

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 23, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 12:07 p.m.

INVOCATION: Carol Miano, Council President

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Barron was absent. All other (6) members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated December 23, 2014.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2014 and December 17, 2014. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing had no report. Mrs. Miano reported that the holiday flower arrangements, generously donated by City Floral, were sold to Town employees, the proceeds of the sales were donated to the Merrillville FOP Memorial Fund. A special thank you was given to the Planning & Building Department and the Town Administration office for their 100% participation.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Spann noted there would be a first reading of an ordinance regarding the Park Impact Fee later in the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano shared the progress of the Community Coat Program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron was absent. There was no report.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

ADA COMPLIANCES:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-37: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending the existing Park Impact Fee Ordinance by adjusting the amount of the fees. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Widing. A discussion followed. Taghi Arshami stated the ordinance is a renewal of the existing impact fee that the Town first instituted ten years ago. This is the third round of this impact fee and it will be effective when it passes, six month after passage. It will be continued for the next five years. The development of the impact fee was a long process which was started sometime in August. Mr. Arshami explained the Town appointed an advisory committee. That advisory committee determined and recommended a fee to you which is a little bit different than the last fee. There is a difference in that there are two fees, one impact being the

units that are apartments or condos of less than two bedrooms and the rest of the developments which are three bedrooms and higher. Mr. Bushemi stated that the ordinance provides that the new rates are effective June 1 of 2015. Mr. Bushemi asked if that date is sufficient for communicating with the State. Mr. Arshami replied that it was. The motion passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion to suspend the rules to allow consideration on the second reading was made by Mr. Pettit and was seconded by Mr. Widing. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Mr. Pettit questioned whether a legal notice was posted regarding the fee change. Mr. Bushemi replied that a legal notice was posted prior to the public hearing conducted by the Plan Commission and, prior to this being effective on June 1, 2015, the Town will publish this notice again with a legal notice.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-37: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending the existing Park Impact Fee Ordinance by adjusting the amount of the fees. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 14-67: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2014. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Res. 14-71: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana regarding adoption of waivers pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1-11.3

Mr. Pettit made a motion to table this resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Res. 14-72: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies in the 2014 budget within the Merrillville Planning and Building Department

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Hearing to consider the application of WHITECO Industries, Inc. for a vacation of water line utility easement on the following described property located at approximately 7900 Rhode Island, Merrillville, Indiana

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to open the public hearing and was seconded by Mr. Goralczyk. There was no public comment. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Spann seconded the motion.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to grant the petition to vacate the water line utility easement as requested by the petitioner. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. Mr. Pettit questioned whether there currently was a line out there. He was told, by the petitioner's representative, that the water line was relocated; it is now going to go around the building, so we're vacating the easement. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

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:

Town Hall closed December 24, 25 & 26, 2014 in observance of Christmas

Town Hall closed at 1:00 p.m. on December 31, 2014 & closed on January 1 & 2, 2015 in observance of New Years

Stormwater Management Board meeting, January 6, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop, January 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, January 9, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Council meeting, January 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Pettit. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.