

**City Of New Virginia  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Council met in regular session on Monday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for the August council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Huston with Council Members Galivan, Nelson, Strange and Truman present. Absent Taylor.

Minutes from the July regular meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved.

**Old business discussed:** Nothing to report.

**Citizen Input:** Pam Dunkin was present to discuss potholes that need to be filled before school starts. The location of the potholes is at Veterans Drive & Felton Street and Felton & Broadway. The potholes will be filled before school starts.

Drop-offs at driveway approaches where asphalt was put down were filled with millings from the old street surface that was ground up. There was a driveway approach that was missed in the 500 block of Church Street. The driveway approach will be filled in with gravel.

There has been citizen concern about the black tracks on streets from the road work trucks and normal traffic. The tracks will wear off over time.

Warren County Supervisor Crystal McIntyre was present to discuss projects and things going on in Warren County. The items discussed are listed below.

\*\*\* Warren County Dispatch is going through a re-structuring. Warren County Dispatch has moved from being overseen by the Sheriff to a three-member board that is made up of the Indianola Mayor, Carlisle Mayor and one Warren County Supervisor. The re-structuring and formation of this new board will also affect Emergency Medical Services in Warren County as well. It was mentioned this re-structuring will be on a trial basis for five years. It was discussed that rural communities need to be more involved and have a say with this process.

\*\*\*The Warren County Board of Supervisors will change next year from three to five board members.

\*\*\* Relocation of Warren County Social Services is being worked on. There is a building available on the Indianola square but the City of Indianola does not want the Social Services Program on the square.

\*\*\* Tax levies – the rural rate went down, the urban rate stayed the same as last year.

\*\*\* The County has hired an interim County Engineer. The Assistant to the Engineer is working on becoming a certified engineer.

\*\*\* The Supervisors are working on a land use plan and will plan to work with all the cities in the county on this.

\*\*\* There have been talks of establishing a County Administrator position.

\*\*\* The County is still waiting to hear on a grant applied for to completely tear out and re-pave G76 Hwy from New Virginia to Medora.

Members of the New Virginia Trail Committee which is a branch of the New Virginia Hometown Pride Committee were present to talk with the City Council regarding building a walking/biking trail within/around New Virginia. The Committee's mission is to create a safe, multi-purpose trail around the community of New Virginia for people of all ages to use for exercise, to enjoy nature, and preserve our town's railroad history. The Committee Members were present to gauge the interest of the City Council in a trail with the understanding that this is a long-term commitment and ensure the City will support the Trail Committee through the process of building a trail. The Trail Committee has been making connections, doing a lot of research and compiling a team for this huge project. The City Council is on board with the Trail Committee and encouraged the Committee to continue to pursue the work on the trail.

**Water Utilities discussed:** Some fire hydrants have been flushed. Hydrant flushing will continue during the month of August and September.

**Fire Department Business:** Fire Chief Jake Zuercher was present to discuss issues of concern regarding fire and emergency medical services. The items discussed are listed below.

\*\*\* Fire Department Ordinance section 9.03 regarding where department members can live was discussed. Zuercher inquired if the Council would consider changing that section of the Ordinance. It states that all members of the fire department shall live within the fire and EMS response district. It will be discussed with the City Attorney to see if that section of the Fire Department Ordinance can be amended by removing the above sentence.

\*\*\* Fire & EMS donation money. Donation money has been being placed in both the City account public safety function in a specific line item for fire and EMS donations and the Fire Department Association account. Zuercher would like the Council to consider the City taking over the funds in the Fire Department Association account and dissolving the Association account. Zuercher would first like to purchase a message board for the fire department and then turn the remaining funds over to the City and placed in the public safety function and a specific line item for fire and EMS donations. This request will be discussed with the City Attorney.

\*\*\* Automatic mutual aid with St. Marys & Martensdale Fire Departments – Zuercher would like the Council to consider an automatic mutual aid agreement with St. Marys and Martensdale Fire Departments due to not being able to cover all emergency calls because of the low number of fire department members. Zuercher will work on getting a meeting scheduled with the Trustees, City Officials and Fire Chiefs of all three departments to discuss the possibility of forming an automatic mutual aid agreement.

**Law Enforcement:** – The report summary from the Sheriff's Office for the months of June and July were reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 7 calls for service during the month of June. Officers spent in excess of 39 hours in the City for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 232 miles within the city limits for the month. One citation and/or warning was written for traffic violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper. Deputies received or initiated 13 calls for service during the month of July. Officers spent in excess of 38 hours in the City for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 166 miles within the city limits for the month. One citation and/or warning was written for traffic violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

City wages/salaries were reviewed. City Clerk - \$2600.00 mth. (\$1300.00 from general fund & \$1300.00 from water utilities fund); Deputy City Clerk - \$1500.00/mth. (\$750.00 from general fund & \$750.00 from water utilities fund); Office Assistant To City Clerk & Deputy City Clerk - \$400.00/mth. From general fund; Mayor - \$100.00.mtg.; City Council Members - \$50.00/mtg.; Treasurer - \$100.00/qtr. Strange moved, seconded by Nelson to approve City wages/salaries as listed above. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Information, documents, and questions needed for the New Virginia Urban Revitalization Plan were reviewed and discussed. The majority of the information and documents have been obtained. The questions were answered by the Council during this council meeting. The information, documents and answers to questions have been returned to the company working on the revitalization plan.

### **GAMP UPDATE**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Financials for the June truck pull have not been finalized yet due to bills for expenses still being received.

### **KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM**

The Hometown Pride Committee is working on an end of the summer concert series social event in Lions Park. It was discussed to maybe try and have a movie in Old Settlers Park after the show in the Lions Park.

Elf Club Update: The string lights, tree and timers for the Christmas tree in the Old Settlers Park have been purchased. There will be an article in an upcoming Tri Corner about the Christmas Tree light project.

There has been a citizen complaint about a tree near the alley behind the fire station about being a safety hazard. The owner of the property the tree is located on will be sent notification about a citizen complaint that the tree is a safety hazard and action needs to be taken to trim or cut the tree.

Councilman Truman has a list of movie titles. It is planned to show Remember The Titans on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> in Old Settlers Park around 8:00 p.m. The movie Top Gun Maverick is planned for Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> in Lions Park. The movie Hocus Pocus 2 is planned for trick-or-treat night or the Saturday before trick-or-treat night. There will be more details regarding this movie as the night of the event draws closer.

Strange moved, seconded by Truman to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Nelson to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The September council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. **September meeting date – Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

**July Revenues**

General Fund	2077.80
Fire/Ambulance	4860.17
GAMP	339.79
Debt Service	12.96
Water Utilities	7388.57
Road Use	2563.57
LOST (local option sales tax)	<u>4991.37</u>
Total	\$ 22234.23

\*\*\*\* SEE AUGUST EXPENSES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) \*\*\*\*