



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
October 25, 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 by Pastor Robert Szoke of Impact Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Vice-President Hardaway.

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 White – (Ward 7)

Councilman Spann- (Ward 1)

Councilman Pettit- (Ward 6)

President Bella- (Ward 5)

Five Present (5) and Two Absent (2) - Councilman Spann and Councilman White at Roll Call

Councilman Spann came in after roll call was taken.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Letter from Steve King: Recommendation to approve Core Payment #4 for Town Hall Conference Room.

President Bella informed the council that Core Payment #4 was approved at the RDC meeting.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Core Payment #4, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac in the amount of 29, 987.46.

No questions or comments from council

Motion carried by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for October 25, 2022

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2022

Councilwoman Uzelac made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

No questions or comments from council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – No Report

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES- MINCHUK – Councilman Minchuk informed the council a meeting must be scheduled with Public Works & Utilities to finalize open items. He will reach out to the council for some available dates by email.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION-PETTIT- Councilman Pettit informed the council 2022 General Election is two weeks away. He encouraged the community to go out and vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – Councilman White wasn't present at the meeting. Town Manager Reardon informed the council there was no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK- Councilman Minchuk informed the council that a Public Safety meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. He invited the entire council to the meeting to finalize negotiation with FOP and bring everything to closure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – No Report

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC – Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that Parks are well mowed and everything is in order.

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council there was a meeting with Code Enforcement last week to discuss some ordinance changes. He informed the council that Director Shine will get the information to Councilman Pettit so that his committee can look at what need to be change. Vice-President Hardaway also stated there need to be more direct language in the current ordinance. People are coming in the community doing what they like with no regard for the current ordinance.

DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Councilman Pettit deferred to Director Price. Director Price informed the council that Pop Warner Playoffs were occurring at Dean & Barbara White Community Center.

The Community Center also hosted the Midwest Juco/Prep Jamboree. Six teams participated at the Juco and Prep levels. College coaches came out to watch the players.

Safe School Week was also hosted at the Community Center with a gun turn in program rally on October 20, 2022 and another one will be held on October 29, 2022.

Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council that last week some staff and elected officials attended the Urban League Equity and Inclusion Conference Luncheon which was well attended. Vice-President Hardaway was appreciative of the Town's staff participation.

Vice-President Hardaway also informed the council on Thursday October 27, 2022 the staff and Elected Official will be attending the Ethics Summit at the Avalon in Merrillville, IN at 8:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M breakfast will be provided.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday November 25th at 6:00 P.M. at the Dean & Barbara White Community Center. Santa will be at the event. Donuts and hot chocolate will be served.

Vice-President Hardaway also informed the council that the Black McDonald's Owners Association will host a turkey giveaway at the McDonald's on 61st and Broadway on November 12, 2022. The turkeys will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. The Town of Merrillville is one of four locations selected. The other three are in Chicago.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the Town of Merrillville will be sponsoring a Christmas House Decorating Contest. There will be one house selected from each Ward. Vice-President Hardaway asked for volunteers from the council and department heads to be judges. The council volunteers will be prohibited from judging homes in their Ward. He also asked Town Manager Reardon to come up with an application for the contest. There will also be prizes for this contest.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE – Councilman White wasn't present at the meeting. No report was given.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that he's working to relocate the bus stop on Andrea's property and moved it to the Strack & Van Til's property.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE – Director Lake informed the council construction is being finalized on the Marsala Road drainage project. Dyer should be done within a few weeks. A change order will be done to add another 200 feet along 53rd Avenue while they're mobilized at the construction site. Director Lake thank everybody involve in the project.

Director Lake also informed the council the Kaiser Ditch Lateral Project has been advertised. He met with six contractors about the project. Director Lake stated that the process will be competitive.

Director Lake informed the council the Winfield finalize their drainage design for 101st Clay Street and can move forward with the project. The construction for Red Roof Inn dry detention basin conversion project is being finalized. This project is primarily for public safety.

Director Lake thanked the Parks Department for the joint effort in planting the thirty trees at Rosenbaum Parks.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY – Town Manager Reardon informed the council a meeting was held on October 20, 2022 with Board of Directors. Town Manager Reardon encourage the community to visit the Convention Center at 8094 Kennedy to see the parking lot improvements.

Town Manager Reader informed the council of the Partnership Network and Legislative Reception events coming up in November. We are considered members/partners of the Partnership Network. The Legislative Reception will be on November 10, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the Hard Rock Café. The Partnership Network Summit meeting will be held on November 16, 2022 at the Hard Rock Café. The time will be announced at a later date.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD- Minchuk – Councilman Minchuk informed the council there are no meetings scheduled.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/TOWN MANGER

Director Price informed the council there is confusion regarding the turkey giveaway on November 18, 2022 by a company who rented space at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. The renter, a law firm, is conducting the giveaway not the Parks Department. Director Price also stated that the Boys and Girls Club Christmas event is upcoming. A walk through for the event will be scheduled.

Chief Cuttino informed the council that Halloween is coming up and asking parents to assist kids going door to door during the Halloween hours which are 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. He also state that Officers and EMA will be out in the community to assist.

President Bella stated that EMA vehicles will also be out in the community.

Director Chilcott informed the council about the community video project. The filming of the project has wrapped. There were several challenges during filming, but a lot of great footage of the Town was obtained despite the weather. Director Chilcott thanked everyone who participated in the project. Many aspects of the Town of Merrillville will be showcased in the video including restaurants and local businesses. Director Chicloctt informed the council she looks forward to sharing the final product with everyone.

President Bella informed the council that he was with the production team and hearing the unscripted comments from businesses about the Town of Merrillville was nice to hear. President Bella looks forward to the video being available online.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances

First Readings: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Ordinance 22-25 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Appropriating Additional Monies Within the Various Fire Protection Territory Funds for the Year 2022 Not Included in the Current Budget.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-25, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by roll call vote 6-0

Ordinance 22-26 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing a Transfer of Monies Within the Fund of the Parks Department and an Additional Appropriation

Director Price informed the council Ordinance 22-26 is to ensure that all bills are paid at the end of the year 2022.

Councilman Pettit made a motion for approval of Ordinance 22-26, seconded by Councilman Spann.

No further discussion or comment.

Motion carries by roll call vote 6-0

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

Ordinance 22-24 (Discussion, Public Comment, and Roll Call Vote)

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance the Town of Merrillville, Indiana

President Bella stated Ordinance 22-24 was approved at the last meeting and replaces Ordinance 15-28. President Bella deferred to Director Lake to discuss the ordinance.

Director Lake informed the council that language was change was to maintain compliance. Ordinance 22-24 is almost identical to the existing Ordinance 15-28 with the exception of a few items. Director Lake also stated that Anita Nance from Indiana Department Natural Resource Division of Water reviewed the ordinance and this is the final product.

Councilman Pettit made a motion for approval of Ordinance 22-24, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

No further discussion or comment.

Motion carries by roll call vote 6-0

B. Resolutions: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution 22-71 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Lake County, Indiana, Transferring Monies of the 2022 Budget Within the CCD & General Fund.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-68, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac

No further questions or comments from the council

Motion carries by voice vote.

Resolution 22-72 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Lake County, Indiana, Transferring Monies of the 2022 Within the General fund.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-72, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

Resolution 22-73 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Lake County, Indiana, Concerning the Holiday Schedule for the calendar Year Of 2023.

Councilwoman Uzelac made a motion to approve Resolution 22-73, seconded by Councilman Spann.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for October 25, 2022

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the AP Voucher summary is \$212,342.39

Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve \$212,342.39, seconded by Councilman Spann

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carries by roll call vote 6-0

D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Director Shine informed the council there are no BZAs or Large Gathering Actions to report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No Plan Commission Workshop November 2, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Public Safety Meeting November 2, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

Town Council Meeting Wednesday November 9, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. – This meeting change is due to General Election Day being November 8, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

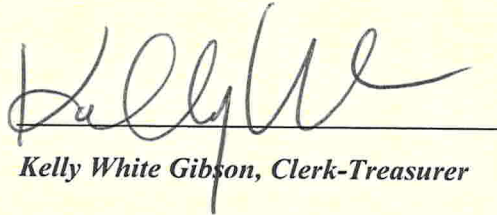
Motion to adjourn by Vice-President Hardaway, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by voice vote

Meeting Adjourned.



Rick Bella, President



Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes Submitted By Angela Lewis

