



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 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 any veteran in attendance.

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)

Seven Present (7)

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Swearing in of new Merrillville Police Officer Amanda Lynn Earley

Madam Clerk-Treasurer swore in new Merrillville Police officer Amanda Lynn Earley.

Councilman Pettit read the letter request for fee reduction.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for August 23, 2022

Approval of Amended Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022

Approval for Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2022

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE- HARDAWAY – No Report

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITES- MINCHUK – No Report

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- WHITE – Councilman White informed the council that the CDC shows that Lake County is at a medium rate for Covid-19. Councilman White also stated

that Lake County is still at a 19% positivity rate. There are currently 461 Merrillville residents who have tested positive for Covid -19 (not including at home testing). Councilman White also informed the council that there are currently 62 hospitalized due to Covid-19 and there were 4 deaths for Lake County.

Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that she encourages residents to get their Covid-19 vaccine. Councilwoman Uzelac also stated there will soon be a second booster shot available.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY- MINCHUK- No Report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that August 23, 2022 was the groundbreaking for Silos Sanders farm, the 195 acre industrial park on each side of Mississippi. Councilman Pettit also stated that the Sanders family was there as well as Vice-President Hardaway, Councilman White, Town Manager Reardon, Congressman Marvan and himself. Councilman Pettit also informed the council that Crow holdings are already expecting walls next week for the first building. Councilman Pettit stated Crow Holdings “Does not mess around” and he is very excited that this will be the second largest industrial park in the Town of Merrillville.

PARKS & RECREATION- UZELAC- Councilwoman Uzelac informed the council that she has received a few complaints on 74th and Hendricks which is the Hendricks Park. Councilwoman Uzelac stated that there is a field behind the park and that field has been mowed by the town for many years. As of right now they are not mowing because it belongs to a private owner but unfortunately nobody cannot find out who the owner is. Councilwoman Uzelac stated the residents would like for the town to continue to mow it.

ABANDONED -BLIGHTED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY – No Report

DEAN& BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER-MINCHUK & PETTIT – Councilman Pettit informed the council that there is a committee meeting on Thursday August 25, 2022 at 5:00P.M. At the Dean & Barbra White Community Center.

Special Projects (F & B Tax, Diversity, 4th of July Celebration) – HARDAWAY – No Report

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-WHITE- No Report

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY– No Report

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE- No Report

SOUTHSHORE VISITORS AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY– No Report

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD- SPANN- No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Cuttino informed the council that the summer months have been very busy for Merrillville Police Department. Chief Cuttino stated there have been 4,000 plus calls of service and 476 traffic stop violations.

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 22-56 (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution Authorizing the Donation of Certain Real Estate to Another Governmental Entity, and All Matters Related Thereto.

Attorney Svetanoff elaborated towards Resolution 22-56.

President Bella stated for the recorded the exact address is 910 W 66th Ave.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-56, seconded by Vice-President Hardaway.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution 22-57 (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 Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution 22-57, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

No further discussion from the council

Motion carried by voice vote.

C. American Rescue Plan

AP Voucher Register Summary for ARP Purchases for June 14, 2022

Vice-President Hardaway informed the council that the AP Voucher Register Summary total is \$208,826.50

Vice-President Hardaway made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1

D. BZA Actions & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS

Applicant: Amy McDunn

Owner: Food Bank of North West Indiana

Request: Approval for a Large Gathering Permit- Ride the Region

Purpose: Organizational Fundraiser

Location: 6490 Broadway

Date: September 3, 2022 from 12:00P.M.-2:00P.M.

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborated towards the BZA Action.

Vice- President Hardaway made a motion to approve the BZA Action, seconded by Councilman Minchuk.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

Applicant: Adam Espinoza

Owner: Pepe's off Broadway

Request: Approval for a Large Gathering Permit- Mexican Independence Day

Purpose: Mexican Independence Day Celebration

Location: 260 E 84th Dr

Date: September 10, 2022 from 4:00P.M.-10:00P.M.

Planning and Building Director Shine elaborated towards the BZA Action.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to approve the BZA Action, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac.

No further questions or comments from the council.

Motion carried by voice vote

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman White informed the council that he wanted to speak about the last Town Council Meeting. Councilman White stated he wanted to have the record show he did not like what was said and does not agree with the Civility Ordinance. Councilman White stated that he was not on the council at the time this Ordinance was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Workshop September 6, 2022 at 4:30 P.M.

Town Council Meeting September 13, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

F.O.P Duck Race September 24, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by White, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac, Meeting Adjourned.


Rick Bella, President


Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes Submitted By Britni Reillo

