

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 6:49 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, 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. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #114420 - APV #114991 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,954,647.39
- B. APV #114435 - APV #114957 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$101,563.30
- C. APV #114497 - APV #114929 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,228,449.98
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$9,007.96
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, May Legal, \$10,394.51
- F. Ambulance Fund, Eservices Technology, Various Invoices, \$15.00
- G. Various Funds, Menards, May Invoices, \$3,493.95
- H. General Fund - Police, Lithographics, Invoice #169032, \$227.00
- I. ARPA Fund, Hasse Construction Co., Inc., Pay Request #4, \$681,947.52

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Sormaz stated that he wanted to extend a thank you to all of the Town Departments for their help last week during the festival. He stated with all of the support for the Police Department and the rest of the entities that were helping at the festival, everyone did a great job. Thank you.

Mr. Novacich stated that he is going to echo the Police Chief's words. He stated he wanted to thank the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works and the Park Department for all of their efforts setting up and working throughout the Festival. Mr. Novacich stated that with all of the changes they put in, he thinks it had a positive effect and he received a lot of good feedback. Mr. Novacich stated that the Park Department has their Dino-Day Party in the Park on June 21st, at Redar Park from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. He reminded everyone that the Fireworks at Rohrman Park will be on Friday, June 28th.

Pat Reardon-Illiana Redevelopment Project Update

Mr. Reardon stated that they've been engaged in a flurry of activities since our last meeting. The majority of the time has been spent on meetings and highlighted who those meetings have been with. He stated that they had the opportunity to sit down with all of the members here tonight. He stated he has pending meetings with the Police Chief and Fire Chief. Mr. Reardon stated that he would like to sit down with Mr. Troxell soon to talk about time funding. He stated they met with the Lake Central Buccaneers and the Schererville Soccer Club. Mr. Reardon stated that he had the opportunity to visit two of Crown Point's facilities, the Bulldog Park and the Babe Ruth Complex. He stated that they are scheduled to meet with Valparaiso, Hammond and Highland. He stated that these resemble a lot of what's been discussed and hoped for here in

Schererville. Mr. Reardon said they are working with Town Staff, and that he expects to have proposals finalized and then forward to the Town for review within the next couple of days. He stated that the next time he is before the Council he will have a comprehensive written report and will provide it to the Council Members prior to that meeting so they can go through the report. Mr. Reardon stated that the response they've received across the board is positive.

Mr. Schmitt stated that Mr. Reardon is doing a lot of working with staff on getting the study on the land and asked Mr. Reardon if he's run into any surprises out there as far as the land. Mr. Reardon stated no, that he's pleasantly surprised with respect to the environmental report that they are working on. He stated that he would caution the Town Council and professional staff that until they get into the assessment they won't know with certainty, but they are not finding anything that would prohibit development going forward.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Presentation

Recognition - Liam Staley - Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Schmitt stated that Liam Staley did an Eagle Scout Project for us here in Town. He stated we are here to honor Liam Staley, member of Scout Troop #532 and an employee for the Town of Schererville Park Department. He is being recognized by the Schererville Town Council for his outstanding achievement of his Eagle Scout Project of the flag retirement boxes. One is located here at Town Hall in the foyer and one is located outside of the Schererville Community Center. Mr. Schmitt stated that anyone who has a flag may deposit it in one of these receptacles which provides a respectful way to hold American flags until the retirement ceremonies. The Town Council Members presented him a recognition certificate.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2009, An Ordinance Establishing Storm Drainage Control Regulations for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Providing for the Administration and Enforcement, Thereof, Repealing and Replacing all Ordinances and Regulations in Conflict Herewith, and All Matters Related Hereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this is a State mandate and a template creating a uniform Storm Water ordinance throughout the State. He stated that staff and our engineer have been reviewing this for the last year. He stated that it will replace Ordinance #1708 and #1708A. Mr. Hansen stated that the fees have not changed.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve on 1st reading, Ordinance #2009, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2009, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Res. #2024-6, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell stated that these transfers are from certain departments, they need to move some money around in their own budgets to different line items.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-6, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Change Order #1 (Final) from Grimmer Construction, Inc. in the Amount of (\$669.90) For the Oakside Drive and Hickory Place Water Main Replacement Project

Mr. Simstad stated that Items C and D are a balancing of quantities for the Hickory Place and Oakside Drive Water Main Replacement Project. Mr. Simstad stated that he's reviewed them as well as staff for those two water main projects. He stated we still have a performance bond which is in place through the one year guarantee period.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Change Order #1 from Grimmer Construction in the amount of \$669.90, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Approval of Final Pay Request in the amount of \$6,623.50 to Grimmer Construction, Inc. for the Completion of the Oakside Drive and Hickory Place Water Main Replacement Project

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Final Pay Request in the amount of \$6,623.50 to Grimmer Construction, Inc., seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Change Order #1 from Gariup Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$2,565.50 for The Autumn Creek Park Improvement Project (CDBG)

Mr. Simstad stated that this is similar to Item C, it is a balancing of quantities. He stated that during construction they added a few things and took a few things out based on site construction and this is in the amount of \$2,565.60.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Change Order #1 from Gariup Construction Co., seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Approval to Purchase Properties listed below and To authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution Of Documents **(Kennedy Avenue Extension)**

- 701 & 702 Kennedy Avenue - EJ&E West Company NKA Wisconsin Central Ltd. \$52,000.00 (Permanent Easement)
- 601 Kennedy Avenue - Norfolk Southern Railway Company \$5,805.00 (Permanent Easement)
- 1040 Kennedy Avenue - George Stoguilludis and Kurt Kropp \$36,500.00 (Right of Way)
- 1020 Kennedy Avenue - Indiana Land Trust No. 5587, Kropp Industries, LLC \$19,200.00 (Right of Way)
- 409 Kennedy Avenue - Abigail Gaitan \$24,860.00 (Permanent and Temporary Right of Way)
- 390 Kennedy Avenue - Jeremy M. Shuman \$175,000.00 (Entire Property Purchase)
- 824 Kennedy Avenue - Joe T. Nelson, Jr., Fredrick J. Leep, and William L. Fulton \$14,500.00 (Right of Way)

Mr. Hansen explained each of the above listed properties and pointed out the properties on the projection screen. He stated that all of these properties are for the Kennedy Avenue Extension. He stated that they are making a lot of progress.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to have the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Attorney Austgen to finalize the execution of these documents, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Approve the Sale of Real Estate Located at 22 W. Joliet Street by the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, With Conditions and Authorize the Town Manager, Director Of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer, and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents
(From the Redevelopment Commission Agenda)

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the sale of Real Estate Located at 22 W. Joliet Street subject to all land use approvals as discussed at the Redevelopment Commission meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Award Bid for Community Crossing Matching Grant 2024-1

Mr. Simstad stated that the bids were opened on June 7th at a Public meeting at 9:00 a.m. here at Town Hall. He stated following that meeting the bids were taken under advisement by NIES Engineering Inc., for analysis and tabulation. He stated that two bidders submitted bids for the 2025 Street Resurfacing Projects, 2024-1 CCMG. Mr. Simstad stated he recommends that the bid be awarded to the lowest and most responsive and responsible bidder, Milestone Contractors North, LLC. in the amount of \$903,750.96.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the bid for the Community Crossing Matching Grant 2024-1 to Milestone Contractors North, LLC. seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM I. Appoint Member to the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority (3-year Term)

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to appoint Mr. John Bushemi to the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority (3-year term), seconded by Mr. Guetzloff.

Mr. Johnson stated that he thinks Mr. Bushemi is not qualified to serve on the Authority Board as our representative. He stated he's not in the hospitality industry in any fashion, he's a local attorney.

Mr. Schmitt stated that Mr. Bushemi did supply us information and we did our research on it. Mr. Schmitt stated that this appointment comes from the Town Council President, with the approval of the board and the paperwork that he supplied does make him qualified. Mr. Johnson stated that he didn't see any paperwork and asked if it was only provided to the Democrats on the Council. Mr. Guetzloff stated that he did not see any paperwork either.

Mr. Schmitt asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Johnson - No; Mr. Connelly - No; Mrs. Arvanitis - Yes; Mr. Guetzloff - Yes; Mr. Schmitt - Yes. Motion carries (3-2).

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Hansen to notify Mr. Bushemi.

ITEM J. Consider Approval of a Filing of the Schererville Building Corporation, by Town Administrative Staff, its Application for Development Variance as Required by Town Ordinance No. 2004, Title XVI, Section 6, Paragraph J, To Allow a 6' H by 12' W Electronic Center Sign to be Located within the Joliet Street Overlay "Core" District On the Property with the General Location and Address of 10 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, Indiana, 46375
(Schererville Town Hall Property)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is authorizing staff to move forward with the replacing of the marquee in front of Town Hall. He stated that they will be using the existing brick bottom, it

will just replace the existing sign that is dated and falling apart. Mr. Hansen stated that it will be a digital sign.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve, with the condition that the petition to the BZA for approval of developmental variances subject to the same conditions that were placed upon for the digital sign at the Community Center property, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM K. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$8,525.32

Mr. Troxell read the list of in-kind and monetary donations for the month of May 2024.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Jeff Minard, 1279 Poppyfield, Schererville, IN stated that he would like to extend a thank you to the Schererville Police Department and the Police Chief for being on top of things at the Schererville Festival. He stated he thinks we can do more with the Schererville Festival, he heard from a lot of families that they don't feel safe to take their young children. He stated we've done some improvements but the Town needs to do a lot more. Mr. Minard gave a few suggestions. Mr. Minard stated that he tries to think the best of everybody, but this Democrat majority of the Town Council makes it hard to do so when this nonsense continues.

Louise Talent, 2723 Sycamore Drive Dyer, IN stated she is a member of the Lake Central Education Foundation and with her tonight is Sher Cosgrove, 5430 West 75th in Schererville. Ms. Talent stated that the Foundation's central mission is to enhance innovation educational opportunities for the students of Lake Central School Corporation through partnerships with educators, parents, businesses, and the greater community. The organization offers educators the opportunity to create programming for all students. Enhanced programming prepares students to become contributing citizens in our ever changing global society. Ms. Talent thanked the Schererville Town Council for their donation to the Lake Central Educational Foundation.

Mr. Eric Staley, 7723 Hanley Street, Rolling Hills Estates stated he has been a resident of Schererville for 16 years. He stated there is a speeding problem in their subdivision. He stated there are children riding their bikes or walking to the local parks in their subdivision which is connected to the bike trail. He stated that he would like some attention brought to this issue. Mr. Schmitt advised Mr. Staley to make an appointment to meet with the Director of Operations and staff and go over details with them.

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Michael A. Troxell, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY