

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 7:29 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, Thomas Schmitt, Rob Guetzloff and Robin Arvanitis. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Director of Operations James Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #102545 - APV #103047 on the General Docket, Totaling \$1,984,819.41
- B. APV #102560 - APV #103021 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$111,001.40
- C. APV #102648 - APV #103007 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,084,289.30
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$16,582.96
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, May Legal, \$13,303.73
- F. Various Funds, Enterprise Leasing, June, 2022 Statement, \$3,346.64
- G. Cum Cap Development Fund, Peoples Bank, 2020 Firetruck - Principal & Interest Due, \$65,472.98
- H. Park Dist. Bonds, Ser.2018 Debt Svc. Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$401,195.50
- I. Park Dist. Bond Debt 2004 Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, Interest Due, \$13,800.00
- J. 2016 Taxable G. O. Bond Debt Svc. Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$110,380.00
- K. Cum Cap Development Fund, Stryker, Principal Due, \$58,418.65
- L. Cum Cap Development Fund, US Bank Corp, Principal & Interest Due, \$229,286.54
- M. Public Safety Fund, Payment #1-EMT-Paramedic Education Program, \$1,000.00
- N. Park Non-Reverting Fund, The Bounce House, Various Park Events, \$20,375.00
- O. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Crosstown Exotics, June 1st Market, \$500.00
- P. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Bass Schuler Entertainment, Event Entertainment, \$1,500.00
- Q. General Fund - Court, Cintas, Cleanings, \$142.04
- R. General Fund - Animal Control, Crossroads Animal Hospital, May Invoices, \$693.37
- S. Cedit Fund, CKS Appraisals, Appraisal, \$350.00
- T. Various Funds, Menards, Parts, \$8,768.87
- U. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, May Parts, \$13,035.26
- V. Ambulance Fund, Stryker, External Cables, \$270.27
- W. Solid Waste Fund, Timbermaster Tree Service, Stump Removal, \$4,100.00
- X. Various Funds, Stumpbusters, Stump Removal, \$1,900.00
- Y. Cedit Fund, Advanced Engineering Services, Inc., Invoice #2210570606, \$4,150.00

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Moment of Silence for Larry Tucker who recently passed away. He was an ex-Town Council Member and currently represented the Town as a member of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority.

Fire Chief Patterson stated that the Fire Department responded to 273 EMS related calls, 64 Fire related calls for a total of 337 calls for the month of May.

Mr. Novacich stated that tonight kicks off the five day Celebrate Fest, and he thanked all of the departments who are assisting with that.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

- ITEM A. Consider Conveyance of Warranty Deed from the Estates at Bristol Farms Homeowner Association, Inc. to the Town Of Schererville (Outlots "A" and "B") **(Deferred from May 11, 2022 Meeting)**

Mr. Volkmann stated that in Bristol Farms, there are two parcels of property that the HOA owned originally, one is basically a detention area and the second one was plotted as park land. He stated that it is in an area that is under served by any kind of a Tot Lot Park. He stated he doesn't know if the Park Department would entertain it for any type of future development. He stated that it is an area that is only served by Stephen's Park and Smith Park. He stated that the HOA has been trying to disband, one of the things that was a stumbling block for them over the years was that they owned this property, which created a liability as a group. He stated that the President of the HOA has offered it to the Town, so they no longer have to pay taxes on it.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the Conveyance of Warranty Deed from Estates of Bristol Farms HOA to the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Novacich if there is any need for a park at this location. Mr. Novacich stated that they have Lake of the Meadows Park on Hilbrich Drive, which is probably less than a half of a mile from there. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Volkmann if we accept these properties are we going to have to mow them, is it a cost and expense to us now. Mr. Volkmann stated that parcel A, the detention area, no one does anything to that, and we have never mowed that. Mr. Volkmann stated that the other parcel is mostly natural, he said there could be a mowing liability at that area. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Volkmann if this HOA owns any other outlot parcels that they have to maintain. Mr. Volkmann advised him no.

Mr. Guetzloff stated that the main reason he is voting to accept it is because he hopes somewhere in the near future we can put a little park in there.

Motion carries (4-1). Mr. Johnson voting no

THEREUPON, New Business

- ITEM A. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$3,550.00

Mr. Troxell read the donations for the month of May 2022, into the record. Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

- ITEM B. Acceptance of Properties Listed Below and Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Executive of Documents \$26,725.00 (Pennsy Trail)

Kimberly Riis	8795 Calhoun Place	\$2,044.00
Mark Montoro	8787 Calhoun Place	\$4,566.00
Bryan & Rachel Fields	8781 Calhoun Place	\$3,623.00
William and Debra Larson	8779 Calhoun Place	\$4,623.00
Travis and Roberta Harwood	8771 Calhoun Place	\$4,623.00
Jeffrey Rains	8763 Calhoun Place	\$3,623.00
Don and Kim Cheney	8755 Calhoun Place	\$3,623.00

Mr. Volkmann stated that these parcels are for the Pennsy Trail, Phase 4.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the properties listed above, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Approval and Acceptance of Uniform Property Acquisition Offer to Purchase a Permanent Easement At 7485 Burr (American Legion) in the amount of \$99,750.00 and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director Of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney To Final Execution of Documents (**Burr Street Improvements**)

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is for Phase 2 of the Burr Street Improvements. He stated that when they did the preliminary design on this phase, it was discovered that we didn't have enough, there was only a twenty foot road right-a-way. He stated that we need to improve storm water drainage in that area.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the Uniform Property Acquisition offer to purchase a permanent easement at 7485 Burr Street, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 408 W Joliet Street, Schererville, IN from the Bohney Trust in the amount of \$260,000.00 and to Authorize The Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (**Kennedy Avenue Extension**)

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is for Phase 4 of Kennedy Avenue, he stated that the owners approached the Town to sell the property to the Town.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase property located at 406 W. Joliet Street, in the amount of \$260,000.00, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 76 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN from J. Rod Jones in The amount of \$296,000.00 and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (**Kennedy Avenue Extension**).

Mr. Volkmann stated that this parcel is on the north end of Kennedy Ave., in Kennedy Avenue Phase 3. He stated that it was on the market for sale, so they followed the correct procedures under the Federal Highway Standards in appraising the property and making an offer to the owner of said property.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase property located at 76 Kennedy Avenue, in the amount of \$296,000.00, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Donation to Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation (NICKs) for the Alex Lemonade Stand (\$1,000.00).

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the NICKs Foundation, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Greg Gilbertson, 35 W. Serenity Lane, Schererville, IN, thanked the Council for the kind words of Larry Tucker. He stated Larry was a friend of his. Mr. Gilbertson stated that his primary concern, is he was at the meeting last month listening to the young lady pleading for her father's home. He stated that he wanted to thank three of the Board members for stepping up and doing the right thing and putting an end to it. He stated that his concern as a citizen is the apparent process. He stated that the process that was used was frankly disgusting. He asked if the Board took a vote to acquire that property. Mr. Volkmann stated that as Town Manager, the direction was given to him to acquire the property. He stated that is not required that the Council take public action on it.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Gilbertson stated that this is somewhat disturbing, it could have been handled a better way.

Meeting adjourned.

ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY