The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis 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, Thomas Schmitt, Rob Guetzloff and Robin Arvanitis. Staff members present: Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, IT AJ Garcia, 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 May 13, 2026 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

A. APV # 125050 - APV #125414 on the General Docket, Totaling $2,225,333.14
B. APV #125062 - APV #125392 on the MVH Docket, Totaling $109,687.70
C. APV #125065 - APV #125319 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling $1,344,153.37
D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, $10,019.14
E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, May Legal, $11,405.50
F. Park Dist. Bond Debt Svc. Ser. 2004, Computershare Corporate Trust, Interest Due, $2,990.00
G. Public Safety Fund, Axon Enterprises, Principal Due, $38,476.80
H. Various Funds, Bank of America, Principal & Interest Due - 2025 Vehicle and Equipment Lease, $285,078.98
I. Various Funds, Auto Wares, Parts, $6,891.21
J. Various Funds, RAL Landscaping, Restoration Supplies, $6,607.80
K. General Fund – Police, Tiffany Beemsterboer, Reimbursement, $38.39
L. MVH Fund, Unifirst, Towels, $215.88
M. MVH Fund, Grainger, Parts, $55.64
N. Various Funds, Lowe’s, Parts, $2,198.33
O. Various Funds, Menard’s, Parts, $3,439.35

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 last month on May 15th the Schererville Police Department, along with the Schererville FOP Lodge #170 participated in the annual Cop on the Roof here in Town. He stated that they have two locations on US 41 and one on US 30. Chief Sormaz stated that the Schererville Police, along with the FOP came in number one, raising the most funds for the State of Indiana. He stated that the total collect was right under $7,000.00. The total for the State was approximately $72,000.00 from all of the participating Police Departments in the State. He stated that all of the money is donated to the Indiana Special Olympics. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Nondorf gave an update on the 2025-2 CCMG. He stated that they have completed work in the Eagle Ridge Estates Subdivision off of St. John Road. He stated that the restoration work was completed by Public Works. Mr. Nondorf stated that they are doing concrete work in Novo Selo Subdivision and they have started the concrete removal in Camden Woods and the Fawn Valley Subdivisions.

Mr. Hansen gave an update on Kennedy Avenue Project. He stated that the Junction Avenue corridor is still closed. The majority of the bike trail was paved and as of right now should be open again. He stated that it’s still a little dangerous

in the area, so anyone using the trail, please be careful because of the different equipment and people going in and out of there. Mr. Hansen stated that the Town Dump is also closed as well. It will be closed until at least the middle of July.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Hansen when the rest of the Bike Trail is expected to be done. Mr. Hansen stated that part of it goes through the roadway, so once the roadway is done, it will be completed, sometime later this year. Mr. Schmitt Mr. Hansen what are they paving now, are you still missing some paving spots? Mr. Hansen stated just along the roadways where it connects through the roadway. So, along Kaeser and Kennedy Avenue, the rest of it was paved last Friday.

Mrs. Arvanitis asked Mr. Hansen how the Animal Control is coming along. Mr. Hansen stated that it is coming along slowly, a lot of the work is being done by Public Works and they have had a lot of emergencies that pulls that crew off to go to the emergency digs. He stated that the office at Animal Control is complete and a portion of the new room is complete. He is hoping that by the end of the month that room will be totally completed, then they will flip to the north side.

Mr. Gorman stated that he wanted to remind residents that the Schererville Fest starts this week, tomorrow night and runs until Sunday.

Mr. Schmitt stated that they talked about the finalizing the bid package for the Fire Station and they also instructed about options for the financing part of it. He asked Mr. Gorman if that is being completed. Mr. Gorman stated that it is being worked on, it's not near completed. He stated that the architect is working on the bid package and Mr. Simstad has reviewed those documents. He stated the that Mr. Troxell, Mr. Hansen and himself have met with our financial advisers down in Indianapolis and he's putting something together for the financing as well. Mr. Schmitt asked what the timetable was for the financial advisor to get that back. Mr. Gorman stated he hasn't given one. Mr. Gorman stated that they also have to get ahold of our Bond Attorney, which is a different entity from our financial guy, so there's multiple steps on getting this done. Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Simstad if he is still working with the architect as far as getting the total package together. Mr. Simstad stated yes, their plans and specs are substantially complete and that includes the additional solar remediation that they talked about a couple of weeks ago. He stated that once he gets something back from the architect, then they will forward everything over to staff and Mr. Troxell.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ordinance No. 2044A, an Ordinance Amending Town 2026 Salary Ordinance No. 2044 Regarding the Salaries and Wages for Officials and Employees of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, and Repealing All Town Ordinances or Parts Thereof, In Conflict Herewith

Mr. Gorman stated that he has a list of items that they added to the Salary Ordinance. He stated that they added an

800 level item classifications in the Street Department that includes the Solid Waste Fund, which they were not being paid out of. He stated they also added that the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Fire Chief can be paid out of the ambulance fund, which they have been doing for years but the Salary Ordinance did not reflect that. Also added was an Electrical

Worker to the Public Works line item to do our in-house, to compensate those employees with that skill set. Mr. Gorman stated that they modified the newsletter position to include an hourly rate for the newsletter person that is not only doing design of the newsletter, but is also doing the writings for it.

Mr. Gorman stated that they added three Floating Holidays to the Police Department for 2026. He stated that they added overtime compensation for the Hoosier Highway Injury Reduction Program, which the acronym for that is CHRP. Basically, that program allows our officers to go out and do traffic stops. He stated they will get double time for that and the Town will get reimbursed by the State.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve on 1st reading, Ordinance #2044A, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Ordinance @2044A, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Ordinance No. 2033B, an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2033A, the Same Being an Ordinance Creating and Establishing Personnel Policy for the Town of Schererville for Purpose of Amending Sections of Said Policy and Attaching Thereto, Repealing any And all Ordinances and Provisions, in Conflict Herewith

Mr. Gorman stated that there were several amendments to the Personnel Policy. First one is the Child Conference leave. There's a new rule that allows the employee to attend their child's conference, a new State requirement that we have to let them go and they may use their time if they choose to. Another one, Election Days. This allows employees to be paid for working the election polls without them utilizing a PTO day. This is also a new State Requirement. The Fire Department Leave; they added one Floating Holiday for the Fire Department full-time and in the Fire Department VFIS (insurance) we clarified the language to make it cohesive with the rest of the policy that allows the Town to be paid by the Insurance Co. (VFIS) for a full-time fire employee who's of off work due to an injury on the job. The fireman would receive his regular salary and VFIS policy states that they will pay the Town back.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve on 1st reading, Ordinance #2033B, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0)

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2033B, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Resolution No. 2026-4, a Resolution Supporting the Members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 and Urging British Petroleum to End the Lockout at the Whiting Refinery and Resume Good-Faith Bargaining

Mrs. Arvanitis read Resolution No. 2026-4 in its entirety.

Mr. Schmitt stated that we are very concerned about the workers that have been locked out at the refinery and many of them being Schererville residents and of course hundreds of them being in our local area.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-4, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff.

Mr. Johnson stated that stated that he would be remiss if he didn't speak at least a little bit on this. He stated that while he supports the workers, but he doesn't think this is a Resolution that should be before the Council, to take one side over the other. Mr. Johnson stated that we are not part of these negotiations, they haven't been privy to the conversations and he thinks it is inappropriate for a Town Council to enter into a Resolution basically saying the workers are right and that British Petroleum needs to come back to the table and give them what they were asking for, he thinks that is inappropriate. He stated that is his opposition to this Resolution. He thinks that the workers need to get back to work and he hopes BP opens negotiations back up, but this is not the right venue, this isn't the right thing for us to be doing here today.

Mrs. Arvanitis asked Mr. Troxell for a roll call vote.

Mr. Johnson – No; Mr. Connelly – Yes; Mr. Guetzloff – Yes; Mr. Schmitt – Yes; Mrs. Arvanitis -Yes. Motion carries (4-1)

ITEM D. Consider Entering into a Partnership Agreement with The Department of the Army (US Army Corps of Engineers) USACE, Relating to the Anna Water Tower Structural Repair and Recoating Project, Authorize The Town Council President to Sign the Agreement, When Applicable, and Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer And town Manager to Finalize and Sign all Other Documents Relating to the Project
(From Waterworks Board Agenda)

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Department of Army (US Army Corps of Engineers), seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider donation to Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation in the amount of $1,000.00)

Mr. Gorman stated that this was a request that was vetted through the donation committee with a favorable recommendation to the Town Council.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to donate $1,000.00 to the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0)

ITEM F. Consider acceptance of Donations

Mr. Troxell read the list of donations for the May 2026 into the record.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Ms. Georgian Glavis, 1727 Chelsea, Schererville stated that she is here on behalf of Logan's Love. She stated they have their golf outing, Friday, June 19th, and she just wanted to invite everyone to participate.

Christy Fletcher, with Planning Opportunities, stated that she was wondering at what stage everyone is at, the property that once was the racetrack. She stated that she has an idea and was wondering if it was something they could work on or do.

Mr. Johnson stated that he passed her request on to the Park Board and the President is going to reach out to you to schedule some sort of a meeting to talk to you about the idea and see if they can make it work.

Meeting adjourned.

_____
ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY