

SHELBURN TOWN COUNCIL  
SHELBURN TOWN HALL  
JANUARY 4, 2024 at 6:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with council members Aaron Lewis, Jared Miller, Alex Norris, and Noah J. Southwood in attendance.

At the beginning of the meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland asked the council if she could give a quick, 60 second presentation. The council agreed and Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland played a video on a projector of what was security camera footage of inside her Office at Town Hall. The video showed two people entering her office on Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>, at 8:55pm. The two people were clearly identified as Town Council Member Alex Norris and Town Marshal Matthew Price. After the video had played, Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland asked Town Council Member Alex Norris why he was in her office in the middle of the night, without her consent. Council Member Alex Norris stated that they went into the office to "see if she could see a vehicle from her desk when she was doing payroll." Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland asked "Why does that matter?" Council Member Alex Norris then stated "That was for, one of the key points on why Southwood could make it to the meeting today. Was whether or not you could see a vehicle sitting in your chair out of that little window." Marshal Matthew Price spoke up and asked "And that's in your office?" The Clerk-Treasurer stated "Yes", it was in her office. Town Marshal Matthew Price then asked "Who placed the camera there?" Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland then stated that she placed the camera there. The Town Marshal told her "You are so wrong and I would suggest you don't go any further with what you are saying Melissa. I suggest that you do not go any further. Indiana is a one party consent that it is, however, that party has to be present in order to film and you were not. I would stop right there and not continue no more with that. Do not continue with no more of that." Residents in attendance spoke up stating that she has first amendment rights and can speak up. The Marshal then stated "It is not a discussion up for that, do not put her in a position that she has not already put herself in. She needs to stop talking about that right now."

Council Member Noah J. Southwood beat his hand on the table and yelled "Order!" and then proceeded on with the Organizational Meeting without addressing the issue brought up by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Council Member Aaron Lewis made a motion for Jared Miller for Town Council President. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Council Member Alex Norris made a motion for Noah J. Southwood for Town Council President, seconded by Jared Miller. Vote passed 3-1. Council Members Norris, Miller, and Southwood voted yes.

Council Member Jared Miller made a motion for Aaron Lewis to be Town Council Vice President, seconded by Council Member Alex. All in Favor.

Council Member Alex Norris made a motion to hire Lou Britton for the Town Attorney for the 2024 year, seconded by Council Member Noah J. Southwood. Council Members Aaron Lewis and Jared Miller voted no. Vote tied at 2-2. Town Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland was asked to break the tie and she opposed. Vote did not pass.

Newly appointed Town Council President Noah J. Southwood commented that the last thing on his agenda for the night was to appoint Redevelopment Commission members for the 2024 year and since he is now the president, he gets to choose three members. Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland presented the council with four applications from qualified individuals, three of them had recently served on the 2023 Shelburn Redevelopment Commission. Let the record show that the newly appointed Town Council President Noah J. Southwood refused to even look at the applications or consider any of the applicants. For the record, applicants were Current Redevelopment Commission President Cole King, current Redevelopment Commission Secretary Heather Lewis, Current Redevelopment Commission Member Debby Stuck, and current Janitor/Custodian Steven Morgan.

Newly appointed Town Council President Noah J. Southwood nominated Matthew Price, Lummie Wilson, and Steven Morgan to the Shelburn Redevelopment Commission for the 2024 calendar year.

Council Member Jared Miller made a motion to nominate Debby Stuck for the Shelburn Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Alex Norris. All in Favor.

Redevelopment Commission Member Heather Lewis spoke up and requested that her application be withdrawn so that the current Redevelopment Commission President, Cole King, can be appointed in the position. She felt he deserved the position and she didn't want to stand in the way of him being appointed. Discussion began between the council members and after a quick review, Council Member Jared Miller stated he has "known Heather most of his life so he will nominate Heather Lewis." Council Member Jared Miller then made a motion to nominate Heather Lewis for the Shelburn Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Aaron Lewis. All in Favor.

At 6:30pm, a motion was made by Noah J. Southwood to adjourn the meeting. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

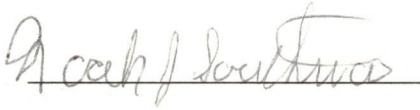


Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Copeland spoke up and asked that the Town Council Members remove the keys from Town Council Member Alex Norris and Town Marshal Matthew Price until a full investigation into what they were doing in her office was completed. Council Member Alex Norris made a motion to return their keys to town hall. A discussion began and Council President Noah J. Southwood asked the Clerk-Treasurer if she was satisfied with the outcome of the motion. She stated "No, she was not satisfied and was not comfortable with the current outcome." There was never a second or any official decision made on this situation.

Council President Noah J. Southwood again entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting multiple times and no motion was ever made.

The residents in attendance wanted to speak up and Vice President Aaron Lewis told the residents that he would stay and listen to their concerns. The meeting continued and residents were allowed to speak up and voice their concerns.

At 6:51pm a motion was made by Council Member Jared Miller to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex Norris. All in favor.



Noah J. Southwood, President



Aaron Lewis, Vice President

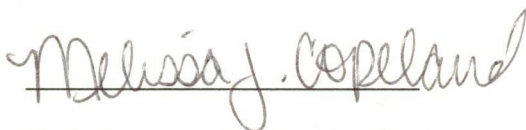


Jared Miller



Alex Norris

Attest:



Clerk Treasurer, Melissa Copeland