



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 12, 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 EMA Director Minchuk

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 Pettit- (Ward 6)

President Bella- (Ward 5)

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

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

The Merrillville Police Department presented a plaque to the following EMA Volunteers to show their appreciation for the EMA Volunteers hard work and dedication.

John Minchuk

Don Baron

Theodore Gray

Frank Arambula

Major Moore

Keith Shoulder

Jerome Spencer

Ricky Houston

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for July 12, 2022

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2022

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

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the committee has considered \$90,995.79 for the grant application and has awarded \$36,207.50 to businesses and residents. Vice-President Hardaway stated that he urges businesses and residents to apply for the grant program that it is a great opportunity. Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that all department heads should prepare their budgets for next year with the worksheets Trista sent out. July 25, 2022 the committee members will meet with Trista and review the worksheets.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES- MINCHUK – Councilman Minchuk informed the council that he will be sitting down with the street committee sometime next week. Councilman Minchuk also informed the council that there are still four open positions available in the Public Works Department.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION-PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that there still has not been an available time for a workshop to discuss the entryways. Councilman Pettit stated once he has any information he will give that information to Town Manager Reardon.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – Councilman White informed the council that he has recently been researching the reports from the CDC. Councilman White informed the council that the CDC would like to see things at a “community level”. Councilman White also stated the CDC will be monitoring the amount of hospital beds that are in use from Covid-19.

Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that there was one death for northwest Indiana due to Covid-19 and ten throughout the whole state. Councilwoman Uzelac stated although the numbers have decreased people still need to be cautious.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that all if the department heads are interested there will be training July 28, 2022 at the Dean & Barbra White Community Center. This training will be put on by the Chief equity inclusion and opportunity officer from Governor Holcomb’s administration.

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK – Councilman Minchuk informed the council that he had a sit down meeting with the assistant chief to discuss plans for the future and near future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that there was an economic development commission meeting prior to the Town Council meeting. The meeting was to approve a resolution for an economic revenue bond. Councilman Pettit also stated there is a companion resolution on the agenda for today’s meeting along with several tax abatement.

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC – Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that the parks are up to par with mowing of the grass and all the swings maintained. Councilwoman Uzelac also stated that she and Director Price have been in contact about a children’s party that will take place at Rosenbaum Park on July 22, 2022.

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – No Report

DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that himself, Councilman White and Councilman Minchuk need to sit with Director Price and have a committee meeting. Councilman Pettit stated the meeting would be to go through a couple of items that Councilman Minchuk has been working on. Councilman Pettit also stated that he will find a time and date that works for everyone. Councilman Pettit informed the council that there have been many successful events at the Dean and Barbra White Community Center.

Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY – Vice President Hardaway informed the council that July 21, 2022 from 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. will be the annual job fair at the Dean & Barbra White Community Center. Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the July 4th fireworks that took place on July 3rd went great. Vice-President Hardaway thanked the Merrillville Fire Department and the Merrillville Police Department for being there. Vice-President Hardaway stated that the July 4th parade was a great event with over thirty entries. August 2, 2022 is National Night Out at the Dean & Barbra White Community Center from

5:00P.M. – 8:00P.M. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and grills to this big community event.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE- Councilman White informed the council that the committee meets monthly so next town council meeting he will have a report.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY- No Report

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE- Director Lake informed the council that once every permit cycle there is an intense audit from the IDM. Director Lake stated the audit went very well and Storm water will continue with their program. Director Lake also informed the council that the Marsala road drainage improvement project is now out for bid.

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY- Town Manager Reardon informed the council that new President and CEO David Uran has transitioned from the Mayor of Crown Point Indiana to the South Shore Convention Visitors bureau with relative ease. Manager Reardon also stated the bureau is participating and working collaboratively with the City of Hammond for their august fest program.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD- Minchuk- Councilman Michuk informed the council that there was a fire territory meeting, were the budget for this year was approved. Councilman Minchuk also stated at the meeting they were going over some just housekeeping items.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assistant Chief Nuses informed the council that the summer has been very busy for the Merrillville Police Department. Chief Nuses stated that calls of service have increased there was approximately 3,100 calls for service for the month of May. Chief Nuses informed the council that the Police Department looks forward to interacting with the public.

Director Price informed the council that summer events have officially finished; there was a tribute band to Jimmy Buffett that played Saturday (July 9, 2022). Director Price stated he's looking forward to the fall and 2023 event planning.

Director Chilcott informed the council that economic development looks forward to the second annual job fair. Director Chilcott also stated that there will be over fifty companies in attendance for the job fair on July 21, 2022 at the Dean & Barbra White Community Center. Director Chilcott publicly thanked Crow Holdings and Missner Group for their sponsorship donation towards the prize giveaways. Director Chilcott also publicly thanked the multiple businesses within the community for their various items that were donated.

Director Shine informed the council that she would like to thank the residents in the Town of Merrillville for complying with getting their building permits for their home improvements. Director Shine stated Planning & Building had over 200 building permits for multiple home improvements.

Director King informed the council that he would like to publicly thank the Public Works staff for their hard work on the July 3rd and July 4th events. Director King stated those employees gave up time with their families over the holiday weekend to make this event possible. Director King informed the council that the Public Works Department will be ready for next year's events. Director King stated that Town Hall will not have power on July 16, 2022 from 7:00A.M. - 10:00A.M. due to the initial startup of the generator.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances

First Readings: (Discussion and Roll Call)

Ordinance 22-18 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of the Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriations in the 2022 Road Bond A & B Funds.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-18, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

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

Ordinance 22-15 (Discussion, Public Comment 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 Minchuk made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-15, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

Councilman Minchuk elaborated towards Ordinance 22-15.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Ordinance 22-16 (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Authorizing The Issuance Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Including Bond Anticipation Notes) And Approving And Authorizing Other Actions In Respect Thereto.

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Ordinance 22-16.

Councilman Pettit made motion to approve Ordinance 22-16, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

B. Resolutions: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution 22-39 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (86th Place Partners LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated about Resolution 22-39

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-39, seconded by councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-1 absent, 1 abstention.

Resolution 22-40 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Regarding Waiver of Non-Compliance (86th Place Partners LLC)

Councilman Pettit and Town Manager Reardon elaborated towards Resolution 22-40.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-40, seconded by Councilwoman Uzleac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-41 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Broadway Outlots LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-41.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-41, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-42 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Keough Enterprises, LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-42.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-42, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-43 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana Confirmatory Resolution for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area (Modern Forge Indiana, LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-43.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-43, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent

Resolution 22-44 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Indiana Land Ameriplex, LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-44.

Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve Resolution 22-44, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-1 absent, 1 abstention.

Resolution 22-45 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Indiana Land 26, LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-45.

Councilman Pettit made a motion Resolution 22-45, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-46 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Indiana Land 11, LLC)

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

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-47 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (Indiana Land 5, LLC)

Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve Resolution 22-47, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

Resolution 22-48 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

Resolution Confirming the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving the Deduction from Assessed Value of New Real Property Improvements (TMG WC Mississippi, LLC)

Councilman Pettit elaborated towards Resolution 22-48.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-48, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1 absent.

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for July 12, 2022

Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve AP Voucher Register Summary, seconded by Councilman Pettit.

Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission Meeting Tuesday July 19, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Town of Merrillville Annual Job Fair July 21, 2022 from 11:00A.M. - 3:00P.M. At the Dean & Barbra White Community Center

Redevelopment Commission Meeting on July 26, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

Town Council Meeting July 26, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Pettit, seconded by Councilman White. Meeting Adjourned.


Rick Bella, President


Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes Submitted By Britni Reillo