



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Bella 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)

Councilwoman Uzelac- (Ward 4)

Councilmen White – (Ward 7)

Councilman Spann- (Ward 1)

President Bella- (Ward 5)

Six present (6), one absent (1) Councilman Pettit (Ward 6)

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 14, 2022

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022

Councilwoman Uzelac made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman White.

Motion carried by voice vote.
No discussion from the council.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council that there was a grant application meeting; there were three out of four applications that were approved. Vice-President Hardaway encourages residents and business owners to apply for this great opportunity.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITES- MINCHUK – No Report

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION-PETTIT- No Report

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – Councilman White informed the council that the Covid-19 stats in Lake County in the terms of 16% positive rate of infections, the mortality rate of 1 person and percent of vaccinations of individuals in Lake County.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that there will be six open positions available for the Public Works department. Vice- President Hardaway also stated there is a Code Enforcement Officer

position available as well as an Administrative Secretary Position for the Planning and Building Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK- No Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – No Report

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC- Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that the parks are all in the process of getting mowed. Councilwoman Uzelac also stated that once the new lawnmower arrives the rest of the parks will be complete.

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that code enforcement is going around town and enforcing the grass code. Vice-President Hardaway also stated that any assistance is greatly appreciated when residents call in about grass code violations.

DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Councilman Minchuk informed the council that the patio will be getting fixed. Councilman Minchuk also stated other small problems will also be taken care of.

Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council the Juneteenth celebration will be Saturday June 18, 2022 from 12:00P.M.-5:00P.M. There will be 30 vendors all together, live band, 3 bounce houses and dance group. Vice-President Hardaway also stated that fireworks for July 4th will take place on July 3, 2022 doors will open at 7:30P.M. The July 4th parade will start at 1:30P.M. At the Dean and Barbara White Community center. August 2, 2022 is National Night Out which will take place at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center from 6:00P.M. - 8:00P.M. At National Night Out there will be designated areas for the different wards to meet their neighbors. Residents are welcomed to barbecue, the town will be providing a DJ. Vice-President Hardaway stated after August he will begin planning for events for Christmas.

Town Manager Reardon also stated July 21, 2022 will be the job fair at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. Applications are still available for submission.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE- No Report

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY– No Report

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE- Director Lake informed council about the Kaiser Ditch/Taney Ditch Lateral Project there is only a little permitting left. The DLZ is gearing up to solicit bids for this. This will be a sealed bid process. Georgia Heights/Marcella ROW Drainage Replacement Project is in process and the DLZ is working on the design. Grass field Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage Coordination with NRCS, this is a farm field is adjacent to Grass field; there is a bunch of flooding in the field and in the subdivision. There is another spot near Auburn Hills encroaching on some backyards. Director Lake talked to the farmer Bud Hayes and Ken Hayes; it is in trust but they have control of the trust.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY– Town Manager Reardon informed the council that Thursday June 16, 2022 at 12:00 P.M. will be the first meeting for new President and CEO David Uran.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD- SPANN- No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Cuttino informed the council the helicopter will be at the Juneteenth Celebration from 3:00P.M. - 4:00P.M. Chief Cuttino also shared with the council the May stats there were 562 traffic stops, 420 citations and 2,866 calls this is a 652 increase from the month of April. Chief Cuttino also wanted to remind everyone to be cautious now that its summer and children are out of school.

Director King informed the council there will be a road closer from Broadway and 66th which would take place June 20, 2022 through July 1, 2022. 61st and Taft Street will be the detour street to be used.

Director Bunnell informed the council she is working hard on the grass violations, she did 50 calls and rechecks in one day. Out of those 50 call and rechecks 30 were sent to Public Works which means there is a fee of \$300-380 to pay.

Director Shine informed the council that Councilman Minchuk and herself visited the residents in Turkey Creek with Providence Builder to settle an ongoing dispute regarding destruction & vandalism. Director Shine also informed the council the builder agreed to put a better construction process in place and repair damages.

Director Price informed the council the first concert was a success and the next one will be June 25, 2022 at the Pruzin Center Park at 6:00 P.M. Director Price also stated he hopes next summer there will be concerts inside and outside. Director Price stated the Dean and Barbra White Community Center and Merrillville Pop Warner teamed up on June 4, 2022 and over 200 kids had the opportunity to watch and meet Spiderman.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances

First Readings: (Discussion and Roll Call)

Second Readings: (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

B. Resolutions: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution 22-26 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving a Form of Economic Development Agreement among the Town of Merrillville, the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and Midwest Aerospace Casting, LLC.

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to approve Resolution 22-26, seconded by Councilman White. No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for June 14, 2022

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to table the ARP Summary, seconded by Vice-president Hardaway.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to lift the tabled ARP Summary, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

Vice –President Hardaway made a motion to approve the ARP Summary as submitted.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Petitioner: Marine Corps League Howlin-mad Detachment

Owner: Marine Corps League Howlin-mad Detachment

Request: Approval for a Large Gathering Permit

Purpose: Grand Opening and Gathering for Veterans & Public

Location: 6880 Hendricks Street

Case #: SPE2022-00004

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborated towards the BZA Action.

Vice- President Hardaway made a motion to approve the BZA Action, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

Roll call vote 6-0

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

Petitioner: NWI Hindu Religious Center Inc.
Owner: NWI Hindu Religious Center Inc.
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: To Allow a LED Outdoor Message Center
Location: 8605 Merrillville Rd.
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z10Uv-0522

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborated towards the BZA Action.
Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve the BZA Action, seconded by Councilman White.
Roll call vote 6-0
No further questions or comments from the council.
Motion carried by voice vote

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman White informed the council that the owner from the Cross Road Plaza will be patching the potholes and fixing up the parking lot. Councilman White stated there will be a follow up in three weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Intermunicipal Storm water Detention Facilities Maintenance Agreement.
Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilman No Spann.
No further discussion from the council.
Motion Carried by voice vote.

Hubinger Planter Quote
Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve the Hubinger Planter Quote, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.
No further discussion from the council.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Madam Clerk-Treasurer thanked her office staff for stepping up while she was out of the office for medical reasons.


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Juneteenth Celebration June 18, 2022 from 12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Plan Commission Meeting June 21, 2022 6:30 P.M.
RDC Meeting June 28, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.
Town Council Meeting June 28, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Vice-President Hardaway, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac. Meeting

Adjourned.


Rick Bella, President


Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes Submitted By Britni Reillo