

**WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**June 19, 2020**  
**Special Meeting**

**Council members present**

**Other Town Officials**

**Other Town Officials**

David Hawkins President	<u>  X  </u>	Norm Gabehart Town Manager	<u>  X  </u>	Stephen Watson Town Attorney	<u>  X  </u>
Scot Ford Vice President	<u>  X  </u>	Debra L. Hendrickson Clerk Treasurer	<u>  X  </u>		<u>      </u>
Laura Fleury Member	<u>  X  </u>	Rick Shipp Town Marshal	<u>      </u>		<u>      </u>
Joe Saylor Member	<u>      </u>	Eric Funkhouser Fire Chief	<u>  X  </u>		<u>      </u>
Brad Goedeker Member	<u>  X  </u>				<u>      </u>

**Call to order**

- D. Hawkins called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

- Absent J. Saylor

**Invocation – Norm Gabehart**

**New Business**

- **Employment Consideration of Whiteland Volunteer Firefighter, Jake Dougherty**
  - A letter was received from Chief Eric Funkhouser, Fire Chief of the Whiteland Fire Department describing the following event: At approximately 7:37 am June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Whiteland Fire Department was called to the area of Maple Street and Whiteland Road for a possible residence fire. Upon arrival the fire was located in a house under construction located on Wild Turkey Run. The fire was quickly located and extinguished with the help of several other fire departments. After an investigation it was labeled suspicious. Two other fires were discovered in Greenwood also in homes that were under construction. After a media release by Franklin Police Department Mr. Dougherty was charged with three counts of arson along with numerous other charges which were listed. Due the fact that Mr. Dougherty is a suspect he was placed on a five-day suspension. The Whiteland Fire Department reviewed the charges with the Town Manager and they are recommending termination of Mr. Dougherty from the Whiteland Fire Department.
  - Town Manager, Norm Gabehart, stated the Town needs to take swift and appropriate action concerning Whiteland Volunteer Firefighter Jake Dougherty who was pulled over by a Law Enforcement Police Officer on the morning of June 17<sup>th</sup> which lead to the arrest of Jake Dougherty as a suspect in the Johnson County fires that morning.

- After going over the ordinance (which was written in 2001) with legal counsel there seems to be an issue with how it is written on the procedures on termination. The Council was called to make the decision on the termination of Whiteland Volunteer Fire Fighter. A request was made to vote to ratify the decision to terminate Jake Dougherty by the Town Manager. S. Ford made a motion to ratify the decision of the Town Manager to terminate Jake Dougherty. B. Goedeker seconded the motion.

**Passed 4-0**

- To amend the Ordinance 2003-01 by removing line 4 which contains IC code 36-5-2-13 which contradicts the Ordinance in order to give the Town Manager the authority the Ordinance states for power and duties. S. Ford made a motion to amend the code in the handbook and remove the IC code 36-5-2-13 and do so by Ordinance provided at the next Council meeting, to give the Town Manager the authority to terminate non-merit employees. L. Fleury seconded the motion.

**Passed 4-0**

**Council Comment –**


- None

**Public Comment –**

- None

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Passed by the Whiteland Town Council on this day 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020

Aye  
  
 David Hawkins, President

Nay  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 David Hawkins, President

  
 Scot Ford, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Scot Ford, Vice President

  
 Laura Fleury

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Laura Fleury

  
 Brad Goedeker

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Brad Goedeker

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Joe Sayler

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Joe Sayler

Attest:  
  
 Debra L. Hendrickson, Clerk Treasurer