



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 22, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Gene Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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)

Councilman Pettit- (Ward 6)

President Bella- (Ward 5)

Five present (5) Two absent (2) Councilman Spann (Ward 1) Councilmen White (Ward 7)

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:
Letter from Town Engineering Administrator endorsing Core Construction's recommendation to approve payment for Application #27 to various vendors for work completed at the Merrillville Community Center.

Vice President Hardaway made a motion to table the Core Construction's recommendation, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

Councilman Pettit informed the council the RDC would like to further examine the specific line item and will table the recommendation.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Vice President Hardaway informed the council of a thank you letter received from Merrillville Intermediate School.

Councilman Pettit read a letter from President Bella sent to Executive Director Sandra Noe of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana.

Town Manager Reardon presented the "Town of Merrillville Employee of the Quarter" award to Public Works employee Kevin Markle.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval: March 22, 2022

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 08, 2022.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice President Hardaway.

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council the Budget & Finance Committee is creating various criteria for residents and businesses that were

affected by COVID-19 within the Town of Merrillville to receive grants. The next ARP meeting will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 3:30 P.M.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES- MINCHUK – No Report

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – No Report

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK- Councilman Minchuk informed the council there will be a public signing for a contract between the Fraternal Order of Police and the Town Of Merrillville at the April 12, 2022 Town Council meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Director Chilcott informed the council Big Lots will be fulfilling a spot at the Ameriplex Park.

Mr. Andrews of Crow Holdings informed the council that a lease has been secured with Big Lots. Mr. Andrews informed the council this will only be a furniture distribution center for the company.

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC- No Report

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – No Report

DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Parks Department Director Price informed the council The Dean & Barbara White Community Center held a wrestling meet that was televised on The Regions Sport Network which lasted from Friday March 18, 2022 - Sunday March 20, 2022. Monday, March 28, 2022 – Friday, April 1, 2022 there will be free spring break events for children of Merrillville schools. Monday, March 28, 2022 – Wednesday, March 30, 2022 from 10:00 A.M.- 3:00 P. M. Thursday, March 31, 2022 – Friday, April 1, 2022 from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Merrillville Youth Soccer will host open registration for the spring 2022 soccer season.

Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council of municipal night where students of Merrillville Intermediate School will have the opportunity to sit in as town council members during the May 10, 2022 Town Council Meeting. June 18, 2022 there will be a Juneteenth celebration. Vice President Hardaway informed the council of various 4th of July parade ideas. Vice President Hardaway informed the council of a national night out event held at the outside patio of the Dean & Barbara White Community Center Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Residents should bring their own grills and chairs the town will only provide a DJ and space.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE- No Report

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY– Vice President Hardaway informed the council the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will provide a Pandemic Relief Loan for \$10,000-\$100,000 for businesses within the respective areas. Further information for the loan can be gathered from Planning & Building Director Shine.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE- Director Lake informed the council the Risk Free Removal Project has been initiated for the Meadowdale area, which he has received good feedback. Director Lake informed the council Tuesday, March 22, 2022 the International Business Machines released a new notice of intent for their new MS4 stormwater permit which will replace rule 13 of the current stormwater ordinance. Director Lake informed the council due to various changes within the new MS4 the stormwater department will change various ordinances and resolutions to be in compliance with the International Business Machines. Director Lake is currently awaiting a response from the U.S. Force Service regarding grants for the urban forestry.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY– Mr. Reardon- Town Manager Reardon informed the council the Southshore Visitors and Convention Authority committee anticipates replacing their current President and CEO.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD-MINCHUK- No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Cuttino informed the council the Merrillville Police Department responded to a call at Merrillville High School regarding a planted device. No further details regarding such matter were able to be given. Police Chief Cuttino thanked both Dyer Police Department and County Police Department for their canine assistance.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances

First Readings: (Discussion and Roll Call)

Ordinance 22-10 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana to Vacate Certain Drainage and Utility Easements Generally Located East of Taft Street, North of 93rd Avenue and South Of 91st Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana.

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-10, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried with a roll call vote 5-2 absent.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to suspend the rules and read Ordinance 22-10 on 2nd and final reading, seconded by Councilman Minchuk

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried with a roll call vote 5-2 absent.

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

Ordinance 22-10 (Discussion, Public comment and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana to Vacate Certain Drainage and Utility Easements Generally Located East of Taft Street, North of 93rd Avenue and South Of 91st Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana.

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-10 on second reading, seconded by Vice President Hardaway.

President Bella asked if there was any public comment on this 2nd and final reading ordinance.

No questions or comment from the public.

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-2 absent

B. Resolutions: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

None

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for March 22, 2022.

Vice President Hardaway made a motion to approve the ARP Purchases payment voucher for March 22, 2022, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

No questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-2 absent

D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Petitioner: CEDRIC COLLINS

Owner: TIGER Group

Request: Special Exception Approval/Z1E1-0222

Purpose: OPERATE A PIANO AND MUSIC STUDIO ON SECOND FLOOR

Location: 7870 BROADWAY

Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District

Case #: Z1E1-0222

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborated towards the BZA Action.

Vice President Hardaway made a motion to approve the BZA Action, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

No further questions or comments from the council.
Motion approved with a roll call vote of 5-2 absent

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

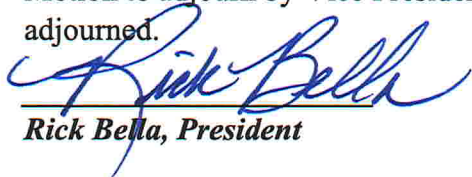
None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

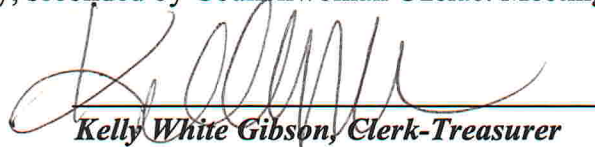
Town Council Meeting April 12, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

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