

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 6:38 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, Rob Guetzloff and Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steven McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Chad Nondorf, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024 Public Meeting, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #116410 - APV #116943 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,092,587.72
- B. APV #116410 - APV #116929 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$108,147.44
- C. APV #116442 - APV #116791 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,216,353.34
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$16,906.63
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, September Legal, \$15,445.69
- F. Various Funds, H3 Concrete, Inc., Invoice #793, \$39,381.50
- G. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance Agency, Inc., Various Invoices, \$178,684.00
- H. Ambulance Fund, Eservices Technology, Invoice #1026-04880, \$15.00
- I. 2016 Taxable G. O. Bond, Huntington National Bank, Annual Administration Fee, \$750.00
- J. General Fund - Unappropriated, Lighthouse Construction & Restoration, Permit Refund, \$2,332.50
- K. General Fund - Court, Indiana Department Of Workforce Development, September Claim, \$541.00
- L. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Strack & Van Til, Supplies, \$205.32
- M. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Parts, \$6,589.40
- N. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$2,999.40
- O. ARPA Fund, Hasse Construction Company, Co., Pay Application #3 - Bio Solids Storage Building Project, \$664,359.50

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Robbie Hansen (IT) stated that he has received some complaints over time, especially recently about the audio quality. He stated that it's partly due to people just not speaking into the microphone. He asked all Councilmembers to speak clearly into the microphone, not only so the people in this room can hear you, but also the people listening and watching remotely.

Fire Chief Patterson stated that the Schererville Fire Department responded to 270 EMS related calls and 53 Fire related calls for a total of 323 calls for the month of September.

Police Chief Sormaz stated that October 31st is Halloween and the Trick or Treat hours are between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. He stated that Police Officers will be out in the neighborhoods ensuring everybody's safety.

Mr. Nondorf reported that leaf collection started last week on the South side of Route 30 and on the North side of Route 30 this week. He stated they will be alternating weeks all the way up to Thanksgiving. Mr. Nondorf stated that they added a fourth leaf machine for this upcoming season so they are hoping to get them picked up a little quicker than they have in past years.

Mr. Hansen stated that Mr. Reardon is here to give his report on the progress of the Illiana Project if the Council would want to hear him now.

Mr. Reardon stated that he would like to report their recent activity. First, he said they continue working with American Structure Point, reviewing their proposal. He stated that they expect to have the edited final copy to Town Administration well in advance for the Town Council to review and approve at the November meeting. Secondly, he stated that Americo, the Firm under contract to work with them on environmental matters completed their field work on site last week. He stated that the samples from their drilling are in the lab and he expects those to be back around the 24th of October. Mr. Reardon stated that a summary will be provided to the Town Administrators by November 1st and they are expecting a final report to be issued November 8th. Mr. Reardon stated lastly, they are in the process of drafting a preliminary site plan at Soil Solutions request. Soil Solutions is the firm hired to assist them with the wetland delineation on site. He stated that this preliminary site plan will accompany appropriate applications to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers. If there is no objection letter from the Army Corps of Engineers then they can do work necessary, ultimately deemed part of the project in that wetland area.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Reardon if the preliminary site plan is supposed to be a concept plan, or is that just a drawing of what we think should be there. Mr. Reardon stated that it is a simple plan drawing depicting what we think would be there. Mr. Reardon stated those are great words Mr. Johnson, "what we think would be there", but given the list of items that we've discussed and have percolated to the top, a simple drawing would accompany the applications with the knowledge and understanding that it's not the final plan. He stated it would allow the reviewers to envision what the project might look like. Mr. Johnson stated he thought that's what the Council was getting and wanted to make sure they are getting that to. Mr. Reardon advised yes.

Mr. Schmitt stated that our Council woman, Robin Arvanitis was recognized in the last couple weeks by the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association. Mrs. Arvanitis was awarded the top prize in the Economics and Government category at the annual awards banquet. The Council members congratulated Mrs. Arvanitis.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2012, Adoption of 2025 Civil Town Budget
(Second Reading)

Mr. Troxell stated that this is Ordinance #2012, it is the second public meeting held regarding our Town Municipal Budget for 2025. He stated that during last month's public hearing of the notice of taxpayers there were no oral remonstrance nor any written remonstrance received on our 2025 Schererville Civil Budget. Mr. Troxell stated that the 2025 Budget is figured with an increase of 4.25%. The Department of Local Government Finance has stated that the maximum growth levy factor will be about 4%, so we expect some downward adjustments to this adopted budget. He stated that the total budget for all funds is \$54,874,849.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2012 and authorize the Clerk Treasurer to submit all documents to the Gateway portal for review, certification and approval by the DLGF, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #985K, An Ordinance of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Amending Town Ordinance No. 985I, Entitled: "An Ordinance Amending Town Ordinance 985G, Entitled: "An Ordinance Amending Town Ordinance No. 985B Pertaining to Transport and Ambulance Service Trauma Policy for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Metropolitan Fire Department Ambulance Service, Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Sections, or Portions Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto", Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Sections, or Portions Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and All Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this is just simply adding the new University of Chicago Hospital in Crown Point, IN to the allowable areas that our Fire Department can transport to.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to consider on 1st reading, Ordinance #985K, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #985K, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Res. #2024-11, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within A Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell explained the Transfer of Funds.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-11, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance and Approval of Amended and Restated Option and Site Lease Agreement between the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana and CCATT LLC (WWTP Cell Tower Lease) **From Utility Board Agenda**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is what was approved at the Utility Board Meeting.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept and approve the site lease agreement, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Release of Cash Surety in the Amount of \$50,679.65 for Falling Timbers Subdivision

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the developer, Doug and Steve Construction, Inc. He stated that this would release the cash surety in the amount of \$50,679.64 for the completed public improvements in the Falling Timber Subdivision and implementing the two-year maintenance bond.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to release the Cash Surety, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of LPA Consulting Contract between The Town of Schererville and DLZ Indiana, LLC in the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$1,975,620.00 for Construction Observation and Material Testing Services for the Reconstruction of Kennedy Avenue from 950 Feet South Of Existing Junction Avenue to 325 Feet North of Oak Street, Excluding the Local TRAX Project Improvement Limits in the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for the Kennedy Avenue project Phase 2. He stated that this is roughly from Public Works to Oak Street. He stated that this agreement is for inspection services, which includes having an inspector on site the entire time the construction is underway for this Phase. Mr. Hansen stated that

they will perform the material testing as needed, they review the shop drawings and there will be an on-site liaison that will bring up any issues that may occur during the construction. Mr. Hansen stated that DLZ was selected utilizing the INDOT selection process.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the LPA Consulting Contract between the Town of Schererville and DLZ Indiana, LLC, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Engineering Services Proposal
From NIES Engineering, Inc. in an Amount Not-To-Exceed
\$75,350.00 for the Central Fire Station, Phase I

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for NIES Engineering to do preliminary engineering for the new Central Fire Station located downtown. He stated that they split it into two phases because they are still waiting for the soil boring, which actually occurred today to figure out the exact location of where the building will go.

Mr. Simstad stated that very initial work has been done over the past couple years, but it's not in a manner that can be utilized to provide the documentation to CSK Architects as they look to site the building in conjunction with the soil borings that are being done. Mr. Simstad stated that the soil testing should be done either today or tomorrow.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to accept the Engineering Proposal from NIES Engineering, Inc., seconded by Mr. Connelly Motion approved (4-0) Mrs. Arvanitis stepped out of the meeting.

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$2,073.22

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Shelia Madjecki, 7419 Harvest Drive, Schererville, IN stated she just wants to thank the Council and all of the staff. She stated that they've had a couple things at her house, someone tried to break in and the police responded so fast, her husband did get a gash in his head but the suspect got caught. She stated that later her son had a seizure and the response was tremendous, they took him right away to the hospital. She stated she just wants to thank everyone that's involved, she really appreciates it. Mrs. Madjecki spoke about a neighbor who has a sump pump running 24/7 because there was a little bit of a wetland. Ms. Madjecki went into further detail. She stated that she appreciates that Mr. Nondorf tried to fix that and that she looks forward to working with Mr. Nondorf.

The homeowner on the 1800 block of Burgundy Street, Schererville stated she is here tonight to ask the Town Council to assist her in stopping a fellow neighbor on the 1900 block of Burgundy Street from feeding stray animals. She stated that these animals are fed daily by a resident. She stated that there is number of feral cats, raccoons and possums that gather each evening, it has grown to well over 20 animals. She stated that she is a single mother of two small children and they have almost become hostages in their own home due to the animals gathering on her driveway on multiple occasions. She stated that she has taken numerous steps to try to prevent these residents from feeding wild animals, to no avail. She stated that she appeared before the HOA Board at Oak Manor, with no solution nor assistance. She has contacted Animal Control and was informed there is no ordinance regarding feral animals and wild animals. She said she understands some years back the Town had a similar issue with a resident feeding wild turkeys and a letter was sent to the resident advising them they cannot feed the wild animals. She stated she is asking

the Council tonight to allow her the same courtesy and send a letter to the resident regarding this issue.

Mr. Schmitt stated that he would recommend she have a conversation with the Police Chief after the meeting. The Police Chief is in charge of Animal Control.

Mr. Kevin Dean, 1905 Sir Richard Road, Schererville, IN stated he would like to thank the Town Council for showing restraint in donating our tax dollars to other causes.

Cathy Lareau, St. John Township Trustee stated that she was here this evening with Bob Carnegie from DAV. She stated that they are coming tonight to thank the Council and Administration for the support and help they received from Jim Gorman, Andy Hansen and Chief Sormaz as far as conducting the DAV walk. She spoke a little bit about how DAV helps the VA's with information and benefits they may be entitled to. Ms. Lareau stated that they have the date for the DAV walk next year which will be August 23, 2025. Ms. Lareau stated that every year they have an event, a tribute dinner and they are fortunate enough to have a relationship with the Hard Rock Casino and couldn't ask for a better partnership. Ms. Lareau went into a little more detail regarding the tribute dinner.

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, IAMCA, CMC, ACPFIM, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

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