

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
August 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Reverend Rick Boshoven – Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members present

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval August 12, 2014. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2014. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway seconded. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Mr. Goralczyk reported that a Redevelopment Commission meeting was held during which the Merrillville School Corporation asked for a grant from the Commission. The grant will be discussed in a workshop which Mr. Goralczyk encouraged all council members to attend.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Pettit asked Town Manager, Bruce Spires, to give a status report of the street paving project. Mr. Spires stated the paving is approximately 65 – 70% completed. All paving south of U.S. 30 would have been completed if not for the recent rains. Concentration now is on paving around Miller School before school starts. We have not yet begun north of 57th and some roads in Turkey Creek remain to be paved. With a month of good weather, the paving should be done.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mr. Spann commented on the “Night Out” event organized by Mrs. Miano and Mrs. Gregor. Mr. Spann praised their work stating it was their best event yet. Mr. Spann also thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their participation in the event.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Widing asked Police Chief Petruch for an update on the nightclub shooting. Mr. Petruch reported the incident is still under investigation, but is requesting the Town Council to pull the business license for the establishment immediately. Mr. Pettit initiated a discussion regarding the incident, expressing his concern for the safety of the town residents and businesses in the vicinity.

Mrs. Miano thanked the EMA and John Minchuk for their participation in the Turkey Creek subdivision garage sale and the EMA presence at the Night Out event.

Mr. Widing also commented on the Polish Walk and the EMA and motorcycle policemen who helped with the event which was very impressive. There were over 5,000 people participating in the walk.

PARKS & RECREATION: Mr. Spann made a motion to approve members of an advisory board for the parks, for the impact fees. Candidates include Ron Wiedeman, Earl Goldberg, Deb Auburn, Lucille Upshaw and Dave Barrick. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goralczyk and passed by roll call vote, 6/1 abstention.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Goralczyk deferred to Matt Lake. Mr. Lake informed the council of a special presentation of a new Stormwater Master Plan by Darren Olsen of Christopher Burke Engineering this Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Drainage work associated with the Clay Street roadway improvements is completed.

DNR created a new brochure based on a project we did through a grant. It is a special riparian planting done at the Stormwater resource center. It will be promoted as a practice statewide.

Solid Waste District has a program that offers rewards for reporting those involved in illegal dumping. We are creating our own signage and partnering with them in developing an enforcement program to prevent illegal dumping in our waterways.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mrs. Miano expressed gratitude to the many town employees and council members for their assistance in the Night Out event. She also thanked the many businesses that made donations for the event. The town bore no expense for this event.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron reported she has scheduled a meeting regarding the bike trail.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report

ADA COMPLIANCES: No Report

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Mr. Hardaway stated the next meeting is scheduled for next Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to discuss next steps. We have currently identified 148 empty houses and the list is not complete yet.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-25: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Parks & Recreation budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 7/0.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-24: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 7/0.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 14-30: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Local Road and Street Fund budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

Res 14-31: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of the 2014 budget within certain categories. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

BZA ACTIONS: No report

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Pettit reported the bid for the Mississippi Street widening project went to bid last Wednesday downstate since it has federal money, however, we did not receive a successful bid so it will be re-bid in November.

NEW BUSINESS: No report

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 public meeting, August 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
- Environmental Resource Committee meeting, August 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
- Town Council workshop, August 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Town Council meeting, August 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Miano- President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer