

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
May 12, 2015

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

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Randy Scott – Pentecostals of South Lake

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Miano and Mr. Widing were absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

Ms. Gregor read a letter from Mr. Shudick requesting the waiver of permit fees for the renovation of the Social Center located at Hidden Lake Park. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit with conditions that they will still be responsible to pay inspection fees. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk stated there was a Proclamation for “Arbor Day”. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway commented to recognize National Nurse’s week May 6th-12<sup>th</sup>.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 12, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Interlocal Agreement between City of Crown Point and the Town of Merrillville for the reconstruction of 93rd Ave & Chase St intersection improvement project. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. Mrs. Barron expressed her appreciation & excitement for this project. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Widing was absent, no report. The council thanked the Merrillville Police department for an excellent job regarding the incident that occurred on May 6, 2015.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Ms. Orlich announced that the Arbor Day celebration will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015. Mr. Spann will be reading the Proclamation. Ms. Orlich went on to thank multiple merchants for the donations of trees that will be planted.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Lake was absent, no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit announced that Walsh & Kelly was awarded the contract for the 79<sup>th</sup> Ave project.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron announced that the Caps Program will continue. The plastic caps can be dropped off at the following locations:

1) Pruzin Center located at 5750 Tyler Place. The hours are from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At this location there is not an outside bin. Please drop them off at the office.

2) Stormwater Utility located at 7404 Broadway. The hours are from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At this location there is an outside drop-off bin on the west end of the building. Please use the drop-off bin only.

We have collected enough caps for a total of 9 benches so far!

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

Mr. Hardaway announced that we have identified two more vacant homes located at 5401 & 5411 Mary Ann Lane. Mr. Bushemi has made contact with the Asset companies for these homes as well as others that we have identified. We will continue to move forward with the process in an effort to gain access to these properties and eventually turn them over to Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Hardaway expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bushemi for pursuing this matter.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-11:** An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the 2014 GO Bond/Contractual of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-12:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana to establish hotel and motel safe occupancy. Mr. Bushemi presented the council with an amended version of ordinance 15-12 for second reading. The amendment indicates that the ordinance shall take effect the date of its publication which shall occur within thirty (30) days after its passage. This amendment will allow enough time for the ordinance to be properly published. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no further discussion. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 3-2 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res 15-12:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Town Court Probation Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Hardaway requested to have a workshop or a meeting organized to discuss the possibility of a Shared Ethics Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Goralczyk stated that Mr. Herzog, Chairman of Lake County Solid Waste, as well as the new Executive Director, John Minear were in the audience at the council meeting. Mr. Goralczyk encouraged everyone to stop by the office and meet the new director personally.

**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 meeting, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, May 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.  
Town Hall closed except for emergency services on Monday, May 25, 2015  
in observance of Memorial Day.  
Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.  
Town Council meeting, May 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

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Tom Goralczyk, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer