

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 P.M.

**INVOCATION:** Captain Becky Simmons-Salvation Army

**ROLLCALL:** All members present, Mr. Pettit came five minutes after the meeting began.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

Proclamation for the month of October to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval September 24, 2013. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2013. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Councilman Pettit arrived at 6:35 p.m.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Goralczyk announced they had a waiver of vacation fees for Lake County Parks Dept. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve the waiver of fees and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. Motion was approved by 7/0 roll call vote.

Mr. Goralczyk announced the town has extra money left over from the health insurance fund, approximately around \$80,000. Mr. Goralczyk made the motion to give the full-time employees that were employed by January 1, 2013 \$500.00 and part-time employees that were employed by January 1, 2013 \$250.00 and Mr. Spann second the motion. Carol Miano said that no elected officials will receive stipend. Mr. Pettit wanted the record to reflect that the council has not received a raise since they took office in 2003 and they are not here to do that. Mr. Hardaway said he would also vote on the council getting a raise. Mrs. Miano asked Mr. Bushemi how the vote be affected by the council members that have relatives employed by the town. He said we can still carry on with the vote. Mr. Hardaway would still like to pursue giving a raise to employees next year. Motion was approved by 7/0 roll call vote.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of raises next year. Mr. Goralczyk said he wanted to revisit this six months into next year.

**PUBLIC WORKS: No report**

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report**

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Goralczyk is still waiting to hear back from the insurance company about the renewal for next year.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Miano read the monthly activity report from the Police Department for August and thanked Chief Petruch and officers on behalf of the town on a job well done.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mr. Goralczyk asked Mrs. Miano to open for public hearing regarding the properties that they have to auction off, with the exception of taking out a few properties that was discussed at the workshop: plotted subdivision in the Lincoln Gardens area, Devonshire park property, and Stefek.

Mr. Bushemi read the Notice of Public Hearing for September 24 into the record, regarding approval of disposal of certain vacant parcels of surplus land owned by the Town of Merrillville.

Mrs. Miano called the public hearing of disposal of certain vacant parcels within the park area. Mrs. Miano asked for questions and comments, no public comments. The Town of Merrillville plans to engage a licensed auctioneer to advertise the sale and conduct public auction of the parcels. Mr. Goralczyk made the motion to take out the plotted subdivision in the Lincoln Gardens area, Devonshire Park, and Stefek park, Mr. Hardaway second the motion. Motion approved 7/0 roll call vote.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Lake reports the press release inviting the public to review inundation maps and provide input, as part of the Stormwater Master Plan. The plan will be completed this spring and will identify and rank Stormwater projects within various drainage areas throughout the town and will be submitted as addition to A Little Calumet Basin Committee's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, this will help get projects done and funded. Boyd Construction is almost down lower the AT&T lines for Taft Street, originally was supposed to take eighteen months. The conference he spoke at this week Merrillville Stormwater projects received positive comments from FEMA. Clearing and snagging work this fall, along Madison ditch- 73<sup>rd</sup> to 67<sup>th</sup> Ave, will be getting quantities to do the work, also talking to property owners because of easements in select areas. The jet vac truck is at Bon Aire Lake is discovering a lot of unusual things within the Stormwater infrastructure, and is continuing to clean. The Stormwater building is continuing to be built without any interruption.

Mr. Spann commented about calls regarding flooding in residences homes on Grant Street; Mr. Spann said that at the workshop meeting Mr. VanTil that were was not anymore flooding, and it should be brought to his attention that it is still flooding. Mrs. Miano commented that she also received calls regarding similar issues. Mr. Lake said they do have projects that are identified in inundation areas, those will be the projects targeted as a part of the new master plan.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano thanks Mrs. Gregor's for her help in Rebuilding Together America project, 11 homes in Merrillville that were taken care, homes of seniors, people with disabilities, and low income. Mrs. Gregor thanks the town for all of their assistance in making the project successful.

Mrs. Miano mentions that the Merrillville Senior Services will be planning a Polka Fest, on October 13 from 12-5pm.

Mr. Hardaway said The Plastic Cap Program is still in full effect, it does not just enhance the North end of Merrillville but the entire town.

Mr. Goralczyk thanks Waste Management for assisting in the Rebuilding Together America project and the 5k Burn Camp race.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report**

**UTILITY LIAISON: No report**

**TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report**

**ADA COMPLIANCES: No report**

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 13-41:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for appropriations and tax rates for the 2014 budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 13-42:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of the 2013 budget within Fire and Hazmat Fund. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 13-43:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of 2013 budget within the Police Department General Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Widing second the motion. The motion was approved by 7/0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 13-39:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fund budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 13-40:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Donation fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2013 not included in the current budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 13-26:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 Budget within the General Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Jaunice Brown  
**Owner:** Santiago Vaca  
**Request:** Special Exception Approval  
**Purpose:** For a restaurant to be known as Wrap City & Mel's Dine In  
**Location:** 5524 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z33E10-0813

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote

**Petitioner:** 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue Storage  
**Owner:** Hans Enterprise  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For proposed U-Haul rental Service  
**Location:** 850 East 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
**Zoning:** PUD, Planned unit development/C-3, Highway  
**Case #:** Z30E9-0713

Petitioner requested a withdrawal. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve a withdrawal and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 7/0 roll call vote.

**Petitioner:** Sincere Heart Adult Day Care  
**Owner:** The Platinum Group  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For a proposed adult day care  
**Location:** 1443 East 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case No.:** Z6E2-0313

The council unanimously voted to table the petitioner's request at previous meeting on July 27, 2013. The petitioner's 90 days was coming to an end to be approved, so they were brought to the attention of the council by Mrs. Gregor. After lengthy discussion the petitioner requested a withdrawal. Mr. Pettit made motion to approve a withdrawal and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by 7/0 roll call vote.

**OLD BUSINESS: No report.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Goralczyk said that they will be opening bids tomorrow for fire trucks for fire territory also there will be an open house for the Merrillville Fire Station #71 October 9, 2013 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

BZA Meeting, September 25, 2013 @6:30 p.m.  
Stormwater Management Meeting, October 1, 2013 4:30 p.m.  
Plan Commission Workshop, October 1, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Police Commission Meeting, October 4, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Town Council Meeting October 8, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**Carol Miano, Town Council President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**