

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 12, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Father Peter Bodnar – Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

ROLLCALL: Mrs. Miano was absent, all other members were present. In Mrs. Miano absence Mr. Spann ran the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

- A) Swearing in of Police Officers:
 - 1) Pavle Popovich
 - 2) David M. Bloch
- B) Permission to waive fees for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.
- C) Waiver of fees for Storm Water Utility Sign. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval November 12, 2013. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2013. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Pettit. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote. Mrs. Barron wanted the record to show that the times provided on the Town Council Meeting Minutes were incorrect and they should not be approved. Mrs. Barron said she would approve the motion with stipulation that there are to be corrections made and was second by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Pettit stated that the Town of Merrillville will receive sealed bids at the Merrillville Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 7820 Broadway Merrillville, Indiana for the furnishing of one 18,000 GVWR utility truck with an aerial buck. Specification can be examined and obtained at the office of Clerk-Treasurer. Only bids from those complying with the provisions of the specifications and instructions for bidding will be considered, Town of Merrillville reserves the right to waive any bid informality to reject any and all bids or accept any bid which in its judgment will be in the best interest of the Town. Bids may be held opened by the Town of Merrillville for a period not exceed to sixty days to allow for review and investigation any acceptations to specifications must be listed on a separate sheet with an explanation all bids must be submitted with a signed non collusion affidavit in a bin bond or a certify check in the amount of 5% of the bid. Any questions concerning the specifications can be directed to Bruce Spires at Town Hall (219) 769-5711. Bids must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. on December 10, 2013, at which date the bids will be open at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Council Meeting. Mr. Bushemi approved the previous statements made by Mr. Pettit as an advertisement. Mr. Pettit made a motion and Mr. Hardaway second. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote. Mr. Hardaway made a point that fire hydrants in the Town should be inspected as precaution, before winter. Mr. Pettit and Mr. Spires stated that those are maintained by Indiana American Water; Mr. Spires stated that he would be in contact with them.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mr. Goralczyk stated that there is to be a health insurance policy renewal, and he would like to make a motion to approve the renewal with Aetna Medical Guardian Dental, and Guardian VSP effective January 1, 2014 as presented by Forrest Financial Group to include Aetna Medical plan and negotiating renewal of 4.5%, with no plan or employee contribution changes. The original renewal was at 11.5% which was brought down by underwriting, review, market quotes and negotiation with Aetna. The new Affordable Care Act fees and taxes make up the entire 4.5%. Guardian dental plan the original renewal was 29% due to the very high plan utilization for orthodontal benefits that was added to the 2013 renewal; the final renewal is at 19% which is an increase of 13,500. Guardian VSP has no premium increases. The employee contribution will remain the same for medical,

dental and vision. Life insurance and voluntary life will remain with Lincoln Financial with no changes to the benefits or rates, voluntary worksite benefits will be offered by Allstate. Mr. Pettit second the motion. The motion was approved by 5/1 voice vote. Mrs. Barron opposed the motion.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Widing stated that November 13, 2013 at 3:15 p.m. there will be a Labor Contract Meeting, to discuss with the leadership of the FOP. Mr. Hardaway asked Mr. Spires if he spoke with the State concerning a light. On behalf of the residences in his ward Mr. Hardaway is requesting to try to get a turn signal light on 57th and Broadway, Mr. Petruch and Mr. Spires suggested a site survey be conducted.

PARKS & RECREATION: Mrs. Wilson made an announcement that the Annual Tree Lighting will be on November 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. Hardaway asked the council if Salvation Army could bring their kettle to receive donations that evening. Mr. Hardaway mentioned that the council will be participating in “ringing the bell” for Salvation Army this year, to help the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Lake provided an update for various projects and Stormwater activity: Taft Street Project- Everything South of 73rd is completed including Taft Place all that is left is a conveyance from the North pond into Kaiser Ditch which will be done in the Spring. Documentation has been submitted for the Rule 13 permit renewal for our next five year permit term for Stormwater Regulations under 327 i.e.c 15-13. Documentation for an updated Stormwater Water quality Management Plan has been submitted to the State. Relocation of Merrillville Stormwater should take place after Thanksgiving; a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony may take place in December. Robinson is stilling working on the drainage improvement plans. Stormwater will be reapplying for Tree City USA status for the Town. A Quality of Life Plan has been drafted; Mr. Lake and Mr. Spires will be meeting with IDEM. Mr. Lake met with Chief Yerga to discuss pursuing a Green roof for the fire station.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

UTILITY LIAISON: No report.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-36: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, establishing a Historic Preservation Commission within the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Goralczyk. The motion was approved by a 5/1 roll call vote. Mrs. Barron abstained.

Ord. 13-48: 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. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and second by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-49: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Goralczyk. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-50: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Pettit. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 13-38: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the 2012 Broadway Project Bond of 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 second by Mrs. Barron. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-45: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Equipment Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2013 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Pettit. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ord. 13-47: 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 2013 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and second by Mr. Hardaway. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS: No report.

BZA ACTIONS: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Hardaway mentioned the Town is still collecting plastic caps for the program, and they are about half through the goal, 400 lbs.

NEW BUSINESS: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission Meeting, November 19, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

Town Council Workshop, November 20, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m

BZA Meeting, November 20, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Parade of Lights & Holiday Tree Lighting, November 22, 2013 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting, November 26, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

TOWN HALL CLOSED-Thanksgiving, November 28 & 29, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Don Spann, Ward 1 Vice President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer