

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 7:12 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Council Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis and Rob Guetzloff. Councilman absent: Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Town Manager Robert Volkmann and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021, September 22, 2021 and the September 29, 2021 Public Meetings, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #98683 - APV #99221 on the General Docket, Totaling \$3,589,737.80
- B. APV #98693 - APV #99221 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$446,192.89
- C. APV #98703 - APV #99200 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,539,222.05
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, September Credit Card Charges, \$9,221.56
- E. General Fund - Animal Control, Crossroads Animal Hospital, August Invoices, \$1,930.19
- F. General Fund - Animal Control, Lowell Animal Hospital, \$48.10
- G. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, September Legal, \$12,360.11
- H. Various Funds, Enterprise Fleet, Monthly Lease, \$3,346.64
- I. Cum Cap Development Fund, Banc of America Leasing, Invoice #R10968 - Principal & Interest Due 2021 Vehicle and Equipment Lease, \$166,358.82
- J. Public Safety Fund, Town of St. John, 2021/2022 SRO JICA, \$20,000.00
- K. Park Bond 2018 Fund, DLZ LLC, Invoice #408584, \$6,194.10
- L. General Fund - Fire, Pulse Technologies, Office Supplies, \$219.60
- M. General Fund - Fire, Hughes Safety Inc., Ladder Test, \$875.75
- N. Ambulance Fund, Fairmeadows Home Health, Oxygen, \$75.00
- O. Various Funds, Great Lakes Landscaping, Town Mowing, \$4,280.00
- P. General Fund - Park, Affordable Fleet Services, Vehicle Repairs, \$1,227.42
- Q. Cum Cap Improvement Fund, ATN Technology, Audio Work, \$235.00
- R. Promotion Fund, Carmelite Fathers Church, Memorial Donation, \$75.00
- S. Cedit Fund, The Oetzel-Hartmen Group, Property Appraisal, \$5,000.00
- T. LECEF Fund, David Hunter, Travel Expense Reimbursement, \$173.30
- U. Various Funds, Leeps Supply Company, Plumbing Supplies, \$142.84
- V. Various Funds, Castongia Tractor, Repair Parts, \$155.34
- W. General Fund - Administration, Able Paper & Janitorial, Kitchen Supplies, \$172.06
- X. General Fund - Police, Braman Insurance, Invoice #121298, \$1,156.00
- Y. Ambulance Fund, Indiana PLA, Application Fee, \$100.00
- Z. Various Funds, R & R Yard Design, September Mowing, \$19,787.00
- AA. General Fund - Park, Lois Coto, Security Deposit Return, \$200.00
- BB. General Fund - Park, Valerie Keithley, Security Deposit Return, \$250.00
- CC. General Fund - Park, Daniel Gin, Security Deposit Return, \$200.00
- DD. Park Bond 2018 Fund, Landscape Structures, Invoice #104374, \$135,148.00
- EE. Various Funds, Karl Swihart-National Softball Association, Rohrman Park Tournament Refund & Deposit, \$1,510.00
- FF. Cable TV Fund, Traffic Management Co. Inc., Street Striping, \$55,198.95

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Fire Chief Patterson reported that the Fire Department responded to 324 calls in September, 267 of them were EMS related and 57 were Fire related.

Mr. Johnson stated that he has been talking to some people in Town that have some interest in Mountain Bike Trails. He stated that he has been talking to some of our Town Staff, our Public Works Director and our Park Superintendent, Mr. Novacich. Mr. Johnson said they have worked out some ideas and thoughts. He

stated that he has approached a developer and he has proposed to come and meet with the Town Staff, do a site assessment and come to a Public Meeting and present a plan proposal for a site here in Schererville for Mountain Bike Trails. Mr. Johnson stated that the cost of that would be \$3,500.00. He stated that is just something to see if the people in Schererville would be interested, this is not a commitment to go forward, it is just plan to see if Mountain Bike Trails are feasible in the Town of Schererville. Mr. Johnson stated that we have the thirteen acre parcel east of Rolling Hills and thought maybe this would be a feasible location.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to authorize \$3,500.00 to bring the developer out, do a site assessment and to see if this, as a Town is something we would want to do, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Volkmann asked Mr. Johnson if he received any type of proposal from the designer. Mr. Johnson said no, not yet, that he just spoke to him for the first time today. He said the developer sent him his statement of qualifications and his resume. Mr. Volkmann advised Mr. Johnson that he should this on an RTP so that it goes through the proper planning process.

Mr. Connelly thanked Mr. Novacich for the monthly report on the Capital Plan for the Parks. Mr. Connelly stated that at the Park Board Study Session they discussed a splash pad and possible locations.

Mr. Novacich stated that the three locations that were discussed were Stephens Park, Scherewood Park and Redar Park. He stated that all three sites have some advantages and disadvantages regarding utilities. Mr. Novacich stated the cost we are looking at is anywhere from \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00. Mr. Novacich stated that there is a Park Board Study session on Monday and this will be discussed further.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Presentation

Lake County Proposed Park in the Town of Schererville
Presenter: Craig Zandstra

Mr. Craig Zandstra from Lake County Parks, stated that they have been working on a project in the Lake Hills area for several years. He stated that it is a land protection acquisition project for a potential future park site. Mr. Zandstra stated he wanted to come to the Council to let them know what they are doing, possibly a potential partnership or other opportunities moving forward.

Mr. Zandstra gave a lengthy presentation on what is going on now. He spoke about all of the Parks they have in Lake County. He stated that what he is talking about tonight is the potential Lake Hills County Park Site and what their vision plan is.

Mr. Zandstra spoke about the Project Budget.

Purchase Agreement for project's 100 acres contingent on securing funds totaling \$1,727,500

Grant funds & project partnerships will potentially fund project

Federal Partners - Lake County Parks is close to securing half the project cost with federal dollars, \$863,750 between NOAA / NPS through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program / Land Water Conservation Funds

Project 1:1 state / local match requires \$863,750

Potential partners: Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, The Nature Conservancy, BMV / IDNR / Environmental License Plate Funds, Dean & Barbara White Foundation / Legacy Foundation, Town of Schererville and St. John Township.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Zandstra for his presentation, he stated he is always in favor of Parks, so he supports the cause.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Ord. #1973, Adoption of 2022 Civil Town Budget
(Second Reading)

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is the second reading of the 2022 Civil Town Budget. He stated that nothing has changed since the public meeting. He stated that there were no remonstrance to the Town on the 2022 Town Budget. Mr. Volkmann stated that this budget includes a 5% increase on the property tax levy. He stated that was done because we originally did not receive direction from the State Board of Accounts. He stated that we have since heard from them and they are going with a 4.3% increase.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1973, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Res. #2021-15, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Volkmann explained the Transfer of Funds. Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-15, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Consider Acceptance of Permanent Easement Agreement Between Ken Stivers and the Town of Schererville (Pennsy Greenway Trail)

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is a piece we needed for the Phase IV of the Pennsy Trail. He stated that they worked with this property owner for the easement on his property. He stated that in exchange for his easement, we provided him with a sewer connection.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Permanent Easement Agreement as described, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0)

ITEM C. Consider Approval to Extend Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which Expired September 30, 2021, To Compensate up to Eighty (80) Hours Paid Leave to Employees that are off Work due to Covid-19, Retroactive To October 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021

Mr. Volkmann stated that we previously extended it to September 30, 2021 and this would be to extend it to December 31, 2021. Mr. Volkmann stated that this encourages our employees who do come down with COVID to stay home and get well.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve to extend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act expiring December 31, 2021, retroactive to October 1, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM D. Consider Release of Cash Surety in the Amount of (\$217,232.89 (Recommended by NIES Engineering)

Oak District Development - Phase I

Mr. Simstad, NIES Engineering, stated that the developer is in compliance with the Town's Subdivision Control Ordinance and the

completion of the improvement, which would release the cash surety for those improvements and move to a maintenance bond.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the recommendation by NIES Engineering and release the Cash Surety, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$20,996.45

Mr. Connelly made a motion to defer the Acceptance of Donations until the next Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

ROB GUETZLOFF
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

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