

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 23, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Roger Wills- Trinity Free Methodist Church

ROLLCALL: All members present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Swearing in of police officers: Derek N. Diehl, Corey Nash, Matthew Reynolds, Nickolaus Schultz

Independence Day Parade awards & certificates

National Health Center Week August 11-17th Proclamation. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

Large gathering permit for St. Sava Church Serb Festival. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accounts payable register voucher approval July 23, 2013 and the approval of Town Council minutes of July 2, 2013 special meeting and July 9, 2013 regular meeting. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Goralczyk announced that Mr. Spires is working on the 2014 budgets and that they would have a schedule out soon for when they will approve the budgets.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit gave an update on the workshop last week to discuss the 2013 paving list and that they are all in agreement and there will be a 2013 GO Bond approximately 1.9 million with proceeds going for infrastructure improvements.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report

PARKS & RECREATION: No report

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake announced that there is a ground breaking ceremony tomorrow at noon at 7404 Broadway for the new Storm Water building and that he also has a meeting with FEMA to continue working on their application. He also gave an update on the brochure they've created and flood insurance information that they've been giving out. He is meeting with IDEM next Tuesday to do a storm water pollution prevention plan compliance field day and look at a lot of the construction sites that day to make sure they're in compliance. He has another meeting tomorrow to go over various regional workshops they are holding for MS4's within the area. They've also ordered new public awareness materials and will be ready for National Night Out. He received a drainage plan for the Cloister Apartments parking lot area and the intersection by Jefferson Street.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano announced that August 26, 2013 there will be a ground breaking dedication and ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. for Union Park at 7200 Broadway.

Mrs. Miano announced the National Nights Out will be August 6th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk announced that the Route 30 frontage project is wrapping up and should be doing the restoration and be done within the next couple of weeks.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report

ADA COMPLIANCES:

Mrs. Miano announced that the Town Manager Bruce Spires is attending ADA seminars in Indianapolis and that is why he is not in attendance at the meeting.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-27: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-28: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the police department donation fund budget. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-31: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the Town to procure funds to be applied to the costs of financing certain road improvements and other infrastructure projects throughout the Town, together with expenses incidental thereto, including expenses in connection with the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-25: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies within the Clerk-Treasurer Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies within the Fire & Hazmat Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barron second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 13-20: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing regarding its intent to issue general obligation bonds and providing that certain preliminary expenditures be reimbursed from the proceeds of said bonds and other related matters. Mr. Swintz explained the resolution in more detail and explained that since there is quite a process to go through that they would not close bonds until mid-September if the Town would incur any engineering expenses or costs they can be reimbursed out of the proceeds. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barron second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Landmark Sign/ 73rd Avenue Church of Christ

Owner: 73rd Avenue Church of Christ

Request: Variance of use approval

Purpose: For add an electric message center sign on a proposed improved institutional sign

Location: 1055 West 73rd Avenue

Zoning: R-2, Single Family Residential

Case No.: Z24uV7-0613

Ms. Gregor stated, "At the Town Council workshop last Wednesday the Council did discuss about a time limit placed on the sign so if we want to place that as a condition also, I think it was discussed for 9 o'clock." Mrs. Miano replied, "Yes and you're in favor of that and so am I and I believe the rest of the Council is too." Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: Blanca Saenz

Owner: Daniel Gentile

Request: Special exception approval

Purpose: For a proposed restaurant

Location: 7840 Taft Street

Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial

Case No.: Z26E7-613

Mrs. Miano stated, "For this petitioner only, at this location only and for this use only. Must meet all code requirements prior to the issuance of a building permit." Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: Tigers Group LLC
Owner: Tigers Group LLC
Request: Variance of use of approval
Purpose: To allow residential rental units (4) on the second floor of a commercial building
Location: 7870 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case No.: Z5uV3-0313

Mrs. Miano stated, "This is to accept the withdrawal of a variation of use of approval." Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the withdrawal and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: First Baptist Church of Griffith
Owner: James Fitzgerald
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a proposed church
Location: 8930 Chase Street
Zoning: R-2, Single Family Residential
Case No.: Z22E6-613

Mrs. Miano stated, "For this petitioner only, at this location only and for this use only. Must meet all code requirements prior to the issuance of a building permit." Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. Mrs. Barron stated, "I just want to make a comment. I've read all of the information and I've met with you guys and talked with you guys and I think it's going to be a very well fit." Mr. Fitzgerald replied, "Thank you." Mr. Goralczyk asked, "Is this the corner with the white barn on it?" Mr. Fitzgerald replied, "Yes." Mr. Goralczyk asked, "Are you guys going to incorporate any of that wood into the church or anything?" Mr. Fitzgerald replied, "Well we may, one of our members is interested in the wood." Mr. Goralczyk replied, "Well just like the IBEW when they took some of their forestry down they incorporated some of the wood or whatever into their building. I didn't know if you were going to do that." Mr. Fitzgerald replied, "That's a good idea." Mrs. Miano stated, "Approximately 2 years ago I had a conversation with one of your members and she told me that the ladies and girls of the church plan to do some cookie baking and they would like to present that at that time to the police officers and I noticed she's in the audience today so don't forget...if you have any more cookie baking you know where it goes, to our police department and I thank you and welcome to our Town." Mr. Widing replied, "That is probably worth some money." Mr. Fitzgerald replied, "Yes I hope so." The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit commended the Chief of Police, Ted Kennedy and Mr. Guip and Mr. Bella with the 5 hires and that it's fantastic that they are bringing up the ranks and providing the safety the town needs.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting, August 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
BZA Meeting, June 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Plan Commission Workshop August 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Stormwater Management Board Meeting, August 6, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Miano, Town Council President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer