



**Town of Merrillville**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes (Amended)**

**August 9, 2022**

**6:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President Hardaway called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A brief invocation was given along with a moment of silence from Richard Augie of Impact Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by any veteran in attendance.

**ROLL CALL** – Roll Call was taken by Madam Clerk Treasurer White Gibson.

Present were:

Vice-President Hardaway- (Ward 2)

Councilman Minchuk- (Ward 3)

Councilman White – (Ward 7)

Councilman Spann- (Ward 1)

Councilman Pettit- (Ward 6)

Five Present (5) Two absent (2) Councilwoman Uzelac (Ward 4), President Bella (Ward 5)

Vice-President Hardaway read a statement of civility. On March 26, 2019 this town council adopted an ordinance number 19-11. Which is referred to as our civility ordinance for public meetings, this ordinance covers any individual who makes personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous or delays or interrupts the proceeding or peace of the meetings of the town council or town public body, or who refuses to obey the orders of the appropriate action for restoration of order by the presiding officer may be made. In the event of any disturbance or disorderly conduct during any public meeting, the presiding officer shall be authorized to restore order and direct appropriate actions for same, if necessary. Persons addressing the Town Council or other Town public body are to maintain decorum of civility ion presenting public comments, and to avoid repetitive comments. We request that comments be restricted to topics which are inclusive of tonight’s agenda only. Other comments or on topics not related to tonight’s agenda could be considered impertinent and or repetitive.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

Director Shine presented employee of the seconded quarter to Planning & Building Inspector Dan Brown. Director Shine thanked Dan Brown for his hard work and service.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for August 9, 2022

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Voucher, seconded by Councilman White.

Motion carried by voice vote

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022

Clerk-Treasurer White Gibson informed the council that there were changes that needed to be made under Ordinance 22-20.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to table the Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022, seconded by Councilman White.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE** – Councilman White informed the council that there are 160 Covid-19 cases, 70 of those cases are hospitalization cases for Lake County. Councilman White also stated the positivity rate is currently at 19%.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY** – No Report

**PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK**- Councilman Minchuk informed the council there was a meeting August 4, 2022. Councilman Minchuk explained he sat down with two representatives from the F.O.P to reference preliminary negotiations. The F.O.P is going through changes in their executive board so they'll contact Councilman Minchuk very soon. Councilman Minchuk also informed the council that he sat down with the Chief and Councilman White and they discussed how to improve the workforce. Councilman Minchuk, Councilman White and the Chief also discussed what can be done to help the police and their work load along with any kind of financial help. Councilman Minchuk stated the wheels are turning and they will continue to keep on them and once there is a rock solid plan he will inform the council.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that he wanted to commend the Merrillville Police Department, especially Sergeant Schmidt. There was a hit and run at 57<sup>th</sup> and Broadway where a lady was hit and officer Schmidt was in the area at the time. The officer stopped and tried to help her but he pursued the lady who was the driver of the hit and run but she was apprehended. Unfortunately the lady who was hit did not survive.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT** – No Report

**PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC**- No Report

**ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY** – No Report

**DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT** – Councilman Pettit informed the council there was a meeting last week. During the meeting several items were discussed, as well as additional purchasing for things in the Dean & Barbara White Center. Councilman Pettit informed the council that every event is a great turn out and Barb Young is unbelievable. Councilman Pettit stated he doesn't know how she does it. The parking lot on the north end is always full, at least every other day with something happening at the Dean & Barbara White Community Center.

Director Price also informed the council that the court floors will be redone starting August 29, 2022 through Labor Day.

**Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY** – Vice President Hardaway informed the council that National Night Out was a great event, but next year we will have to do a better job of encouraging people to tailgate. Vice-President Hardaway also stated he talked to Pastor Bob and he gave out over 300 snow cones. Vice-president Hardaway stated he appreciated the residents for coming to the event and their support.

#### **DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS**

**LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE**- No Report

**NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY**– No Report

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE**- No Report

**SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY**– No Report

**FIRE TERRITORY BOARD- Minchuk**- Councilman Minchuk informed the council that the next meeting is scheduled for September 2022.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief Cuttino informed the council that he would like to thank Assistant Chief Nuses for sitting in for him the last two meetings. Chief Cuttino also stated he would like to point out that the Merrillville Police