



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
November 22, 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 by Pastor Robert Szoke of Impact Church.

Pastor Szoke also thanked the Town of Merrillville for providing EMA services during Impact Church's coat distribution. A total of 800 winter coats were distributed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Vice-President Hardaway.

ROLL CALL – Roll Call was taken by Councilman Minchuk

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) President Bella and Councilwoman Uzelac

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Letter from Town Manager Patrick Reardon recommending approval of payment to various vendors for work completed at The Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the letter requesting payments to vendors from Town Manager Reardon, seconded by Councilman White.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council the payments are for Sounds Cool Live Audio LLC in the amount of 7,606.49 and Gough, Inc in the amount of 57,750.00 for a grand total of 65,356.49.

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for November 22, 2022
Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman White

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – No Report

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council a meeting occurred where five ordinances were reviewed. Councilman Pettit also informed the council he would like to call another Council Affairs meeting for Monday December 12th at 5:15 P.M. At this meeting, the committee is going

to check the editorial comments from the previous meeting and look over four more ordinances to bring to the council by the end of year.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES- MINCHUK – Councilman Minchuk informed the council about winter preparedness. When snow start falling, He requested that residents move their's cars to the driveway. This helps with snow removal from the streets.

Councilman Minchuk also informed the council while driving around the Town, he noticed that residents are still leaving branches and sticks in front on their houses on the street. The program for the removal of these items is closed. Residents must bring the branches and sticks to the Streets Department on 73rd Avenue for disposal.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION-PETTIT- Councilman Pettit informed the council that the Crossroads Regional Chamber Gala was well attended. Honor at the Gala was Police Officer of the Year Kwata Osborne and Firefighter of the Year Patrick Nawracaj. Councilman Pettit thanked everyone who attend for supporting the Chamber our business community.

Councilman Pettit also informed the council that The Town of Merrillville is accepting letters of interest for a variety of openings on the following boards and commission to begin serving in the calendar year 2023:

- Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners (2 Positions Available))
- Storm Water Management Board (1 Position Available)
- Planning Commission (2 Position Available)
- Board of Zoning Appeals (1 Position Available)

There may be other boards and commissions or residents' committees. Councilman Pettit encourages those who are interest in serving to submit a letter of interest addressed to:

Patrick Reardon, Town Manager
7820 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410

Councilman Pettit stated the letters can be mailed or hand delivery. Residents who are interested must live in the Town of Merrillville and a registered Republican or Democrat. If neither Republican or Democrat, Independent must be based on voting record. Political party must be included in the letter of interest. The letter of interest must be received in the Town Manager Office by Monday December 19, 2022,

Councilman Pettit also state that the Town of Merrillville is in the process of establishing an Engage Citizen Database where all respondents' names will be entered for consideration. Those not appointed to fill a current board or commission vacancy may be asked to participant on another committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – Councilman White informed the council that Covid-19 is still around, and a lot of people are becoming infected. He encouraged residents to get their booster.

He also informed the council there were 16 hospitalizations from Covid-19 and no deaths.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK- Councilman Minchuk informed the council the next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2023.

Councilman White informed the council that some action needs to be taking regarding gunshots in the community. His Ward is hearing continuous gunshots. He met with Assistant Chief Nuses regarding the problem that is a public safety issue.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council at the Redevelopment Commission meeting bids were open for Chicago Aerospace which will be located at Ameriplex Crossroads in the old field house building. Chicago Aerospace is purchasing two pieces of equipment at a total cost of 466,704.00. Town Manager Reardon will find out when the company is going to move in the building.

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC – No Report, Councilwoman Uzelac wasn't present at the meeting.

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – No Report

DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that bleachers are in and concrete work has been done. The sound system has been upgraded at the Weiss Family Field. Councilman Pettit deferred to Director Price for more updates regarding the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

Director Price added on Friday November 18th Leaner and Associates held a turkey giveaway at Dean and Barbara White Community Center. 750 Merrillville residents were given turkeys. The event was peaceful and organized. On the weekend on the November 18th and 19th, several sporting events were held at the Community Center. Director Price stated the schools like Hyatt Charter and Aquinas looks forward to having a gym for basketball practice. Hyatt Charter doesn't have a gym and Aquinas is being completed.

Director Price also stated he is preparing for the winter and making sure everything is in place for winterizing and snow removal.

Councilman Pettit state he would like the Dean & Barbara White Committee to have a joint meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee for Monday December 5, 2022, at 4:30 P.M. The meeting was scheduled.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (F & B TAX, DIVERSITY, 4TH of JULY CELEBRATION-

HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway elaborated on the turkey and coats giveaways events that occurred in the Town of Merrillville.

Vice-President Hardaway announced the Town of Merrillville will be having the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 25, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. Santa Clause will be at the event. Donuts and hot chocolate will be served.

Vice-President Hardaway reminded the council about the Holiday House Decorating Contest. The deadline to enter is December 14, 2022. Applications are available at Town Hall and online. The contest is open to all seven Wards. The prizes are a gift certificate, yard sign, and mantle sign. The council members will be judging each other's Wards.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE – Councilman White informed the council that a meeting was scheduled but had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday December 2, 2022.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY –

Councilman Hardaway informed the council that a meeting has been schedule with NIRPC for Thursday December 8, 2022.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE – Director Lake wasn't present. Vice-President Hardaway informed the council about complaints regarding Gary Sanitary District. He has reached out to the chairperson of Gary Sanitation District's board and Senator Melton to get resolution to some of the problems.

Councilman Pettit informed the council that he wanted to take a moment to thank Attorney Svetanoff and Director Lake for resolving the Sandpiper retention pond situation in Panhandle. All the documents are signed and the money is coming out of Stormwater.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY – Town Manager Reardon informed the council that the Legislative Reception event occurred on November 10, 2022.

Town Manager Reardon stated the board meeting was held on Thursday November 17, 2022. He also announced a Christmas event is scheduled for December 7, 2022, at the headquarters located on Kennedy Avenue and 80/94. The event is based on the Christmas Story by Gene Shepherd.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/TOWN MANGER

Director Shine stated she will elaborate during the BZA portion of the meeting.

Director Chilcott shared with the council project photos of the Crow Holdings Project and elaborated on the 225-million-dollar project consisting of five buildings covering 2.3 million square feet of space on 196 acres.

Councilman White suggested that the Town of Merrillville be informed about available jobs on projects.

Director King informed the council 2022 paving program is coming to end, and only minor striping needs to be done. Director Lake elaborated on several other projects that are coming to an end. He also stated the Christmas Tree had been cut down and moved to the Dean & Barbara White Community Center for

decorating. Director King informed the council that MCD is going to be doing a closure of Madison Street for three days and detours routes will be posted on the website.

Assistant Chief Nuses informed the council that officers have been assigned to address traffic issues in certain areas.

Councilman White asked Assistant Chief Nuses for a plan moving forward to address the gunshots in the Town of Merrillville that is problematic for the residents.

Director Price informed the council he has nothing to add to his previous report.

Town Manager Reardon informed the council he has nothing to add to his previous report.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances

First Readings: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Ordinance 22-27 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriation in the 2022 Casino Gaming Fund & 2022 Wheel Tax Revenue.

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to table Ordinance 22-27 because the numbers are incorrect, seconded by Councilman Pettit

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by vote voice.

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

Ordinance 22-26 (Discussion, Public Comment, and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing A Transfer of Monies Within the Funds of the Park Department and an Additional Appropriation.

Councilman Minchuk made a motion to table Ordinance 22-26, seconded by Councilman White.

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by vote voice.

B. Resolutions: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution 22-74 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

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

Councilman White made a motion to approve Resolution 22-74, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

Resolution 22-75 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

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

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-75, seconded by Councilman White.

No further questions or comments from council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for November 22, 2022

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the AP Voucher summary is 68,309.75

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve 68,309.75, seconded by Councilman White.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that applications will continue to be accepted for ARP grants.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carries by voice vote.

D. BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Petitioner: Daniel Sharrer
Owner: Alnimer LLC Capital Investment Funding
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: To Allow a Used Car Dealership
Location: 6491 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborate towards the BZA Action

Councilman White informed the council that he is requesting conditional approval for six months, then one year for Alnimer LLC Capital Investment.

Councilman White made a motion to approve the BZA Action with conditions, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

Councilman Minchuk stated that Alnimer LLC Capital Investment Funding is required to keep the limit to 300 cars. The business also must make sure enough lighting and security cameras are installed.

Motion carries by roll call vote 5-0

Petitioner: Next Level Events
Owner: Chicago Capital
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: To Allow an Event Space
Location: 5416 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborate towards the BZA Action.

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that he is requesting that security be present at all the events of Next Level Events. He also would like a 6 months and 12 months review of Next Level Events.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the BZA Action with a six months and 12 months review along with the conditions BZA placed on Next Level Events, second by Councilman Manchuk.

Motion carries by roll call vote 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Pettit informed the council that Andrean High School won their semi-state game. He asked Assistant Chief Nesus to make sure the team get a full police/fire escort out of town.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to place a moratorium on used car lots along the Broadway Corridor in Merrillville, Indiana, seconded by Councilman White.

Motion carries by roll call vote.

Councilman Minchuk congratulated Andrean High School on the semi-state win. He also elaborated on more sports teams.

NEW BUSINESS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Buildings will be closed for Thanksgiving November 24th and 25th

Christmas Tree Lighting November 25th at 6:00 P.M. @ the Dean & Barbara White Community Center

Public Safety Meeting December 1st at 4:00 P.M.

Dean and Barbara White Community Center & Budget and Finance Monday December 5th 4:30 P.M.

Town Council Workshop December 6th 4:30 P.M.

Plan Commission Meeting December 6th at 6:30 P.M.

Council Affairs Committee Meeting December 12th 5:15 P.M.

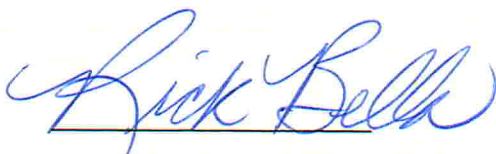
American Rescue Plan (ARP) Meeting December 12th 4:30 P.M.

Town Council Meeting December 13th at 6:30 P. M.

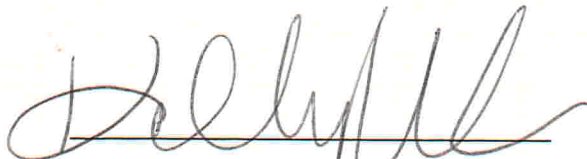
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion and seconded were made.

Meeting Adjourned.



Rick Bella, President



Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes Submitted By Angela Lewis