

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 22, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Pat Gaza – retired from St. Monica and Luke & St. Mark Catholic Churches

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Goralczyk stated there is a Proclamation for “The Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites”.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. The Merrillville Town Council would like to honor the 2015 Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites football team and hereby proclaim them to be the Grand Marshals of our 2016 Independence Day Parade.

Mr. Goralczyk stated there is a Proclamation for “Indiana Statehood Day and the Official kickoff of the Bicentennial.” Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Living Hope Church requested a waiver of fees for a parking lot expansion project.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit with conditions that they will still be responsible to pay any related inspection fees. There was some discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit read a letter from Baum’s Natural Foods praising the Planning and Building department. They were appreciative that the staff was very helpful with explaining the building permits and inspection process needed to follow in order to complete the relocation of the business.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated December 22, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Spann had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Execute a Deed in Trust to the Town of Merrillville Clerk Treasurer for land and improvements which are to be used by and for sole benefit for the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory. Discussion followed. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Mr. Hardaway questioned the lack of Christmas decorations for the Town of Merrillville. Discussion followed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit stated that 73rd Ave is completely opened. The decorative lights are up between Madison and Broadway. He went on to provide some updates on projects for the upcoming year. Discussion followed.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Mr. Hardaway discussed the intentions of a group interested in the former Northlake Nursing Home building. Discussion followed related to multiple businesses and their upcoming improvement projects.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-34: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 15-31 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today's meeting. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion to suspend the rules. The motion to suspend the rule for second reading was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-32: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the Municipal Code regarding noxious weeds. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-33: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana fixing the Parks Non-Reverting program fees for the year 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-34: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 15-31 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-36: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council authorizing a request for transfer of real property located at 601 West 61st Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-50: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Mississippi Street TIF fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-51: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the park authority, approving the interlocal cooperation agreement for the purchase and utilization of construction services for mutual benefit connected with a federal aid bicycle trail. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and authorize the Town Council President to execute the interlocal agreement itself because there is a signature page for each unit of government that joins the interlocal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-52: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, encumbering monies of the 2015 budget into the 2016 year. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-53: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Police Donation fund. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Mr. Hardaway stated within the council packets are pictures of the car lot located at 5924 Broadway. At the time this business was approved before the BZA & Council, the approval was for 10 cars on the lot only. Upon reviewing the pictures, there are over 20 cars visible on the lot outside & inside. Mr. Hardaway stated this is unacceptable. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

As outgoing President, Mr. Goralczyk stated that it was a pleasure working with everyone on the council and wished the Town luck in 2016. He said that he hopes the Town prospers going forward. Mr. Hardaway & Mr. Pettit reflected back on Mr. Goralczyk's accomplishments and thanked him for his years of service. Mr. Goralczyk was presented a plaque in appreciation for his 8 years of service & dedication with the Merrillville Town Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services) December 24 & 25, 2015 in observance of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services) at 1:00 p.m. December 31, 2015 & closed January 1, 2016 in observance of New Year's Eve & New Year's Day.

Town Council & Judge swearing in ceremony, January 1, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Special Town Council meeting, January 1, 2016 at 11:15 a.m.

Plan Commission workshop, January 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, January 8, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Council meeting, January 12, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer