

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:36 p.m.

INVOCATION: Mrs. Miano read the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

All seven members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 25, 2014.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2014. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit announced 73rd Avenue will be closed just west of Taney Place beginning 7:00 a.m. Monday, December 1st, until 5:00 p.m. Thursday. The Lake County Surveyor's office will be replacing a 72 inch culvert underneath the street. Motorists are urged to use U.S. 30 as an alternate. Mr. Spires said there will be one more pass for leaf collection. Mr. Hardaway reminded the residents to comply with street parking restrictions when snow falls exceed two inches.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Goralczyk reported Forest Financial has been on site to meet with employees during open enrollment.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing had no report. Mrs. Miano announced City Floral, a Merrillville business, is offering a holiday arrangement to the town employees at a cost of \$25 each. All proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Merrillville Police FOP memorial fund to keep the memory of Officer Shultz alive. Mrs. Miano will make the deliveries of these orders and thanked City Floral for the generous donation.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Spann would like to hold a workshop to talk about the points brought up in a discussion with Taghi Arshami earlier today. There will be a public meeting regarding the Parks Master Plan at 6:30 p.m. on December 8th at the Pruzin Center. Mrs. Miano will be meeting with Mr. Lake to discuss the improvements at Stefek Park. Mrs. Miano expressed her thanks to Matt Lake, Janet Reed, and Nikki Witkowski of the Purdue extension of Lake County for their assistance.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Goralczyk noted that we will be attending a meeting for the Little Calumet River Basin to discuss some projects in which we can partner with another local community.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano would like to collect warm clothing items, new or gently used and clean, to give to Merrillville residents in need. They can be dropped off at the Town Hall on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. These items will be available to Merrillville residents in need to pick up at the Town Hall during those hours as well. Senior Services is sponsoring the community coat program.

Mr. Pettit related the award winners announced at the Crossroads Chamber Gala event held last Saturday. Nickolaus Shultz was named Officer of the Year. We honored his mom and dad with that award. Scott Molchan was named Firefighter of the Year. Secondly, Andrean is going down state again this year. Congratulations and good luck to the 59ers on Saturday.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had an update on the cap program. Currently we have enough for a bench and we will probably end up with four or five benches.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

ADA COMPLIANCES:

Mrs. Miano announced, with the redefining of Stefek Park, there will be access for those with disabilities with three to four cutouts for better mobility with the use of canes, walkers, scooters, or wheelchairs.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway related there's a lot of interest in what we're doing. He's been getting good feedback from all over Lake County from those interested in helping us any way they can. Senator Lonnie Randolph will attend our meeting next week, on December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. We've sent out invitations to Hal Slager, State Representative, out of the Schererville area and also to Vernon Smith. We started out going in one direction, to help veterans, that didn't pan out like we wanted, but we looked at what else we needed to do. We've found, in many cases, we don't need to reinvent the wheel, we just need to utilize the laws and resources we have available. Mr. Hardaway thanks the committee for all their work.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-35: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating monies within the Computer Training Center Fund for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

Ord. 14-36: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 14-16 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2015. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-33: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating an unsafe/blighted property fund (retroactive to 9-4-14) and transferring previous lien monies into said fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

Ord. 14-34: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) public safety fund for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 14-55: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within certain categories in the Continuing Education Fund. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-56: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within certain categories in the General Fund. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-57: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Local Road and Street fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-58: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the repayment of a temporary loan. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Widing seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-59: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing a temporary loan to fulfill monetary requirements. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-60: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, concerning the holiday schedule for the calendar year of 2015. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Tender Love Home Services, LLC
Owner: Clair Hoeksema
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a proposed training facility for individuals with disabilities
Location: 7895 Broadway, Suite O & P
Zoning: C-2 Community commercial
Case#: Z30E14-1014
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only

Petitioner must follow up with the State of Indiana for the variance, if required, for the change of occupancy (I occupancy – Institutional Group, to a B occupancy – Business Group)

Action: The BZA approved the special exception on October 22, 2014.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve with the conditions listed above. Mr. Widing seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Attorney John Bushemi explained information discussed at a Council workshop regarding the new legislation enacted by the State of Indiana that imposes significant restrictions on the Town's ability to conduct its rental registration program and assess the fees as it has done in the past. There was no official action taken at the workshop because the nature of it was for discussion purposes. A discussion of the concerns the Council has regarding the changes in the law followed and is available on audio cassette tape at the Merrillville Clerk-Treasurer's office.

Mr. Goralczyk asked if the Union Park house title has been transferred yet. Mr. Bushemi said that it hadn't. He contacted the title company today to schedule a closing. He is also holding the "release and hold harmless" agreement that the new owner needs to sign before he enters the property so he can begin clearing the lot before the title is transferred. Mr. Spires asked for the agreement so he could get the necessary signature.

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:

Mrs. Miano announced there will be opening on our BZA, Stormwater and also the Police Commission. If we could please get the letters of interest in so we can make the proper appointments by January 1st. There is also an opening on the Plan Commission.

Town Hall closed November 27 & 28, 2014 in observance of Thanksgiving
Stormwater Management Board meeting, December 2, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop, December 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, December 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
Police Commission meeting, December 5, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.
The Master Park Plan meeting, December 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pruzin Center
Redevelopment Commission Meeting, December 9, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
Redevelopment Commission Workshop, December 9, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.
Town Council meeting, December 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Spann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Carol Miano, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer