

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLLCALL: Mr. Widing was absent and all other members present.

INVOCATION: Reverend Lester Dinnee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Mrs. Miano for Merrillville Community School Corporation waiver of permit fees for an interior remodeling project in the building trades program house at 5857 McKinley Street. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Mr. Hardaway commended the Merrillville Boys basketball team and the Andean Boys basketball team on their accomplishments thus far in the March madness. The Merrillville High School and Salk Elementary School were selected for the 2013 National Award by the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to add Resolution 13-07 to the agenda. Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Mrs. Miano announced that there is another amendment to the agenda to move Ordinance 13-08 from second reading to first reading. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accounts payable register voucher approval March 12, 2013 and the approval of Town Council minutes of February 26, 2013, 2013. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit announced that the 2013 spring cleanup schedule is out and pick up weeks of April 1st for all Merrillville residents who live north of 73rd Ave. and the week of April 8th for all Merrillville residents south of 73rd Ave.

Mr. Spann commended the gentlemen patching potholes on 63rd for a job well done.

Mrs. Miano discussed the foreclosure signs and misc. signs in the easements and asked Mr. Spires to help out with cleaning those up.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Spann discussed issues with security at Town Hall and how constituents are being talked to by the storm water inspector Joe Fish and did not handle the conversation well or respectfully and feels that there needs to be a session with storm water to address all the issues the Council is having including possible training. Mrs. Miano responded stating she is certain the Council would never tolerate any resident to be talk to in a demeaning voice and won't stand for that and they should be reprimanded or go for classes. Mr. Spann also commented on Mr. Lake refusing Mr. Goralczyk's suggestion putting money toward work being done on Taft Street and feels he is not being respectful to the Councilmen and that he should've looked into the concerns and had a meeting with Mr. Goralczyk to see how they could contribute. He also discussed the storm water equipment that was stored on private property. Mr. Pettit commented that he understands but he does not feel that this is the right forum to do that and suggests to the Council to have Mr. Goralczyk call an executive session of personnel because it is obviously other issues including a big one through Mr. Guernsey's office and asked Mr. Bushemi if that is appropriate to do that in an executive session to discuss the running of the storm water utility, he also stated that they created the storm water utility by ordinance and they can adjust it contrary to what some believe, the 7 Council members are still the bosses of that utility, just look at the ordinance. They have control over that utility, they appoint the storm water board members, ultimately hired the director, the personnel policy needs to be followed. Mr. Bushemi stated that they have the authority to convene an executive session of the Town Council. Mr. Goralczyk said he would check his schedule and let them know by the end of the week. Mrs. Barron asked that everyone be professional during the Council meeting and not be discussing employees of the Town of Merrillville on the floor and suggest that it be done in an executive

session because there is no reason for that to be done. Mr. Spann stated he recognizes her concern and will try and respect it.

Mr. Spann discussed the new secretarial position that they are looking to hire for the Town Administrator and since there is not a lot of money flowing, he feels that the secretarial job should have a blend in this position with the parks so that they can have two people working in the parks.

Mrs. Miano discussed the food and beverage tax that was denied for the Town but a town called Cloverdale was allowed to pass the 1% food and beverage tax. Mr. Pettit agreed that it's a good point and how they've provided the governor the letter of local option income tax support and sent it to him and if they can't get the message across to their fellow party friends in the general assembly then he doesn't what more they can do. He says it's okay for them to give \$100 million to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway though but why can't the municipalities get local fiscal home rule if the general assembly can give \$100 million to the speedway? IACT has been lobbying for fiscal home rule for 35 years and when the Republicans want to wake up and realize what they are doing to the municipalities throughout the state with the exception of Cloverdale and Indianapolis Motor Speedway then we can get this issue resolved.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Goralczyk announced that they have an opening for a secretary and will be going over the applications for the position.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Pettit announced that the drive sober or get pulled over grant began March 8th, it will be a 16 day effort encompassing various March sporting events and the St. Patrick's Holiday and will continue through March 24th, in addition to this grant they received \$2,000 to purchase 2 new patrol radar units. Mr. Guernsey explained that by announcing when the police department does the grants it is to deter people from drinking and driving.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano announced the Four Winds Casino trip registration deadline in March 15, 2013. It is \$26 for residents and \$30 for non-residents and it is for Friday March 22nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it includes roundtrip transportation, \$10 meal credit and \$15 slot play credit.

Mrs. Miano discussed an issue that occurred at Stefek Park and the police department is pursuing the matter and the Town will seek retribution for the damages done to the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Goralczyk stated that he visited the storm water site where they are putting the pipeline in and he got a call from the cemetery with concerns of overflow so he is going to sit down with the engineering firm, George VanTil and Matt Lake and discuss their concerns and go over the plans so they don't get over flooded at the cemetery.

Mrs. Barron gave an update on the Town maps and they are done and look good. Mr. Guernsey and Mr. Spires both stated that they have extra copies at their departments for the public.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

The Heartland Blood bank will be at the Town Hall this Friday from 8:30-12:30 a.m.

Mr. Pettit thanked everyone that helped out with the State of the Region address.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk announced that the Route 30 project will start back up again next week on the 13th and the project should be done by the end of May and he thanked Mr. Bushemi for passing the letter on to NIPSCO on the overage charges for the winter.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Pettit stated that he received some inquiries in his area across Broadway about Indiana American Water starting up their water line replacement project and they will be picking up from Fannie May and going north to Deer path and some of the property owners have contacted me about the easement purchase that their going through.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No report

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 13-08:

An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana creating a budget for the rental registration program in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2013 not included in the current budget in the interest of the Town of Merrillville to protect the public from the threat of danger to health and safety from public nuisances and substandard housing. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 13-01:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana that Chapter 6 Building and Building regulations, Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, be amended by updating and or adding the following permit fees to Chapter 6, building fee schedule. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. (THE TAPE STOPS AT THIS POINT AND RESUMES AT THIS POINT.) No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ordinance 13-03:

An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, creating a Historic Preservation Commission and a Historic Preservation District. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

Ordinance 13-05:

An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 12-66 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the Calendar Year 2013, with regards to the town administrative secretary position becoming part time with an hourly rate of \$14.28. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Goralczyk second the motion. No public comment. The motion was approved by a 6/0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 13-06:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2013 budget within certain categories in the Continuing Education Fund other equipment decrease by \$6,000.00 and increase other supplies by \$6,000.00. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

Resolution 13-07:

A Resolution of the governing body of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the execution and deliver of a master equipment lease-purchase agreement and separate lease schedules and certificates of acceptance with respect to the acquisition, purchase, financing and leasing of certain equipment for the public benefit; authorizing the execution and delivery of documents required in connection therewith; and authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann second the motion. The motion was approved by a 6/0 voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission Meeting, Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Miano, Town Council President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer