

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
August 9, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Roger Wills – Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Pettit was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated August 9, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2016. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit was absent, no report. Mr. Guernsey mentioned that the budget should be finalized soon.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for report. Ms. Orlich said the play equipment for Southbrook Park has been delivered and they plan to have it installed fall 2016. Visions of Santana will perform a concert at Pruzin Park on Thursday, August 11th at 7 p.m. Merrillville Park department entered into an agreement with Midwest Ice Rink and will now offer Ice Skating & Hockey lessons. Ms. Orlich mentioned that the Fall Brochures should be available September 2016. She provided an update as to the clean-up project for Kaiser Ditch. President Hardaway questioned the status of acquiring land for a park for Ward 5. Discussion followed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Lake provided Stormwater updates related to various drainage improvement projects. Mr. Lake said Stormwater is hosting a Rain Garden educational workshop partnership with Purdue Extension. The workshop will take place on August 30th & 31st at Stormwater Resource Center. Interested parties can contact Purdue to register at 219- 765-6794. President Hardaway complimented the work done at the entrances at Lateral 6.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit was absent, no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-22: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Merrillville, Indiana amending Storm Water Utility user fees and policies for the Town of Merrillville, Indiana. Discussion followed related to the fees. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-23: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Indiana, providing that the zoning ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established planned unit development mixed use zoning to allow additional residential lots (55-57). Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today's meeting. Ms. LaMarca seconded the motion to suspend the rules. There was no discussion. The motion to suspend the rule for second reading was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-21: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-23: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Indiana, providing that the zoning ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established planned unit development mixed use zoning to allow additional residential lots (55-57). Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-22: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the Police Department General fund. Mrs. Uzelac 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.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Fabian Diaz-Reyna
Owner: Tom Austgen
Request: Special exception approval from section 21-136
Purpose: For a proposed Taekwondo Training Center
Location: 2460 West Lincoln Highway
Zoning: C-2, Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z30E7-0716
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: Anthony Williams
Owner: Anthony Williams
Request: Variance of use approval from section 21-189 (3) and 21-194 (f)
Purpose: For a proposed electronic pylon sign on existing 9'9" pole.
Location: 530 West 61st Avenue
Zoning: R-2, Residential Zoning District
Case #: Z32Uv4-0716
Conditions: Message LED turned off at 12:00 A.M. (Midnight) and attached bottom sign of existing sign removed
For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Petitioner: Rami G. Haddadin
Owner: Ghassan A. Haddadin
Request: Variance of use approval from section 21-136
Purpose: For a proposed self-storage shed and office
Location: 7525 Taft Street
Zoning: C-2, Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z34uV-0716
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

The petitioner spoke on behalf of their request. Discussion among the Town Council followed. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. President Hardaway opened the floor for Public Comment. The public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to table the request and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. The motion to table the request carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Attorney Bushemi stated there is a 90 day deadline for action on the matter.

Petitioner: Tom Dress
Owner: Paul Nelson
Request: Special exception approval from section 21-136
Purpose: For proposed used car dealership
Location: 7582 East Lincoln Highway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z35E8-0716
Conditions: No additional paving of property, only seal coating on existing paving
For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. President Hardaway expressed concern due to the actions of the petitioner. Discussion followed. The motion was denied by a 2-4 roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

President Hardaway commented that Ashley Furniture is a great community partner. Ashley Furniture donated 75 beds for children located within Merrillville and the surrounding communities. President Hardaway encouraged anyone in the market for a new mattress to purchase it from Ashley Furniture as \$5.00 goes toward their Hopes & Dreams program that enables them to donate the beds.

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:

Plan Commission meeting, August 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council workshop, August 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Environmental Resource Commission meeting, August 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, August 23, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Barron and seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer