

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 6:43 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 Thomas Schmitt. Council Member absent: Rob Guetzloff. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Asst. Park Superintendent Irene Mireles, IT Robbie Hansen, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Chad Nondorf, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, Town Manager Jim Gorman, 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 November 13, 2024 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #117370 - APV #117807 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,538,262.84
- B. APV #117389 - APV #117763 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$105,737.67
- C. APV #117409 - APV #117766 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,382,934.03
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$14,329.75
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, November Legal, \$15,413.49
- F. Various Funds, Town of Highland, Main Street Interlocal Agreement, \$102,248.80
- G. 2016 Taxable G.O. Bond Debt Service Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$113,837.50
- H. Park Dist. Bonds, Ser. 2018 Debt Service Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$397,999.25
- I. Park District Bond Debt 2004 Fund, Computershare Corporate Trust, Principal & Interest Due, \$128,625.00
- J. Park District Bond Debt 2004 Fund, Computershare Trust Company, Registrar Fee - 2004 Park District Bonds, \$400.00
- K. Public Safety Fund, Peoples Bank, 2020 Fire Truck Principal & Interest Due, \$65,472.98
- L. Various Funds, Auto Wares, Parts, \$16,428.43
- M. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Various Vendors, Refund for Craft Shows, \$489.50
- N. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Strack & Van Til, Supplies, \$224.43
- O. Public Safety LOIT Fund, American Commercial Furniture, PSAP Seating, \$8,285.67
- P. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$2,155.07

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Patterson report that for the month of November the Fire Department responded to 307 EMS calls and 49 Fire calls for a total of 356 calls. Chief Patterson also thanked the Council and Mr. Hansen for all his help with the purchase of a new Polaris. He stated that order was placed today and thanked the Council very much.

Mr. Novacich stated that the Park Department received an award from the National Softball Association for Rohrman Park. He stated it's for appreciation for our support and dedication for the softball tournaments. He stated that they have been hosting the National World Series for the last few years, so they recognized us with the National Park Appreciation Award. Mr. Novacich thanked his staff for all of their hard work during these tournaments. Mr. Novacich also thanked Mr. Nondorf for all of his service out there, building the complex.

Mr. Schmitt stated that recently our Park Superintendent, John Novacich was the recipient of the 2023 Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Outstanding Professional of the year. He stated that Mr. Novacich was nominated by fellow Superintendents throughout the State. He stated he received the award on November 7, 2024 in French Lick. Mr. Schmitt stated that Mr. Novacich started with the Town of Schererville on May 1, 1989 and his hard work and dedication can be seen throughout more than 250 acres of land, 28 parks, 20 playgrounds, a Community Center, skate park, splash pad and more than 11 miles of paved Trails. Mr. Schmitt asked for everyone to join him on congratulating Mr. Novacich.

Mr. Novacich thanked the Town Council, fellow Department Heads, his staff and the Park Board for all of their support through the years.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Res. #2024-16, A Resolution Transferring Funds to the Rainy-Day Fund

Mr. Troxell stated that back in 2016 a Rainy-Day Funds was created. He stated that these funds can be utilized for any unencumbered and unused funds at the discretion of the Town Council, for emergency purposes. Mr. Troxell stated that he is recommending to the Council this evening that \$400,000.00 should be transferred into this Rainy-Day Fund.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-16, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Award Bid for 2025 Mowing Season

Mr. Nondorf stated that publication was made for the 2025 Mowing contract. He stated bids were received and opened last Friday, December 13, 2024. He stated that this also includes Item C. on the agenda. Mr. Nondorf stated that only two zones were bid out this year. They received two price and the lowest and most responsive bidder for zones #1 and zone #2 was Harrison's Lawn/Landscaping. He stated that the price came in at \$58,300.00, which is an increased \$1,352.00 for the 2025 mowing season.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the mowing bid for year 2025 as recommended by Mr. Nondorf, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Extension of mowing large parks And Zone #3 for 2025 with R & R Yard Designs

Mr. Nondorf stated that R&R Yard Design elected to renew their 2024 contract into the 2025 season. He stated the total price was \$121,300 for 26 cuts, for Zone #3 and the large parks.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the extension as Mr. Nondorf explained, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM D. Consider Acceptance of Extension of Concrete Disposal for 2025 with Dyer Construction

Mr. Nondorf stated that this is another contract extension, 2024 pricing will be the same in 2025.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to accept the Extension of Concrete Disposal for 2025, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Consider Release of 2-Year Maintenance Bond and Issue a Certificate of Release for Canyon Creek Planned Unit Development, Phase One

Mr. Gorman stated this is the release of the two-year maintenance bond for Canyon Creek Phase One. He stated that our Engineering firm along with Public Works did all of the inspections and everything fell in line, so it's appropriate to release this Bond.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to consider the Release of 2-year Maintenance Bond as explained by Mr. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gorman that when they do these inspections are they looking into whether or not the homes that are built are having any difficulties with storm drainage base, any issues that in this area where we had high water tables and they had to adjust some properties. He asked if they are looking at those issues when we're finalizing the site plan.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Gorman stated that we are talking about two different things here. The release of the Maintenance Bond is basically the roads, the sewers sanitary water, that the hydrants are in place and set back a certain amount. He stated that the Maintenance Bond is released once the two years is up after it's been developed.

All in favor on the motion (4-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of 2025 Fire Services Agreement Between St. John Township and the Town of Schererville

Cathy Lareau, Township Trustee, stated that the agreement the Council has before them is exactly the same as last year with the exception, there was a 3% increase in the dollar amount. She stated she appreciates the partnership she has with the Town of Schererville. Cathy Lareau also thanked the Fire Chief, Fire Department, FOP Lodge #170 and everyone who came out to support the Food Drive, she said their pantry is full.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the 2025 Fire Services Agreement, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$1,867.81

Mr. Troxell read the donations for the month of November.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Collin Zakcavec, stated he is a full-time firefighter/paramedic here in Schererville and also the Secretary of the Schererville Firefighters Union Local #4279. He stated he would like to thank the Town Council, the citizens of Schererville and the various businesses here in Schererville, along with anyone who donated this past Saturday to their food drive. He stated that all of these donations went to the St. John Township Community Food Bank this past Monday. He stated that they were able to completely fill the garage storage area and also donate a total of \$1,500.00 in combined cash and gift cards to grocery stores. Mr. Zakcavec stated that the Schererville Fire Station #1 is a collection spot for the Christmas Land toy drive if anyone would like to drop off unwrapped gifts until December 20th.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Council would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays. He stated that there will be a Special Town Council meeting on December 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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