Waterloo Town Council Special Meeting May 31, 2018

A special meeting of the Waterloo Town Council was held on May 31, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Waterloo Town Hall.

Council Members present were:

David Bolton Jess Jessup

William Hubartt
Jess Jessup
Nathan Diehl
David Kruse, Town Attorney
Tena Woenker, Town Manager
Renata Ford, Clerk Treasurer

The following special business was discussed and action taken: Unless specified all votes were unanimous.

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the possibility of building railroad underpass that would send the public under the Norfolk Southern railroad. An INDOT program called the Rail Trax Grant was brought to the Council's attention by Town Manager Woenker. The program will reimburse 80% of the total cost of the project. A study to determine the feasibility of installing an underpass would be \$50,000 to \$100,000 at the town's expense. A rough estimate of the cost of the underpass project would be \$10 million to \$40 million.

The Council determined that Center Street would be the better location instead of Wayne Street. Also, the project would be in-line with the study of the growth of the downtown area that was presented to the public by Ball State University students. And an underpass would be a good reason because of police and fire emergency response. Both Police and Fire departments are located on the north side of the tracks.

There were several Council and public comments on this project: Councilman Diehl "I think there's a lot more reasons not to proceed than to proceed"

Councilman Hubartt "I have no idea how it could be done. This should be a done issue"

Councilman Surber "We should be thinking of our needs not wants." Town resident Jay Kerns "If we spend a nickel, it's going to be to much, at this point"

A & Z Engineering owner, Jamal Anabtawi, who has worked with the town on multiple projects "I think this project is too big for the town" He also praised council members for conducting a "cool-minded" discussion of the underpass.

The council unanimously agreed (Jess-motion / Nathan-second) that they would not seek a state grant this year for an underpass.

Council also thanked Town Manager Woenker for her effort in getting this information to the Council.

I, Renata Ford, the duly qualified Clerk/Treasurer, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and exact excerpt of minutes of the meeting of the Waterloo Town Council and the Waterloo Redevelopment Commission, Waterloo, Indiana, at which a quorum was in attendance and acting throughout, and held May 31, 2018, as such appears in the official minutes of said Waterloo Town Council and Waterloo Redevelopment Commission in my custody.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

David Bolton, President

Renata Ford. Secretary