

Wynnedale Town Council Meeting
Minutes for September 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

In attendance were Vimal Mehta, Janet Gibson, Judy Hall, Mary Beth Schneider and Jarnell Craig.

In the audience was Mark Cartier II, the mayor's neighborhood advocate for Pike and Washington Township. Residents who wish to be in touch with him can contact him at 327-5127, 833-4530 or via email at mark.carterII@indy.gov.

Carter informed the council that the city has \$52 million in a fund of which \$39 million is earmarked for roads. Mayor Joe Hogsett, Carter said, wants to put money into the Rainy Day Fund, which is empty. The City-County Council wants to split the money and use some for what he called "a few blocks of sidewalk repair."

Carter said the city has allocated \$125 million for road projects but needs \$250 million. In fact, he said, there are \$4.2 billion of projects identified. The city is trying to get the slate to look at options such as a wheel tax, in which commuters who work and socialize here but live elsewhere contribute to the upkeep of the roads they use.

Discussion then turned to Wynnedale's road paving project, which is under discussion. At the July meeting the cost of paving sections of Roland Road, Knollton south of Wynnedale, and the Wilshire/Knollton intersection was pegged at \$78,000, plus a \$17,000 engineering fee.)

Jarnell Craig said she has been in touch with the city and it has been determined that a sink hole in new Wynnedale will be repaired by the city, not Wynnedale.

Craig also proposed that Wynnedale turn over road maintenance to the city. Wynnedale would lose about \$3,000 in tax revenue annually that is given to the town for roads, but the city would take over maintenance.

Craig said the proposed town budget, which will be voted upon at the next meeting, \$70,400 in general Fund; \$5,000 in local road and street funds; \$9,350 in motor vehicle highway funds. While the town's total funds for the next year would be \$89,441.17, the Local Government Finance Authority says the town can spend next year \$35,150.

Craig said the town could spend all that on roads, but that would mean no money for other needs such as street lights, security, mowing and plowing "so we can't do that." During 2015, she said, the town spent \$17,753, although \$6,000 of that was for some tree removal that is not a recurring cost.

She argued that given the small amounts Wynnedale gets as its share of government revenues means that the town can never repair the roads. That calls for turning the money over to the city so that it maintains the roads instead.

Schneider expressed concern that the city would take the money but add it to its total pool with Wynnedale projects falling far down the list, and that the city would also have authority to make decisions, such as opening Knollton Road through to 44th Street.

In public comments, Steve Coates expressed concern that the town would commit to a costly street project that doesn't necessarily need to be done right now. He also called for the town to save money by offering a dumpster for neighborhood trash disposal once a year, instead of twice.

Craig Rice, asked his view on road repair, said it does need to be done, noting a section on Roland Road that is suffering.

The council also discussed the low turn-out at the budget discussion – Coates and Rice were the only two in attendance. Mehta suggested notices being put in all mailboxes before the October meeting.