstermaker, Fire Chief, requested three sets of turn out great totaling \$12,650 from Hoosier Fire Equipment. House motioned to approve the purchase; Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Chichester, Police Commissioner, informed Council, Rigney's training in New Orleans was moved to a virtual event due to the recent hurricane and Rigney would like to push attending the conference to 2022 when the event is in Dallas.

Rigney informed Council his dad is not in the best health and would like to take time off without pay without using up vacation or personal time, to take long weekends spending time with his dad. Council unanimously agreed to the time off without pay for a couple of months and for Rigney to be paid for hours worked.

Allison swore in two new hires for the police department, Nicholas White and Evan Holliday.

Kemper motioned to set Trick-or-Treat hours for Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7p.m., Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin introduced a utility financial review proposal from Baker Tilly at a cost of \$7,500. Martin explained this review would be useful for IFA providing financial assistance with septic relief for North Ossian and future potential development. It would also be used for financing the \$2.5 million bond anticipation notes due in 2023. Pursley motioned to approve; Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin informed Council it's time to upgrade our meter reader and was quoted \$10,000 from Utility Supply Company. A tablet will also need to be purchased. Pursley motioned to upgrade our meter reader at a cost of \$10,000 and to purchase a tablet not to exceed \$500; House seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley motioned to approve Kozy Kourt's (Silo Farms) meter and valve replacement by Three Rivers Water Solutions in the amount of \$15,894.80; Lewis seconded.

Upon Council's unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 21-9-1 and 21-9-2 for adoption on the same day of its introduction, Pursley motioned to approve Ordinance 21-9-1 and 21-9-2, to do establish a CADA Prevention/Education Grant Fund and CADA Criminal Justice Grant Fund. House seconded. Passed 5-0

*Erika Allison*  
*WAM*

Upon Council's unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 21-9-3 for adoption on the same day of its introduction, Pursley motioned to approve Ordinance 21-9-3, to do establish a Foundation Grant for Shed Fund. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Upon Council's unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 21-9-4 for adoption on the same day of its introduction, Lewis motioned to approve Ordinance 21-9-4, increasing the maximum credit card limit from \$5,000 to \$7,500. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Upon Council's unanimous consent to consider Ordinance 21-9-5 for adoption on the same day of its introduction, Barkley motioned to approve Ordinance 21-9-5, separating funds in an existing fund and establish the Dog Park Fund and transferring Adopt-a-Tree funds into the Park fund. Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Allison shared a profit and loss report for the garbage department explaining the utility barely breaks even. The Town's administration fee has been at \$1.00 since the very beginning, over 20 years ago. Allison asked Council if they would like to raise rates and coincide with Republic's rate increase in November. Council unanimously agreed to raise the administration fee to \$1.50 and hold a public hearing at their October meeting.

Martin informed Council she would like to raise salary rates for her departments to stay competitive in compensation. There was discussion and a general consensus to move forward with Martin's proposal.

Martin explained the Town currently charges all connections, including the Town's own connections, for water usage. The Town starting this charge when the Town received a water bond from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2010. This bond was since retired and refinanced in 2020. Barkley motioned to stop billing the Town of Ossian on all its connections effective immediately; Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Sewer adjustment of \$498.80 for account 10747920 was denied due to not meeting criteria.

Council unanimously agreed to approved a sewer adjustment of \$92.14 and water adjustment of \$126 totaling \$218.14 for account 10255612 and a sewer adjustment of \$247.66 for account 10262498,

Pursley motioned to adopt Resolution 21-9-6 regarding the disposition of real estate for 403 Christ Street, setting the offering price at \$3,000; Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Council unanimously agreed to the annexation timeline for the Bridges, planning to hold a public hearing on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

House motioned to approve License for Improvement in Right of Way with Desmond and Cassandra Kessler at 310 Ironwood Lane; Pursley seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley motioned to approve payment application #2 to Hoosier Pride Excavating in the amount of \$17,732.02; Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Martin passed out an application of employment for Steven McCune for full time General Maintenance. Lewis motioned to hire McCune starting at \$16.00/hour; House seconded. Passed 5-0

*Gretchen Allison*  
*HA*

Martin informed Council Crosswind Lakes does not have tracer wire on their laterals. Barkley motioned for Martin to sign dedication forms once water main tests are received for Crosswind Lakes subdivision; Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Allison requested to create a part-time Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk position. There was much discussion and it was determined to discuss more at the October meeting.

Allison asked Council if there's any interest in creating an electronic meeting policy for if/when Indiana's public health emergency ends. Council unanimously agreed to draft a policy that would extend the electronic meetings to March 31, 2022.

Kemper moved to approve time as presented. Lewis seconded. Passed 5-0

Pursley moved to approve claims of \$676,242.02 as presented. Kemper seconded. Passed 5-0

Joe Lewis announced his resignation to Town Council Board. Due to his employment being in active military duty Lewis explained his employer does not allow him to serve as an elected official. Pursley motioned to accept Lewis's resignation; House seconded. Letters of interest for open position will be collected until noon of October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pursley moved to adjourn. Kemper seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18p.m.

  
Erika Allison



Ossian Park Board

August 2, 2021

Attendance: Tim Rohr, Gary Guenin, Ashley Harmon, Meagan Luce, and Jenni Milholland

1. Read and approved minutes from June 7, 2021
2. Northern Wells Baseball League rep's here. Would like bathrooms to be cleaner and field conditions were not ready. Brad Guering, Mark DeLaGaza and Justin Branick here representing the league. The big diamond has a lot of rocks on it and that is a safety concern. Adding more dirt would help. Ashley motioned to form a sub-committee to represent the diamond leagues. Meagan seconded. Passed 5-0. Luann to see what would need to happen to form this sub-committee.
3. October 2 will be a Halloween Event in The Dog Park. A winter fundraiser to be done to raise funds for the dog park. Stephanie Tucker here representing the dog park. Another calendar is to be done as well.
4. Stephanie Tucker concerned about golf carts on the walking track. Many complaints have been received. Luann to check with Town Attorney to see if the Ordinance could be changed to allow carts on the walking track on special occasions.
5. Discussed concerts in the Archbold-Wilson Park. Would like to schedule one band event per month. One concert is now scheduled for June of 2022. More food vendors needed for these events. Gary motioned for a sub-committee to organize events in the park. The committee could be responsible for getting sponsors for the events. Jenni seconded. Passed 5-0
6. Next meeting October 4, 2021
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm



Erika Allison

Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners  
Executive Session  
215 North Jefferson, Ossian, IN

An executive session was called to order at 6:00 pm  
Time  
on September 7, 2021

To receive information about and interview prospective employees.

We, the undersigned, certify that no final action was taken on this matter,  
no other subjects were discussed and that all proceedings will remain  
confidential.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm  
Time

Commissioners Present:

Stan Reed  
Stan Reed

Caleb Chichester  
Caleb Chichester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Miller

Guests Present:

David Pigney

Jeffrey L. Krueger

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ATTEST:

Caleb Chichester  
Police Commissioner President

EA  
Erika Allison