



**Town of Merrillville**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 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 Robyn Johnson.

Present were: Vice-President Hardaway- (Ward 2)

Councilmen Minchuk- (Ward 3)

Councilwoman Uzelac- (Ward 4)

Councilmen Pettit- (Ward 6)

President Bella- (Ward 5)

Councilmen Spann (Ward 1)

Councilmen White (Ward 7)

Seven Present (7)

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

Letter from Town Engineering Administrator endorsing Core Construction's recommendation to approve payment for Application #2 to various vendors for work completed at the Merrillville Town Hall Conference Room.

Vice-president Hardaway made a motion to approve Application #2, seconded by Councilwomen Uzelac.

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval: May 24, 2022

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022.

Councilwomen Uzelac made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilmen Pettit.

No discussion from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY** – Vice President Hardaway informed the council there was a Grant Application meeting on May 24, 2022 for the approval of the application for Griffin Realty. Griffin Realty was looking for \$6,900 for the parking lot to be striped and ready; they will be given half the amount. Vice-President Hardaway also informed the council that department heads should be prepared towards the end of June there will be meetings for the 2023 budget.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT** – Councilmen Pettit informed the council that Attorney Svetanoff and himself would like to present a draft of the Chapter 2 changes to the bylaws at the next workshop.



President Bella asked the council if June 8, 2022 worked for everyone for the workshop.

***PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES- MINCHUK – No Report***

***ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION-PETTIT-*** Councilmen Pettit informed the council that the Arch Group has come up with an interesting concept for 61<sup>st</sup> and I-65, US-30 and I-65 and 93<sup>rd</sup> or 101<sup>st</sup> and I-65. Councilmen Pettit also informed the council he would like to present this as well at the upcoming workshop.

***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE*** – Councilmen White informed the council that Lake County has 841 new cases of Covid-19. Councilmen White stated the infection rate is 1.1% as well as 65% of people has one shot, 25% of Lake County has the booster shot and 97.5% of Indiana is fully vaccinated.

Councilwomen Uzelac informed the council there was 1 death in Lake County and 1 death in Porter County from Covid-19. Councilwomen Uzelac also stated that Northwestern University published a report stating that “This is the worst virus we have had in 100 years.”

***PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY*** – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that there will be 3 permanent positions open after summer.

***PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK-*** Councilmen Minchuk informed the council there will be a meeting Thursday May 26, 2022. Councilmen Minchuk also stated they contract signed with the FOP was for one year and he will be looking at the contract again, the FOP did reach out and he will inform the council on what is being talked about.

***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT*** – Director Pettit informed the council that on the agenda for tonight’s meeting there is a resolution which is the third step in creating he sub-allocation area.

***PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC-*** Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that the mowing is done for all the parks and bike trails. Councilwomen Uzelac also informed Director Prince that she received a call from a lady who would like to have a party at Rosenbalm Park with a fire truck there in July.

***ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY*** – Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the grass is looking horrible shape. Vice-President Hardaway also stated he’s been in contact with Director Bunnell about warnings.

***DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT*** – Councilman Pettit informed the council there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday May 25, 2022 to go over things with Director Price.

***Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity) – HARDAWAY*** – Vice President Hardaway informed the council that the Juneteenth celebration is in the final stages of planning. There are 28 vendors so far and the logistical part is complete. Fourth of July fireworks will be set off at the high school July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the parade will be on July 4, 2022 at 1:30 P.M. Once the Juneteenth celebration is complete plans for National Night Out will start to begin.

***DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS***

***LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE-*** Councilmen white informed the council that the Lake County solid waste district held their first in-person meeting Thursday May 19, 2022 due to Covid-19.

***NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY-*** Vice President Hardaway informed the council they had met Thursday May 19, 2022 in the executive session. Vice-President Hardaway also stated the federal government is going to start to put out 500,000 charging stations throughout highways. The charging stations will not be at any rest areas but in strategic places on the interstate. The state of Indot is also giving away 14,000 bicycle helmets to second graders. Indot will allow the license plate reader as long as there is a permit approved by them.

***STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE-*** Director Lake informed the council Robinson engineering finished the field survey work for the southmoor park drainage improvement. That is phase two, Director Lake stated he’s trying to time this so that were in step with the MCD’S Wednesday May 25, 2022 Director Lake has a meeting with DLZ to go over the



technical things for the Marcela road project. Director Lake stated he's seeing numbers go up 3 to 4 times what they used to be with contractors.

***SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY– Mr. Reardon-*** Town Manager Reardon informed the council that he encourages the council to access southshore.com to learn about the numerous activities. The most recent meeting on May 19, 2022 was with the new president and CEO David Moran (former Mayor of Crown Point, Indiana).

***FIRE TERRITORY BOARD-MINCHUK-*** Councilmen Minchuk informed the council that there is currently no meetings scheduled. Councilmen Minchuk also stated that he wanted to give everyone an update on the future dog park. Cost for supplies are skyrocketing which meaning the cost of project went up, he back to the drawing board and eliminating things that could be added to later. Throughout the rest of summer and year the sponsorship campaign is being worked on and will start soon. Councilmen Minchuk said the dog park will happen it will just take time.

#### ***DEPARTMENT REPORTS***

Police Chief Cuttino informed the council that the Police Department did retrieve their items when they were taken down at the north end. Chief Cuttino also stated that it is summer and the calls of service have increased. For the month of April 2022 there was 2500 calls, chief also stated that school is going to be out soon so we need to be mindful when driving on the street.

Director Price informed the council that June 4, 2022 in partnership with pop warner football there will be a movie night at the Dean & Barbara White Community Center from 7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. June 11<sup>th</sup> Cal & The Teachers band will be performing at the Pruzin Center there will be food trucks and a variety of things there. June 25, 2022 there will be Solid Players playing at the Pruzin Center. Director Price also stated the website is still being worked on and progress has been made, you can now pre-register and view other things.

Director Bunnell informed the council that it is grass season and so far as of May 24, 2022 there have been 235 written warnings. Director Bunnell also stated that with those warnings come with rechecks then after that it has to be handled accordingly.

Director Chilcott informed the council that her staff and she attended a development course hosted by ICI at Ball State University. Director Chilcott stated it only increased their knowledge not only in economic development but community development as well. Director Chilcott did also mention the job fair is July 21, 2022.

Director Shine informed the council that the fire inspector has been actively trying to target businesses in town that do not have a business license. Director Shine also stated last week there was over 20 business license done for people who were already operating without a license.

Director King informed the council that public works is very busy with still doing branch pickup throughout the town. Director King stated Juneteenth signs will start to go up May 25, 2022 rain or shine the signs will be up. The Broadway sidewalk project was supposed to start May 24, 2022 but it did not so Director King will find out why it was not started. Director King also informed the council the local paving program contracts were signed today May 24, 2022. There is a pre-construction meeting May 25, 2022 at 1:30 P.M.

#### ***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 22-21 (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville Approving the Issuance of Redevelopment District Tax Increment Revenue Bonds of the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and Related Matters

Councilmen Pettit made a motion to table Resolution 22-21, seconded by Councilmen White.

Motion carried with a roll call vote of 7-0.

##### **Resolution 22-22 (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving an Order of the Town of Merrillville Plan Commission Approving a Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Redevelopment Commission.

Councilmen Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-22, seconded by Councilmen Minchuk.

Councilmen Pettit informed the council that this resolution is the 3 out of 4 that needs to be done to add the silos at sanders farm into its own separate sub-allocation. Councilmen Pettit stated they will be infrastructure eventually as well as the public safety facility.

Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

***C. American Rescue Plan***

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for May 24, 2022

Vice President Hardaway made a motion to approve the ARP Purchases payment voucher for May 24, 2022, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

No questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote.

***D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS***

***OLD BUSINESS***

None

***NEW BUSINESS***

None

***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***


Town Council Meeting June 14, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

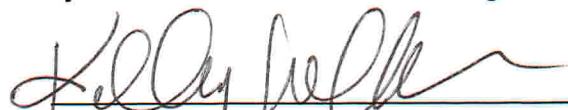
Vacant & Abandoned Properties. Meeting May 27, 2022 at 10:30 A.M.

President Bella will advise the council when the workshop date will be.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

Motion to adjourn by Councilman White, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac. Meeting adjourned.

  
Rick Bella, President

  
Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

***Minutes Submitted By Britni Reillo***