

City of Allison Public Hearing and Council Meeting August 3, 2011

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Allison met for a public hearing on August 3, 2011, 5:15 pm, council chambers, Mayor Scot Henrichs presiding. The public hearing was to hear comments for or against adopting a sidewalk ordinance. Council members present: James Blockhus, Janis Cramer, Tim Junker, Jerry Platter, and David Smith. Others present: Jodi Tanner, Allan Brockway, Sid Brinkman, Randy Brinkman, Jack Cooper, Jackie Harms, Jean Shultz, Herb Freese, Mary Freese, Steve Morton, Dixie Loftus, Brad Cooper, Robert Wix, Kevin Blanshan, INRCOG, Dr. North, Chad Billing, City Engineer, Ryken Engineering, and Staci Miller, Editor Butler County Tribune Journal.

The Mayor asked for comments from the floor written or oral, on the proposed sidewalk ordinance. A copy of the ordinance was available to every person present at the hearing.

Comments heard were: there is no need for sidewalk in many parts of town. People were allowed to pull their sidewalks when there was an ordinance against this. Why did we have to be fixing sidewalks when there were other things that needed done first that were more important. If I had a sidewalk, my sidewalk would lead to no where. I don't want to pay for a sidewalk. The new ordinance requires that a sidewalk be built with the building of a garage or deck; I don't think that should be necessary if you build a deck to have to build a sidewalk. I think my neighborhood needs sidewalks. Why did we need such a complex ordinance. I don't think there needs to be sidewalk on two sides of every street. There are so many kids living in my area, and there will be three day care providers in our area next year; I worry a child is going to get hit, children must walk on the road to the bus because we have no sidewalks ; I think sidewalks would be nice.

Council responded to those in attendance that their first priority was to fix and reinstate sidewalks. This would take a while; then if they perceived a need or desire for sidewalk in other areas then that would be looked at. The council also agreed that a sidewalk should not always be required when building a deck or garage which is how the new ordinance was written; council decided the wording in the ordinance should be changed from shall to may. The Comprehensive Plan identified where council members felt sidewalk would be beneficial; the Comprehensive Plan is a plan that focuses on a five (considered an immediate) plan to 20 year (futuristic) plan. The plan may or may not be implemented – it will be decided on it's own merit and by this or other councils. This council feels that an expansion of the current sidewalk system would be a good thing for safety; sidewalks were a part of the required infrastructure part of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. It was moved by Junker and seconded by Blockhus to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The City of Allison met in regular session immediately following the public hearing on a sidewalk ordinance. Present council members Blockhus, Cramer, Junker, Platter, and Smith; Absent: None Others present; see above list in the Public .

It was moved by Platter and seconded by Cramer to move for the adoption Of Ordinance 243 A Sidewalk Ordinance – Resolution 11-08.2. “ ADOPTING A SIDEWALK ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF ALLISON “ Ayes Blockhus, Cramer, Junker, Platter and Smith. Nays: None. Ordinance adopted.

Mayor calls for a motion to reintroduce Ordinance 242 amending the animal ordinance to include animals must be leashed when on public property. It was moved by Blockhus and seconded by Smith to move for the adoption of Ordinance 242 Resolution 11-08.2 “A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ANIMAL ORDINANCE REQUIRING LEASHES ON ANIMALS ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAYS.” Ayes: Blockhus, Cramer, Platter, and Smith. Nay: Junker
Ordinance 242 adopted.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Cramer to move into an agreement with INRCOG to write a grant for in –park trails. The motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with INRCOG; Ayes: all. Motion carried.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Blockhus to approve the application of a REAP Grant for the purpose of in-park – trails . Ayes: all. Motion to apply for a \$ 75,000.00 Reap Grant approved. The projected cost of the project was approximately \$ 79,000.00 – the remaining cost could be in kind donations or if the award was less than the full grant, a decision on whether to pursue the project would be made with funding considerations.

It was moved by Platter and seconded by Blockhus to approve the consent agenda. One item was moved out of the consent agenda because of a variance requirement and further review. The building permit application of Dominic Quario was pulled from the consent agenda.

Consent agenda:

Minutes of the July 11th, 2011 public hearing and council meeting

Building permits:

U.S. Post office – CUB boxes in various neighborhoods

Bill Cordes a Building

Liquor License renewals and licenses

Gronginans

Curly's

Hwy 3 Raceway

All of these were approved previously but was inadvertently omitted from the minutes

Cigarette permits:

Caseys and J&C Grocery

Financial Reports for June

Accounts payable for August.

Ayes to approve the consent agenda, all. Motion carried.

It was agreed that if building does not begin within 90 days a re-inspection at the time of building should be required. The reason for this is the pins for a building might be moved or removed after 90 days and the city wants to make sure that buildings are constructed within the approved space. Also since the city has no sunset for building permits at this time –if is often difficult to remember if a building permit has been applied for or not; making it necessary to look back into records to see for sure if a building, deck, or garage has been approved or not. The complete building does not have to completed within 90 days; just the shell of the building to negate the need for re-inspection. A building permit does not need to be re-issued and re-approved after 90 days; only re-inspected. The council may look into sunsetting future permits at another time.

It was moved by Junker and seconded by Smith to accept the bid of Hansel Ag for a mower. The low bid of \$ 1,959.52 was accepted. Ayes to the motion to accept the low bid of Hansel Ag, all. Motion carried. The other bid was from Stokes Welding at \$ 2,484.00.

It was moved by Junker and seconded by Cramer to approve the purchase of a compressor From Quincy of LaPorte City the only quote – price \$ 2,484.00. Ayes to the motion, all. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan was moved to the next meeting as two council members had not received their first drafts and they wanted the opportunity to look them over.

Open Forum:

Jodi Tanner presented a signed petition to the city council asking for help to slow down traffic on Allan, Pfaltzgraff, and Hickory Streets. Jodi said they will have three day care providers within a two block radius this coming school year. She said since the streets have been fixed, cars and trucks have been driving as if those streets are a second raceway. She said she is fearful that one of the children in the neighborhood will get hit by the fast traffic. Jodi said that she has called people whom she recognized and ask that they slow down, she has called the Sheriff for additional patrol; nothing has been affective. She said she realizes that sometimes kids get into the street and they shouldn't be there; but does that make it ok to drive fast and take risks; she said, does it take someone getting hurt before someone pays attention to this problem.

It was Jodi's opinion, as well as the councils, that obviously, it is going to take some fines, to get the attention of people driving too fast. Jodi said she has compiled a list of around 10 names that habitually drive fast; drive way over the speed limit. She told the council that she gave this list to the Sheriff; she said as far she can tell, none of these people have been contacted or spoken to by any officers because the same people continue to drive as they always have; way too fast; or if spoken too are not afraid to continue to drive recklessly because they don't worry about any consequences of driving the way they do.

Council assured her that we would visit with the Sheriff regarding additional coverage in that area and the issuance of speeding tickets if people who have been warned continue to drive carelessly. Along with the conversation about speeding on

Allan, Hickory, and Pfaltzgraff Streets, council addressed other speeding complaints and other law enforcement issues that the council feels need addressed with law enforcement when we visit with the complaint from that neighborhood. It seems to the council without consequences the same people who are warned over and over again about the same infractions will continue doing what they are doing. Illegal parking, dogs running loose, and speeding seem to be the areas with the greatest number of repeat violators. It seems to the council that some people have been receiving repeated warnings about the same issues yet appear to have no worries about continuing with their same unacceptable behavior. Common sense would say if unacceptable behavior doesn't stop, there should be consequences. Some people respond by a warning or just being visited with about a problem; that is really the avenue that the council wishes would be taken and would work; but with some, this approach does not work; then a fine seems the only way to get through that we are serious about stopping what you are doing. This is the message that the council would like to convey to our law enforcement officers. Plus we are serious about all of this, and we will find a way to resolve this issue.

With no other business, it was moved by Junker and seconded by Smith to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

**Signed _____
Scot Henrichs, Mayor City of Allison**

**Attest _____
Sandy Harms, Allison City Clerk**