

MINUTES OF THE AGENDA PREP MEETING OF INDIANA BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 2021, AT 7:00 PM, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

PRESENT: President Broad, Presiding: Council members Ford, Lancaster, McDaniel, McQuown, Sarneso, Smith, Steelman, Stewart, Warnock, Zanich; Mayor Trimarchi; Chief of Police Schawl; Solicitor Dougherty; Communications & Grants Coordinator Mudry; Recording Secretary Busovicki; Administrative Supervisor Sipos; Pat Cloonan, Indiana Gazette; Josh Widdowson, Renda Broadcasting; and three members of the public.

President Broad called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Public Comment: None

There was no Executive Session.

Action Items:

- During the Action Items portion of the agenda, Ford opened with stating why the recently approved motion to advertise 460 should be changed. The reason being that there are legal uncertainties regarding regulating commercial and noncommercial signage separately. There was a motion by Smith, seconded by McDaniel, to rescind the advertisement of Chapter 460 made at the September 2021 Council Meeting. Motion carried. There was a motion Sarneso, seconded to Smith, to advertise sections §460-14, §460-16, §460-14, §460-16, §460-17, §460-22, §460-23, §460-26. Motion carried.

There following occurred during Discussion Items:

- McDaniel opened a conversation on the subject of ward alteration and municipal reapportionment. McDaniel referenced chapter 6 and chapter 8 of the Borough Code with how Council can set ward boundaries and change the number of elected officials. Solicitor Dougherty mentioned chapter 9 of Title 53 and explained how the language is ambiguous but workable. McDaniel suggested the possible scenarios of reapportionment being between keeping the current system of Wards in place or moving to an “at large” system. Zanich recommended a hybrid model, where there are members of individual Wards, as well as some members elected “at large”. Solicitor Dougherty stated that a hybrid system is possible, so long as representation is equally distributed among wards. The Council discussed the pros and cons of limiting the number of members on Council. Various councilmembers advocated for obtaining official Census figures before deliberating on altering the current system of Wards. Warnock, Trimarchi and Smith discussed the possibility of using student workers to compile accurate Census data. McQuown inquire about the deadline for a final decision – Dougherty replied the year following when the Census is officially reported. Ford inquired if Council has a desire to see the number of elected officials changed. Warnock remarked he believes the current number is fine. Taylor suggested a smaller Council could be more efficient. McDaniel

inquired what work has been done up to this point by staff on the topic. Mudry will send Warnock and McDaniel all the data compiled by staff thus far on the topic.

The following occurred during Committee Reports:

ADMINISTRATION: No update.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- A traveling artist residency group is hosting a film showing of a documentary that was produced from their time painting murals on buildings in downtown Indiana Borough. The movie will be shown behind Bob's Subs on Saturday, October 9th at 8:00PM.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No update.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- There was a motion by the Committee to promote Paul Gelles to full-time Public Works Director with a salary increase from \$48,000.00 to \$70,000.00. Motion carried.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

- There will be no Fall 2021 plantings due to a lack of staff.
- There was a conversation between Sarneso, Trimarchi and Sipos regarding millage allocations to the Shade Tree Commission.

The was no report given by the Manager, due to a lack of a Manager.

The following occurred during Chief Schawl's report:

- Schawl commended all Borough staff for their efforts over IUP Homecoming weekend.
- A vehicle armed robbery is under investigation.
- A full report of Homecoming statistics will be reported on at the next Council meeting.
- Police Department is accepting applications for Police Officer until October 29th, 2021.
- There was a conversation between Schawl, Smith, and Dougherty regarding a Pennsylvania State Police checkpoint that was up over the homecoming weekend at the intersection of 7th Street and Wayne Avenue.

The following occurred during Solicitor Dougherty's report:

- Dougherty is continuing to work on resolving municipal liens and is meeting with Borough staff regularly.
- Dougherty mentioned he met with someone from Citizen's Ambulance, and they were inquiring who is the new point of contact regarding their proposal for Indiana Borough to donate funding to Citizen's Ambulance. Smith responded that the Administration committee is where they can follow up.

The following occurred during President Broad's report:

- Broad stated the Committee has begun reviewing applications for the Borough Manager position. Taylor inquired how many applications have been received so far – Broad responded that currently there are six.
- An open house for the American Rescue Plan will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on 10/7/2021. Smith reiterated the survey is also still online at indianaboro.com
- The S&T Oktoberfest will begin at 2PM on 10/9/2021.

The following occurred during Mayor Trimarchi's report:

- Trimarchi said homecoming was a success.
- The letters to rename the Borough Municipal Building should be arriving on 10/12/2021. Broad will speak with former Mayor George Hood to coordinate a ceremonial event.

The following occurred during Old Business:

- The Indiana Free Library is hosting a fundraiser on Friday, October 29th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM in the stacks of the library.

There was no action that occurred during the New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM upon a motion by Taylor.