

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Father John Plavcan, St. Joan Arc

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September 2013. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

Large gathering permit for Indian Fest. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Mrs. Barron second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accounts payable register voucher approval August 13, 2013. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

Mrs. Miano pointed out 3 corrections and some deletions to the meeting minutes of July 23, 2013. Under petitions, communications and remonstrations swearing in of the police officers Jason Chorba's name was not included in the group. Under elections and public relations the date of the Union Park ground breaking ceremony should be August 22nd. BZA action Tigers Group LLC was not approved to allow the residential units but instead was to accept their withdrawal of a petition of rental units on the 2nd floor located at 7870. Mr. Pettit questioned the date as well stating it should be July 24th not the 23rd. He made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit discussed the idea of looking into doing an inventory and replacing the Welcome to Merrillville signs and various park signs due to damage or simply upgrading them. Mrs. Barron suggested speaking with Mr. Langbehn about the recycle signs because you should be able to purchase 4 signs and get 4 free. He also discussed the paving that has been going on within the Town. Mr. Spires explained that they are currently on Mississippi Street.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Spann discussed the success of the National Night Out event and commended Carol Miano on a job well done. Mrs. Miano thanked Mr. Bushemi and his law firm of Burke, Costanza and Cuppy for sponsoring the event.

Mr. Spann requested to begin an audit with the storm water and would like a pie chart of all 7 wards and what is being spent in those wards and asked if Mr. Lake has an unsafe condition reporting mechanism which Mr. Lake explained he was not familiar with that type of a mechanism. Mr. Spann explained in the steel mills it was a way to use data to prevent from tripping over the same hazards and said they will discuss it further. Mr. Spires explained that they have incident reports that are part of the personnel policy handbook for Town employees. Mr. Pettit explained that those types of incidents would fall under workman's compensation reports. Mr. Hardaway felt that they should not try to industrialize the Town because it is not appropriate for a Town versus a steel mill. Mr. Spann clarified that he was just trying to find out if storm water had any type of policy and procedure that they follow for such incidents like the public works, fire department and police department and other Town departments have.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Pettit announced that a Merrillville Firefighter, Patrick Westbury, has organized a run in Ward 6 around Pierce Middle School on September 28th at 10:00. The route will go through the neighborhood of 70th & Delaware and around the high school as well, it is a 5k run, and he made a motion that the council donate \$250.00 out of the donation fund to the First Annual Hoosier Burn Camp 5k Run and forward it to the fire department in the name of the council. Mrs. Barron second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Spann discussed the window at the Pruzin Center getting shot out and Mrs. Wilson explained that they did file a police report and she also announced that Stefak Park completed at the end of July and the Preserves is in the process of being built and should be finished by the end of next week. There is a Four Winds trip coming up on October 18th and Wicked Broadway Musical is coming back on November 17th.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake announced that construction has been ongoing at the storm water building and are making good progress. He met with IDEM onsite at the 54th Court rain garden project and gave their final stamp of approval and signage to put up there as well. Taft Street has been delayed because of an issue with an AT&T Utility line and they are working on that to get it relocated. Meadowdale is trying to finish prior to school starting to avoid any bus services. He will be attending a workshop tomorrow at Valparaiso University focusing on naturalized detention basins in order to reduce some of the maintenance and have a more naturalized look to some of these basins. At the last storm water meeting Christopher Burke gave a presentation on the storm water master plan and update and they have presented several maps with regards to results on the hydraulic and hydrologic modeling and identified areas for storage to alleviate flooding. Mr. Lake showed the council the various items they have to hand out to the public at specific events as part of public awareness and it includes various storm water tips.

Mr. Pettit asked if they can try to expedite the paving part of the frontage road Taft Project so the constituents aren't inconvenienced with a ripped up road.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano announced that there will be five positions open on the Historical Preservation Committee for Merrillville residents and she will be putting together a sub-committee of non-Merrillville residents of people that have lived in the Town and since moved away but still carry a lot of historical knowledge of the Town. She is asking that anyone interested to submit a letter of interest to the Town Hall, attention Carol Miano by September 15th. She announced that they will also be designating Mississippi from 73rd & VanBuren as a historical district but also throughout the entire Town there are several other historical points of interest that she would like to have pointed out, mapped out or perhaps a plaque or signage on each.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report

ADA COMPLIANCES:

Mrs. Miano announced that Mr. Spires serves as the ADA Compliant officer and attended a seminar in Indianapolis. Mr. Spires gave an update on the seminar and explained that he came back with a lot of information and that after talking with others there that the Town is probably in the top 25% of ADA compliance compared to other communities. He continued to explain that there will be 4 parks in the Town that will be ADA compliant as well as roughly an additional 35 curb ramps added to the existing total of ADA compliant curb ramps in the Town.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-29: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Continuing Education fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2013 not included in the current budget. Supplies \$10,000.00, other equipment \$20,000.00 for a total of \$30,000.00 Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-32: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Town Hall budget. The total decrease is \$103,600.00 and the total increase is the same and the net effect is zero. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-33: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the Town of Merrillville within the Rental Registration budget to add a budget line item of other equipment. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-34: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the Town of Merrillville within the Cumulative Capital Improvement budget to add a budget line item of other equipment. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-35: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating an additional appropriation within the Town of Merrillville within the noxious weed fund, noxious weeds seasonal maintenance \$10,000.00. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-27: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories, decrease of \$10,000.00 the total increase is the same and the net effect is zero. No public comment. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 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 to add line item for other equipment. No public comment. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

Mrs. Miano announced that the public hearing was opened for Ordinance 13-13 and there was no public comment.

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. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 13-21: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Town Council budget, decrease of \$50,100.00 and the total increase is the same with a net effect of zero. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. Mr. Pettit asked about the money that is being moved around out of social security. Mrs. Miano explained that there was a little too much in the previous year for only 2 employees. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit asked the Council to look at the budget as it relates to the NIPSCO bill and contemplate turning on the rest of the street lights throughout the major thoroughfares Town since there will be an influx of the option income tax money coming to the Town or possibly switching some of the lights that are off with ones that are on.

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.

(THE TAPE STOPS AND RESUMES AT THIS POINT)

Mr. Spann made a motion to make a \$100.00 donation to the artist DaVante Mosby, that drew pictures of the Town sign and the Council Dias and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting, August 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

BZA Meeting, August 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Miano, Town Council President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer