

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff 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, Thomas Schmitt and Rob Guetzloff. 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 Andrew Garcia and 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. Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024, December 11, 2024 and the December 30, 2024 Public Meetings, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0)

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #117811 - APV #118255 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,993,274.53
- B. APV #117814 - APV #118249 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$229,957.50
- C. APV #117832 - APV #118199 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,900,939.86
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$13,481.15
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, December Legal, \$12,410.27
- F. Various Funds, Bank of America, Principal & Interest Due - 2023 Vehicle & Equipment Lease, \$298,899.47
- G. Various Funds, NIES Engineering, Inc., December Engineering, \$66,345.23
- H. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance Agency, Various Invoices, \$78,001.00
- I. General Fund - Court, John Vazanellis, Public Defender Services, \$700.00
- J. General Fund - Court, Kyle Hoogeveen, Public Defender Services, \$550.00
- K. ARPA Fund, Egov Strategies, New Website, \$4,585.00
- L. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Parts, \$12,452.19
- M. Various Funds, Unifirst, Misc. Services, \$1,157.56
- N. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$2,941.00
- O. Various Funds, Napa, Parts, \$672.74
- P. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Strack's, Program Supplies, \$63.58
- Q. Various Funds, Timbermasters, Emergency Tree Removal, \$7,500.00
- R. Various Funds, Lithographic Communications, January Bill Preparation & Postage, \$8,586.37
- S. Police Equipment Fund, Motorola, LPR Service Package, \$7,020.00
- T. General Fund - PSAP, Medical Priority Consultants, Annual Maintenance Agreement, \$8,400.00
- U. Various Funds, Pinkerton Oil Company, Fuel, \$18,661.80
- V. General Fund - Court, Cintas, October Invoices, \$332.80

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Patterson reported the Fire Department just took possession of their Polaris vehicle. He stated at this point it is staged at Station 3 and they will be getting lights and sirens put on in the next week or so. He thanked the Council for their support in this.

THEREUPON, PRESENTATION

- A. Logan's Love - Donation Presented to Fire Department for *Project Lifesaver*

Georgianne Glavas, 1727 Chelsea Street stated that she is here to introduce Logan's Love. She stated that here to speak is Logan's mom, Nicole Reveliotis.

Nicole Reveliotis stated their hearts are so happy to be here today and to be able to present the Schererville Fire Department

with extra funds for Project Lifesaver. She stated that that Project Lifesaver is near and dear to her heart. Her son Logan, had Project Lifesaver and she knows firsthand how important and life-saving this tracking device is. Ms. Reveliotis stated that they want to present a check in honor of Logan, in honor of autism and also in our mutual love of community. She stated that she was before the Council almost three years ago and they cannot thank the Council enough for giving Logan's Love our very first start. She stated that when came before the Council they knew this was something needed here in our hometown and County. She stated that their goal was to supply Tri-Town with Ben's Blue Bags and educating the First Responders on how to handle situations with special needs individuals. Ms. Reveliotis stated that they have equipped the Town of Dyer with a transmitter to be a Project Lifesaver location. She spoke about the different events that Project Lifesaver holds. Ms. Reveliotis and members of her committee presented a check to the Schererville Fire Department in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Cathy Lareau - St. John Township

Cathy Lareau stated that with her tonight is Adam Sedia, St. John Township Attorney. She stated she is here to talk to the Council about the Township Cemetery. She stated that the cemetery is located just east of the Halls of St. George on Joliet Street. She stated that there has been an erosion issue at that cemetery. She stated that she can see paperwork from 1968 where they were trying to address it with grass foliage, but it continues to erode. She stated that she reached out to the DNR in December, which was her first step to get some help on moving forward with this cemetery. One of the first things would be a retaining wall that could be put up there, but this obviously is going to cost a lot of money. Ms. Lareau stated that if this is made an historical site, that would open the opportunity for various kinds of grants.

Attorney Sedia stated he is here to talk a little bit about what the Township could possibly see from the Town of Schererville, because the cemetery is located within the Schererville boundaries, it is within Schererville's jurisdiction. He stated that he is the Town of Dyer's Attorney and he oversaw and implemented the adoption of the historic preservation Commission and the historic districts in that Town. He stated he is familiar with the process and said if this is something the Town of Schererville is interested in, the Township would need to have the Town of Schererville designate the cemetery as a historic district in order to receive grants. Attorney Sedia spoke about how they would go about setting up a Commission and what the Commission's function would be.

Mr. Schmitt asked Attorney Sedia if the Township has ever been in contact with the Town of Schererville about the erosion. Mr. Schmitt stated that since it's in Schererville property that our Public Works Department and our Engineer should know about it and at least go out there and take a look. Mr. Gorman advised Mr. Schmitt that this is not Schererville's property, it's the Township property. He stated that's true that it's in the Town of Schererville but its Township property, the deed is in the name of the St. John Township. There was a lengthy discussion on whose property it is, if it's unincorporated or in the Town of Schererville. Ms. Lareau stated that she has been working with the Surveyor Emerson on this, along with Thomas Burke from Burke Engineering.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Consider Acceptance of Change Order #3 from Hasse Construction Company, Inc in the credit amount of \$45,000.00 for the Bio-Solids Storage Building Project

Mr. Gorman stated that this is for the Bio-Solids Project down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that the contractors substituted some of the wire mesh to go with a heavier duty mesh and we ended up getting a credit back for \$45,000.00.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept Change Order #3 from Hasse Construction Company, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Consider Acceptance of Contract between the Town of Schererville and Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis P.C. Law Firm

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the annual contract that we do every January with our Town Attorney, Mr. Austgen.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the contract between the Town of Schererville and Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis P.C. Law Firm, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Contract between the Town of Schererville and NIES Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Gorman stated that this is for our Town Engineering Services that we do every year in January.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the Contract between the Town of Schererville and NIES Engineering, Inc., seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Approval to Purchase of Right-of-Way Property Located at 398 Kennedy Avenue (BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings, LLC) in the Amount of \$42,100.00 And to Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (**Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project - Phase 2**)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for the Kennedy Avenue project, it's phase 2, parcel 6. He had it up on the screen and explained exactly where this parcel is.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the Purchase of Right-of-way property at 398 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 1225/1227 & 1231/1233 Kennedy Avenue from Steven Aloia in the Amount of \$31,800.00 and to Authorize the The Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents. (**Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project - Phase 2**)

Mr. Hansen pointed out on the screen where this property is, he stated its right across from Public Works. He stated that this reflects the appraise value, plus the additional compensation for some concrete work that the owner of the property had to do.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase the property located at 1225/1227 & 1231/1233 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Easement Agreement between Mistro Industries (Prism Painting) and the Town of Schererville For Access to Relocated Lift Station Facility and Equipment and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director Of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project - Phase 2)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is also for the Kennedy Avenue Project and pointed out on the project where the property is. He stated that we need to have this in order to have access to the relocation of the new lift station, in order to provide access for some of the larger vehicles that we would need to get in there to do work on the lift station. Mr. Hansen stated that there's no cost for this easement, it's an access easement.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Easement Agreement between Mistro Industries (Prism Painting) and the Town of Schererville, and to have the Town Council President to sign this document, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$5,173.99

Mr. Troxell read the list of in-kind and monetary donations into the record.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Meeting adjourned.

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ROB GUETZLOFF  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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