CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLLCALL: Mrs. Barron was absent and all other members present.

INVOCATION: Mrs. Miano conducted the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:
Mrs. Miano read a letter from Congressman Pete Visclosky in response to receiving a reply from the Indiana Department of Transportation that he enclosed for her to review. She read the IDOT letter regarding the railroad crossings on Madison Street and Taft Street explaining that they will work with the Town to address the issues with the crossing but will not begin working on them until late April or early May.

CDBG Public Hearing with regards to the HUD funding for the CDBG program. She announced that for 2013-2014 the CDBG funding allocation is approximately $144,430.00 and the most common use of these funds is for infrastructure including street reconstruction, sanitary sewers, water line extensions, storm drainage improvements, sidewalks and projects to remove architectural barriers, handicap access and to eliminate slums and blight through demolition of unsafe buildings or other clearance activities. She announced that after the public hearing, three documents need to be read and adopted which are the affirmative action program, section 3 understanding and a resolution authorizing the Town executive to submit a project proposal for CDBG funding. Project applications and supporting documentation needs to be submitted no later than May 10, 2013 by review from Lake County. There was no public comment. Mr. Pettit made a motion to adopt the affirmative action program implementing section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, the section 3 understanding and the citizen participation plan. Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to take the hearing of the resolution out of order. Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Resolution 13-08: A Resolution authorizing and directing the Town Council president of the Town of Merrillville to submit a project proposal for community development block grant funds for federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Bitco Software Contract for permit tracking system using a flat fee structure of $42,500.00. Mr. Bushemi stated that two other proposals were considered by the staff prior to submitting this proposal to the Council. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Accounts payable register voucher approval March 26, 2013 and the approval of Town Council minutes of March 12, 2013. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:
BUDGET & FINANCE:
Mr. Goralczyk stated he will be meeting with Mr. Bennett to discuss paving and funding.

PUBLIC WORKS:
The bid for the truck will be awarded to Truck City of Gary, bidding for $327,108.00 total. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:
Mr. Goralczyk made the motion to hire Stacy Gaza for the secretarial position beginning April 18th with 32 hours a week that will vary due to her workload. Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to hire Charlotte Simaga as the temporary part time secretary at a rate of $14.28 until Mrs. Gaza begins working and she would fill in for Mrs. Gaza if needed. Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.
Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to promote Mr. Spires to Interim Town Administrator. Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote. Mr. Goralczyk announced that there will be a meeting at 5 p.m. on the 17th to discuss the option to fill the position permanently.

Mr. Goralczyk explained that the Autism therapy was overlooked by Group Administrators and the total bill was $2,850.00 and the negotiated amount was $1,900.00 and he made a motion to pay the bill. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

PARKS & RECREATION: No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:
Mr. Goralczyk read a memo from Mr. Lake giving an update on various environmental affairs. He read that the Taft Street drainage project that NIPSCO is concluding their work and Dyer Construction will resume work later this month. At the March 13th boards meeting the architects were selected that will design the storm water resource center and final plans should be completed soon. At the April 2nd boards meeting 8 sealed bids were opened for the 54th Avenue Project for the storm sewer work to be done on Johnson to Fillmore and Meadowdale. The bids were taken under advisement. A workshop regarding storm water protection will be held at the Lake County Contractors & Buildings on Wednesday April 24th at 8 a.m. at the Town of Dyer Plum Creek Center.

Mr. Pettit made a suggestion that perhaps the storm water resource center should look into utilizing a vacant building instead of building a new one and reauthorize the bond issue to use the money for other projects in the pipeline as opposed to doing the building. Mrs. Miano stated that it would be a great cost saving measure and they would be able to put the money where it matters back to tax payers that are having flooding concerns. Mr. Pettit also said he doesn’t know as elected officials what authority they have because once the bond issues been done and asked Mr. Bushemi. Mr. Bushemi stated it is a significant inquiry and that he would need time to research that issue and report back to the Council. Mr. Spires explained that 50% of the building will be for storage/garage where they can park the equipment and that is why they chose that site closely to public works. Mr. Goralczyk explained that they’ve scaled back on their project. Mr. Spann asked about the empty furniture store but Mr. Pettit explained that it’s been leased already.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
Mr. Pettit announced that at the redevelopment meeting they elected officers where he was elected president and they did a wetlands mitigation agreement with Robinson that’s a part of Mississippi Street phase 4 and he informed the members of where they were at with the right of way purchase and have closed on 7 of them. He said they are going to pay INDOT the $86,000.00 change order on the US30 frontage road project and Mr. Bushemi is still trying to work through the legal channels to see if the money can be reimbursed. He also announced that they entered into an engineering design contract with Butler, Fairman for the 101st Avenue Bridge to get a concrete cost of what it’s going to cost.

UTILITY LIAISON:
Mr. Pettit explained the Mr. Bushemi is dealing with the utility issues on the frontage road project and that he has gotten a couple of calls from residents on Broadway that have been contacted by Indiana American Water that will be starting up the replacement of the lines.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION:
Mrs. Miano announced that they took a full time secretary position and now have created a part time position. She stated that they will be making every effort to find cost saving measures as they analyze positions, jobs and performances and will be reviewing the personnel policy and making updates and amendments.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No report

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:
Ordinance 13-08: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana creating a budget for the rental registration program in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2013 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ordinance 13-09: An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring certain monies within certain categories in the Property Seizure Fund. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.
RESOLUTIONS: (13-08 was heard and voted on under Petitions, Communications, Remonstrations section of the meeting)

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:
Mr. Pettit asked Ms. Gregor if the petitions Mr. Goralczyk has filed for out in front for the signage project to finish off Town Hall, are those developmental variances or is there a use variance involved? Ms. Gregor stated that they were developmental.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Town Council Workshop, April 17th
Town Council Meeting, April 23rd, 6:30 p.m.
Plan Commission Meeting, April 16th, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Miano, Town Council President       Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer