

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Pettit read the Proclamation for the Andean Boys' Basketball Team honoring the boys for their accomplishment on becoming State Champions. Mr. Pettit congratulated the team and their families for all their hard work and dedication it was an amazing season.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated April 9, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk said he has the Survey Agreement for Broadway sidewalks for the following locations 73rd to U.S. 30 Federal Funding have been approved for the project. Mr. Minchuk said funding will only cover one side but the survey provided for both sidewalks for future projects cost. Some discussion followed.

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve the Survey Agreement for Broadway sidewalks from 73rd to U.S. 30 and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote

Mrs. Uzelac addressed Mr. Spires on when they will pave West 73rd Avenue. Mr. Spires said that will be done sometime in July.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Pettit said they are accepting outside resume for the Town Manager and Engineer positions until the end of May.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to elevate Mrs. Shine position to Planning Director and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report and referred to Ms. Olrich for a report. Ms. Olrich wanted to update the council on the board walk at the Pruzin Center heaved due to the winter weather there is a construction company there repairing the issues. Ms. Olrich announced the first design meeting tomorrow that is being held in Schererville at Core Construction. Ms. Olrich said on April 11th there will be a Senior Citizens Focus group for the Master Plan the first meeting will be held on April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Ms. Olrich said Savannah Ride Park is receiving bids for the decking that was damaged during the winter season once the bids are all received she will meet up with Mr. Minchuk for design selection. Some discussion followed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron had no report and referred to Mr. Lake for a report. Mr. Lake said with the weather breaking contractors can now get out and complete jobs that they could not be finish in the winter season. Mr. Lake mentioned that Merrillville was ranked the highest in the State of Indiana for our Community Rating System.

Mr. Hardaway said with this ranking the residents that live in flood zones can have their Flood Insurance premiums at a 15% discount.

Mr. Pettit said he was driving south on Broadway in Mrs. Barron ward there is a ditch near the eye doctor office that the State will be replacing that covert underneath Broadway.

Mr. Spires confirmed that the State will be replacing the covert underneath Broadway the road will not be shut down but it will be down to one lane no dates have been set on when this project will begin. Some discussion followed.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac said she wanted to remind residents that there will be a Local County Election on May 7th from 6:00 a.m-6:00 p.m. Mrs. Uzleac also wanted to thank Mr. McDemott for cleaning up Whitcomb Street they did a very good job. Mr. Pettit addressed Mr. Spires about the bags on Whitcomb that still need to be picked up. Mr. Spires said that it has been taken care of.

Mr. Pettit said if there is a Plan Commission Workshop in May it needs to be rescheduled for Wednesday May 8th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said he called an Economic Development Committee meeting for 6:00 p.m. Tuesday the 16th before the Planning Commission also invited Planning Commission members. Mr. Pettit said there is a Tax Abatement request for a project located between Mississippi and I-65. Mr. Pettit said he and the chamber will listen to the petition and forward it to the council for action.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to instruct the town attorney to advertise under the public sale of lands for up to 4 acres for the sale of development multi- purpose gymnasium for volleyball and basketball and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion. The motion carried with 4 yes 2 no and 1 abstain vote.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 19-10:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the 2018 Go Bond fund for the year 2019 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 19-08:

A Resolution authorizing and approving appointment of appraisers and acquisition of certain real estate, and all matters related thereto. Mrs. Barron 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.

Res. 19-09:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, approving certain matters in connection with the establishment of an economic development area and an allocation area and the approval of an economic development plan said area. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

- Petitioner:** Lashion Davis and Mark Knox
- Owner:** Lake County Trust #33
- Request:** Special exception approval
- Purpose:** Proposed martial arts center and karate school
- Location:** 27 West 80th Place
- Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial
- Case #:** Z6E6-0219
- Conditions:** For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only security camera per Town Ordinance.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Vanadco Signs
Owner: Centier Bank
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: Proposed electronic message center
Location: 8310 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z10uV-0319
Conditions: Centier Bank will advertise town events when requested.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: 8450 Broadway LLC
Owner: Direct Buy Home Improvement, Inc.
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: Proposed climate controlled self-storage
Location: 8450 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z15uV4-0319
Conditions: Petitioner is aware of security camera Ordinance 18-10.

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

Petitioner: Boyer Properties, Inc.
Owner: 1710 West LLC
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow the sales services of vehicles equipped to assist handicapped individuals
Location: 1710 West 81st Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z16E9-0319
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only. Petitioner is aware of security camera Ordinance 18-10.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. 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.

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:

Economic Development Commission meeting April 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Plan Commission meeting, April 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Resource Commission meeting April 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Abandoned Blight Properties Commission meeting, April 18, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services) April 19, 2019 in observance of Good Friday

Redevelopment Commission meeting April 23, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Town Council meeting, April 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer