

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Deacon Rob Litavec- St. Stephen the Martyr

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLLCALL: Mr. Pettit and Mr. Widing were absent and all other members present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Mrs. Miano discussed the meeting she had with Pete Visclosky regarding the railroad tracks on Madison & 64th and 62nd & Taft; she presented him with a letter that discussed the unsafe driving conditions due to the railroad track crossing.

Mrs. Miano had attorney contracts to be approved. Michael Deppe representing the Town of Merrillville for unsafe building violations & town ordinance violations in Town Court at the rate of \$135 per hour and a flat rate of \$150 per meeting. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 4/1 with Mr. Hardaway voting no. James Meyer representing the Town of Merrillville Stormwater Management Utilities requesting an hourly rate of \$135 per hour and a flat rate of \$150 per meeting. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote. Susan Severtson representing the Town of Merrillville Police Commission at the rate of \$135 per hour and a flat rate of \$150 per meeting. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote. William Touchette representing the Town of Merrillville for the Plan Commission and BZA at the flat rate of \$1,000 per month for all services required and compensated at an hourly rate of \$135 per hour. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote. John Bushemi representing the Town of Merrillville Council and Redevelopment Commission at the rate of \$135 per hour and a flat rate of \$150 per meeting. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accounts payable register voucher approval January 22, 2013 and the approval of Town Council minutes January 8, 2013. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Hardaway told Mr. Spiers that there is a stop sign down at 56th & Madison.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

PARKS & RECREATION: No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake gave an update on phase two of the stormwater mapping project through Robinson Engineering and will be reviewing their proposal at the next board meeting. He submitted a letter requesting a hearing for Meadowdale 54th Ave. storm line replacement project and once the date is set they will put it out for bid. An agreement with Soil & Water has been finalized after review by the attorney to utilize them for public education outreach and they will be in the local schools doing stormwater programming and the activities can be counted towards the annual report for compliance with rule 13. Mr. Lake met with Hobart officials regarding the Preserves detention facility and they have a few options that they looked at with Butler Fairman to alleviate flooding in Huntington Cove Apartments and they will move forward once they have made their decision. There is a new agreement with NIRPC regarding services for public education outreach that will focus on workshops and regional media and will be presented at their next board meeting. Christopher Burke is in the process of finalizing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and anticipates it being finished by mid-

February and then stormwater can hold a public meeting to convey any concerns to address and include in the master plan.

Mr. Spann and Mr. Lake discussed utilizing signage on the detention ponds to deter children from playing on them and reduce liability.

Mrs. Miano asked if all of the Towns property is off of Mr. Crist's property and Mr. Lake replied that it was and they had compiled a list of everything and relocated a lot to public works north barn and the main office after the last meeting and informed the insurance company. There is one piece of equipment that is still there because it is kind of buried behind other things that he needs to move and once he gets it moved they will get the equipment right away within the next 2 or 3 days.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk stated that there will be two resolutions tonight regarding economic development.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report

ADA COMPLIANCES: No report

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 13-02:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, approving personal property tax abatement for taxpayer located within an Economic Revitalization Area. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

Resolution 13-03:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, approving real property tax abatement on property located within an Economic Revitalization area. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries

Owner: Tiger Group LLC

Request: Special Exception Approval

Purpose: For a church

Location: 7870 Broadway, Suite J

Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial

Case No.: Z34E7-1212

Ms. Gregor stated, "This petition was heard in front of the board of zoning appeals on December 19th and it was approved with conditions for this petitioner only at this location only for this use only and it will be a church." Mr. Goralczyk stated, "I see that you have approximately 35 members in your congregation now?" The petitioner replied, "Yes." Mr. Goralczyk asked, "You are going to be utilizing the parking in front and behind the building for your functions?" The petitioner replied, "Yes." Mr. Goralczyk asked, "Those are on Mondays or what days do you plan on using the building next door?" The petitioner replied, "Sundays and Wednesdays or Thursdays which is not..." Mr. Spann asked, "Evenings?" The petitioner replied, "Yes. Sunday mornings and Wednesday or Thursday evenings." Mr. Goralczyk asked, "Okay, so it would be after what?...6:30?" The petitioner replied, "5:30-6:00 p.m." Mr. Goralczyk replied, "So most of your attendants are out by 5 o'clock over there?" The petitioner replied, "Yes." Mr. Goralczyk stated, "I don't have a problem with it, I would just like to have it reviewed in one year as far as the parking situation...I'll amend that to six months review to make sure the parking situation is enough, that he has enough parking there for his congregation. Is there anything else we need to have with this Dorinda?" Ms. Gregor replied, "Make sure that it's for this petitioner only at this location only for this use only as a condition." Mr. Goralczyk stated, "My motion is to approve the bza special exceptions for Z34E7-1212 for this petitioner only at this location only for this use only, with a 6 month review for the parking." Mr. Hardaway replied, "Second."

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve the special exceptions with conditions and a 6 month review and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Goralczyk gave an update on the Town Hall renovations and that the electronic flag poles have now been installed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission Workshop, Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Shawn Pettit, Town Council President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer