

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 7:08 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, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Director of Operations Jim Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #105579 - APV #106064 on the General Docket, Totaling \$3,072,639.38
- B. Apv #105579 - Apv #106031 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$153,888.43
- C. Apv #105627 - Apv #105925 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,308,532.43
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, December Credit Card Charges, \$19,531.11
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, November Legal, \$8,694.54
- F. Various Funds, Enterprise Fleet, Monthly Lease, \$3,346.64
- G. General Fund - Police, Cintas, Monthly Invoices, \$2,037.24
- H. Various Funds, Reith Riley, CCMG 2021-2/Various, \$1,552,313.08
- I. Park District Bond Debt 2004 Fund, Wells Fargo, Principal & Interest Due - Park Bond 2004, \$123,800.00
- J. Park District Bond Debt 2004 Fund, Wells Fargo, Registrar Fee, \$400.00
- L. Cum Cap Development Fund, Peoples Bank, Principal & Interest Due 2020 Fire Truck, \$65,472.98
- M. Cum Cap Development Fund, Government Leasing & Finance, Inc., Principal & Interest Due - 2019 Help Lease, \$229,286.54
- N. 2016 Taxable G.O. Bond Debt Service Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due - Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016, \$114,287.50
- O. Park Dist. Bonds Series 2018 Debt Service Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due - Park District Bonds, Series 2018, \$400,710.72
- P. Various Funds, Minuteman Press, Newsletter Printing, \$3,195.00
- Q. Public Safety Fund, Franciscan Alliance EMS Academy, Installment - Training, \$1,300.00
- R. Various Funds, Menards, Parts, \$2,972.94
- S. Various Funds, Autowares, Parts, \$4,284.98
- T. Various Funds, Stracks, Supplies, \$785.11

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

Fire Chief Patterson reported that on Saturday, December 10th they held their Annual Food Drive to support the St. John Township Community Center. He stated that they were able to fill the entire van full of food and they collected \$2,000.00 in cash that we are also going to donate to the St. John Township Center, so they can use it for the food pantry.

Mr. Novacich gave a quick update on the Pennsy Trail construction. He stated that right now they are pretty much shutting down for the rest of the year and anticipate construction to start back up in early spring. Mr. Novacich stated that the contractor has about six weeks left of construction. He stated that pavement has been put down from Clark Street to 91st and then from Rohrman Park to 85th Ave. He stated that we still have that section in the center by the land bridge, that is the most difficult to construct. He stated that right now we are on target to finish the project by our completion date per the contract, which is June 30, 2023.

Mr. Simstad stated that at the November meeting for the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, we were approved for a grant in the amount of \$340,000.00, which represents 80% of the cost of the Sunset Blvd. detention project. He stated that he and Mr. Volkmann were at a meeting in October, presented our case. He stated they previously submitted our application in September and that work was approved. He stated that they will proceed with the agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Committee and move forward on that project.

Mr. Schmitt reported that they attended the dedication to our Fire Station #3. He stated he wanted to congratulate Chief Patterson and all of the staff members that who involved in that and getting it prepared. He stated it is a beautiful Fire Station.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #1989, An Ordinance Establishing Compensation Salaries, and Wages for Officials and Employees Of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana Classifying Certain Positions of Employment Together with Rates of Pay, Repealing and Amending Prior Ordinances in Conflict Herewith, And Declaring that an Emergency Exists.

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the Salary Ordinance, which is on the December agenda every year. He stated that it includes a 4% increase across the board from the current salary ordinance. It is on the agenda this evening for approval and adoption.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to consider on 1st reading, Ordinance #1989, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1989, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Ord. 1990, An Ordinance Amending Town Ordinance No. 1589 Being "An Ordinance Establishing an Activities Fee Schedule for the Town Department of Parks and Recreation, and all Matters Related Thereto", and Repealing all Town Code Sections or Town Ordinances Or Parks Thereof, in Conflict Herewith

Mr. Gorman stated that this is an ordinance establishing an updated fee schedule for Park Department. He stated that the Park Board at their last meeting passed a Resolution recommending these changes for the Town Council's approval.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to consider on 1st reading, Ordinance #1990, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1990, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Res. #2022-18, A Resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Establishing a Municipal Riverfront Development Project Area in the Town of Schererville, Designating the Boundaries Thereof, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a Resolution that defines the Municipal Riverfront District. He stated that the district is outlined on the overhead screen. He stated that the State allows municipalities or towns with rivers in their area to develop it to help promote Economic Development. Mr. Gorman stated that the Town of Schererville does not have a river but the State does not have a

definition of a River. He stated that some of the Towns and Communities are taking advantage of that. Mr. Gorman stated that the map they are using is up on the overhead projector. He stated that we are using the Schererville Ditch, he stated that the purple lines on the map represent the development area. It said it is basically 1,500 feet of either side of the Schererville Ditch. Mr. Gorman stated that why we are establishing this district is because the State only allows us to have a certain amount of liquor licenses based on our population through the census. He stated that this is an opportunity for Economic Development for small communities. He stated that restaurants can come into Town if they are within the Riverfront District and they can apply for a liquor license, which would have to go through the Town Council and it would apply directly to the ATC (Alcohol and Tabaco Commission). Mr. Gorman stated that what you have before you this evening is just the establishment of the district. Mr. Gorman stated that it goes from Austin Avenue on the east side, all the way to the Dyer border, using the Schererville Ditch.

Mr. Guetzloff stated that he thinks it is a wonderful program, but he thinks it should be scaled to our downtown area only, because those are the areas we really need to bring businesses in.

Mr. Connelly stated that Kennedy Avenue is part of this territory, and asked if we wanted to consider that area as well as the downtown or do we just want to focus on downtown.

Mr. Johnson asked if we want to include the area on Junction where there is development in that area.

Mr. Gorman stated that if we redraw the district, we will have to redraw the proposal as well as the legal description.

Mr. Johnson stated he just wants to be clear, we agree to go back to the tracks and we want to extend it a little more northeast of Junction to include that little bit of new development. He stated we will be pulling off of Route 30, take it up from Austin Avenue to Anna Street.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to defer Resolution 2022-18, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Res. #2022-19, A Resolution to Transfer Funds
Within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell explained the Transfer of Funds. Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #2022-19, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$1,720.00

Mr. Troxell read into the record the Donations for the month of November.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

ITEM A. Swearing in of newly elected officials

Michael Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer, will swear in:

Kevin Connelly (Ward 2 Councilman)
Thomas J. Schmitt (Ward 4 Councilman)

Mr. Troxell swore in the newly elected officials, Mr. Connelly and Mr. Schmitt.

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Meeting adjourned.

ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, IAMC, CPFIM, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY