

August 21, 2024

**TOWN OF AVILLA
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL**

108 S. Main St. Avilla, IN 46710

THOSE PRESENT: Philip Puckett Jr., William Krock Jr., Andy Uhl, Brian Carroll, Rita Grocock, Adam Dunlap, Kierston Wright, Kevin Kelly, Mike Hensinger, Glen Wills, Chris Arnett, Brandon Bryant, Melissa Bryant, Bob Hardy, Diane Lewis, Chris Arnett, Pam Herber, Brian Keen, Casey Kintz, Melanie Kellogg, Keith Siples, Majorie Taylor, Lucinda Weimer, Brandon Depoy, Julie McBride.

Town Council President, Philip Puckett, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Claims in the amount of \$619,339.04 were submitted to the council for approval. William Krock Jr. made a motion to approve the claims as submitted, Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Approval of the minutes from July 17, 2024, was submitted to the council. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Councilman, Philip Puckett, Jr., said we are going to discuss the recent dog biting instances that have been happening in Avilla on Baum Street. Town resident, Pam Herber, reported that she was walking on Baum Street when her beagle was attacked by two Pitbulls owned by Kari Williams. She had to take her dog to the veterinary clinic for treatment because it was severely injured and established a large bill in doing so. She said she gave Mrs. Williams an opportunity to pay the veterinary bill, and she said she would pay it. After waiting a substantial amount of time without receiving any payment, she filed a small claim in court against her to get reimbursed. Mrs. Williams did not show up for the court date. Town resident, Keith Siples, was also present to complain that the same dogs also bit his dog. Town Attorney, Bob Hardy, spoke briefly about the Indiana law regarding dogs biting other dogs, not humans and there is not really any law at this time to protect the animals involved. Mr. Hardy indicated that he was investigating this further, and then spoke briefly outside of the building with the owners of the dogs.

Town Mangers Report – Adam Dunlap gave his report for the month.

Superintendent's Report – Brian Carroll gave his report for the month.

Brian Carroll, Superintendent, reported to the council that he quoted out the rigging and electrical parts for the fine screen project at the Wastewater plant. Don R. Fruchey Inc. quoted the rigging process at \$6350. For the electrical part, he received two quotes, the first one from Water's Electric Inc. was \$1820. HJW Electrical was the second quote, and it came in at \$3875. Brian indicated that he contacted H & L Electric, but they did not reply. The town will install water connections. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve hiring Don R. Fruchey for the cost of \$6350. for rigging, and Waters Electric for the installation, at a cost of \$1820.

Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Superintendent, Brian Carroll, informed the council that it is time to have our meters tested and received two quotes to complete this. Hydrocorp out Michigan quoted \$480.00/meter for 30 meters for a total cost of \$14,400. M.E. Simpson quoted the project at a daily charge of \$2350. and mobilization, lodging, and per diem of \$450. per night. They indicated the project would take 5 to 6 days to complete. The total cost for them is \$16,350. for 6 days and 5 nights. Andrew Uhl made a motion to hire Hydrocorp for a total cost of \$14,400. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Brian Carroll, Superintendent, reported to the council that bid opening for the North Water Tower Project took place last Wednesday. The town received 6 bids for the project in the range from \$187,000.00 - \$579,100.00. The low bid was from E&L Painting out of Howell, MI. Dixon Engineering recommended E&L Painting. The project will not be completed until the Spring of 2025. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to hire E&L Painting to complete the project in 2025 and for the funds to be encumbered from 2024. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Superintendent, Brian Carroll, related to the council that he purchased food for a meeting that Adam Dunlap and himself provided for a Unified Development Ordinance meeting held at the town hall. He paid for the food himself at a cost of \$24.45. Clerk-Treasurer Rita Grocock would not reimburse him the money until the council approved the food purchase. She indicated that the town has never purchased food for meetings and should not start that, or everyone will want reimbursed for food at their meetings going forward. Andrew Uhl made a motion to allow Brian and Adam to supply food only for these meetings, there will be a \$30.00 limit on the food for the remainder of the meetings which is 5-6. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Brian Carroll, Superintendent, asked the council for permission for him and Adam Dunlap to attend an IMEA Conference in Bloomington on October 16, 2024, for two days. He was also asking for reimbursement on a hotel room for two nights. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve them to attend the meeting. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Superintendent, Brian Carroll, reported to the council he has a contractor, Randy Hampshire, that he would like to hire to paint curbs in town. This would be done by employee contract and the pay would be \$15.00/hr. The project should only take a few weeks depending on the weather. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve hiring him to complete the project not to exceed \$2400. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Town Marshall's Report - was given by Glen Wills.

Glen Wills, Town Marshall, reported to the council that he would like to be reimbursed for travel expenses for his trip to Chicago to pick up the new police vehicle. Originally, he only asked to go look at the vehicle, but ended up purchasing it and spending the night. Councilman, Andrew Uhl, questioned a meal that cost \$135.37. Glen said it was for him. After some discussion Councilman Krock said he did not have a problem paying him back for half of the meal, but not the whole amount. They agreed to pay him \$67.50 and the other travel expense for hotel and gas. William Krock, Jr. made a motion for reimbursement. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Town Marshall, Glen Wills, conveyed to the council that he would like to transfer the 2009 Chevy Tahoe to the LaOtto Fire Department for a cost of \$1.00. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the sale. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Fire Chiefs Report- was given by Casey Kintz

Casey Kintz, Fire Chief, reported to the council that the Fire Department was hosting a Touch-a-Truck event at the fire department on September 7, 2024 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. He would like to close Washington Street to Chestnut Street for the event. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the street closure during this time. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Fire Chief, Casey Kintz, asked the council to purchase a slide out tray for the Town's Command Truck to better organize items in it. He received a quote from Move Over Outfitters for a cost of \$1923.41. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the purchase. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Casey Kintz, Fire Chief, reported to the council that the \$1,000.80 that was for asphalt sealer on the Fire Department lot to be moved from the Fire General Fund to Public Safety. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the move. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Park Board Report – no one present to give a report.

Julie McBride, with the Avilla Freedom Festival asked the council if it would be possible to change the 2026 festival dates to June 25, 26, and 27th that year. Council said they did not see a problem with it and they would discuss it later.

Attorney Report – Bob Hardy gave a brief report.

Clerk Treasurer, Rita Grocock, reported to the council that resident Brian Pifer moved out of town and left an outstanding invoice for lawnmowing that the town had to do at his residence. She is asking for permission from the council to write off the bill of \$190.00. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve the write-off. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Rita Grocock, Clerk-Treasurer, reported to the council that the parking lot needs additional signs installed to display the correct direction to enter and exit the parking lot. We still have vehicles entering and exiting the parking lot from both sides of the building and this is dangerous.

New Business:

Melanie Kellogg, with the Noble County EDC, was present to give an update on progress in the county.

Next item under new business was the health insurance renewal for 2025. Rita Grocock and Adam Dunlap met with Dan Helton, the town's insurance representative about the new rates. It was not good news, and the town has had a large quantity of claims for three consecutive years, so to keep the same Grandmother policy it would have been an \$17,965.29 monthly increase. Mr. Helton explained another option that we could take to save money but would be a greater cost to the employee out-of-pocket. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to go with the non-grandmothered ACA option for a cost of \$47,768.76 for next year. Andrew Uhl

made a motion to approve the new price of \$47,768.76 for next year. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Ordinance 1672-7-24 creating a new 4-way stop at the intersection of Walnut Street and Chestnut Street was read on the 2nd reading. William Krock, Jr. made a motion to approve the ordinance on the 2nd reading. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Next item on the agenda was to grant permission for the town to proceed with looking for a new park supervisor. Andrew Uhl made a motion to move ahead with this. William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

The town has decided to add two part-time firefighter positions, a motion was made by William Krock, Jr. to proceed with the advertising for the new positions. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Fire Chief, Casey Kintz, inquired about working 29 hours a week if the need is there. This would not be every week, but only as needed. Andrew Uhl made a motion to approve him working up to 29 hours, William Krock, Jr. seconded the motion.

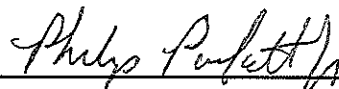
Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

Old Business:

GPS Systems in town vehicles was brought up again to see where we are at with the Installations. Police Chief, Glen Wills, reported that the previous GPS systems that were purchased from the City of Fort Wayne were used and will not work in our vehicles. He indicated that he purchased new ones and that they are being installed.

With no further business to discuss for the evening William Krock, Jr. made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. Andrew Uhl seconded the motion Vote: Ayes 3 – Nays 0

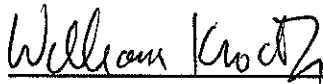
AVILLA TOWN COUNCIL



Philip Puckett, Jr., Council President



Andrew Uhl, Council Member



William Krock, Jr., Council Member

ATTEST:



Rita Grocock Clerk-Treasurer