

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
July 9, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Uzleac was absent. All other members were present.

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

Mr. Hardaway said a first order of business is the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing regarding a preliminary determination to issue general obligation bonds of the town in the principal amount not to exceed 12, 00,000 (the general obligation bonds) and or enter into a lease (the lease) with a non-profit building corporation to be established for the purpose of providing funds to pay for a portion of the costs of a community center project. Mr. Hardaway said the public hearing is opened discussion followed. There were some public comments. Mrs. Barron made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway said State Representative Vernon Smith was present he gave some information about the Legislative Session that was held January thru April. Mr. Smith said he was honored to serve the residents of the town of Merrillville.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated July 9, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2019. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mrs. Barron said a Budget and Finance meeting will held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Minchuk said tonight we will award the bid for the Whitcomb Street Project 2 bids were submitted and they were from Walsh and Kelly, Reith and Riley.

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to award the bid to Walsh & Kelly for the project and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Ms. LaMarca asked that the council review the new animal ordinance that she provided.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Pettit said there are 2 important hires that need to be reviewed tonight Town Manager, Town Engineer.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the hire of Mr. King for Town Engineer and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the hire of Mr. Reardon for Town Manager and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway congratulated both candidates and said he looks forward to working with them.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca thanked Ms. Olrich and staff for the wonderful job they did with the Independence Parade this year.

Ms. Olrich said she needs the council to pick a date for the Budget Workshop for the Master Plan. Ms. Olrich said that the Northwest Indiana Times is going to promote the concert that is being sponsored by Centier Bank this year. Ms. Olrich said she received the Liability Insurance Certificate for the food vendors for the summer concerts. Ms. Olrich said the Savannah Ridge playground is in once everything is ready they will work with Public Works on the installation of the equipment. Ms. Olrich said the gateway signage in the town has been taken care of by the parks department. Ms. Olrich thanked the Public Works department for helping the park staffs clean up the medians and adding mulch to them. Ms. Olrich wanted to also thank Turkey Creek Golf course and Lake County Parks for

offering us 3 golf karts to help shutter any handicaps people attending the concerts that will need assistance to and from the parking lot.

Mr. Hardaway said that he read the article in the paper and said it was a great ad with this ad it should be a great turn out for the summer concerts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Barron had no report and referred to Mr. Lake for a report. Mr. Lake said at the last Stormwater meeting the bids opened up for Taft Box Covert project and the bid was awarded to Dyer Construction once bid is reviewed the project will begin within the month. Mr. Lake said we are also soliciting quotes for the drainage improvements for Lake Wood Estate subdivision these small improvements should make a big difference. Mr. Lake said he will be submitting an application for restoration funding this week and is a non-matching grant if awarded the funds will be used for the green street project on Marcella Road in addition to Pennsylvania Street.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mr. Spann said Nipsco is out clearing trees that are near the powerlines over on 65<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hardaway addressed Mr. Spann about some work that was done by some utility personal on 56<sup>th</sup> Place and Harrison that was no completed. Mr. Hardaway asked Mr. Spann if he can get together with Mr. Spires to have that area taken care of.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 19-22:**

A Resolution authorizing the deposal of certain real estate and all matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 19-24:**

Resolution of the Town council of the Town of Merrillville Indiana making preliminary determination to issue bond or enter into lease. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Willy Okwara  
**Owner:** Broadway Place II, LLC  
**Request:** Special Exception Approval  
**Purpose:** For an Adult Daycare Center  
**Location:** 6051 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District  
**Case #:** Z23E14-0619  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only, at this location only, and for this use only

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** Ibrahim K. Musleh  
**Owner:** Broadway Place II, LLC  
**Request:** Special Exception Approval  
**Purpose:** For a used car dealership  
**Location:** 7809 Taft Street  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District  
**Case #:** Z24E1-0619  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only, at this location only, and for this use only, petitioner is aware of security camera Ordinance 18-10. Petitioner has also provided town attorney a copy of the lease.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Plan Commission workshop, August 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.  
Environmental Resource meeting, July 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, July 23, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Barron.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**