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: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, IT AJ Garcia, Park Superintendent Irene Mireles, 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 9, 2026 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

A. APV # 126597-APV #127074 ON THE GENERAL DOCKET, TOTALING $6,333,070.90
B. APV #126598-APV #127074 ON THE MVH DOCKET, TOTALING $349,850.92
C. APV #126656- APV #126878 ON THE PAYROLL DOCKET, TOTALING $1,351,110.58
D. VARIOUS FUNDS, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, CC CHARGES, $7,454.72
E. VARIOUS FUNDS, AUSTGEN KUIPER JASAITIS, SEPTEMBER LEGAL, $13,585.64
F. PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDS, METHODIST HOSPITALS, CLASS INSTALLMENT, $915.00
G. SOLID WASTE FUND, DEBRIS TECH, FEMA REQUIRED MONITORING, $10,453.54
H. VARIOUS FUNDS, ROTHSCHILD INSURANCE AGENCY, INVOICES, $229,521.00
I. SOLID WASTE FUND, REPUBLIC SERVICES, INVOICES, $2,546.80
J. VARIOUS FUNDS, PITNEY BOWES, POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE, $452.01
K. VARIOUS FUNDS, T&M TIRE, TIRES, $7,510.50
L. VARIOUS FUNDS, UPS, POSTAGE REFILL, $1,000.00
M. VARIOUS FUNDS, UNIFIRIST, TOWELS & CLOTHING, $2,112.46
N. VARIOUS FUNDS, MENARDS, SUPPLIES, $6,330.26
O. PARK & RECREATION FUND, BURKE COSTANZA & CARBERRY, LEGAL FEES, $981.00
P. DRAINAGE FUND, MACS, POND TREATMENT, $2,200.00
Q. VARIOUS FUNDS, LITHOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS, UTILITY BILL MAILING & PROCESSING, $7,869.53

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Nondorf stated that he has a couple updates to report. He said that the CCMG 2025-1 has been completed, Reith Riley has Lincoln Parkway, Helena and Anna Streets to mill and pave. Public Works is also backfilling with a second restoration crew areas. Mr. Nondorf stated the storm cleanup, all debris has been chipped and hauled away by the FEMA Contractors. They removed 96 100-yard trucks of debris. They took it to a dump site in Valparaiso. Public works, last Monday and Tuesday picked up all the remaining piles that have been out there for a couple weeks that our chippers couldn't handle. Mr. Nondorf stated that the Timber Masters Tree Company is in the process of removing another 36 trees and we'll grind all 200 stumps. He stated that part of their contract is to remove the grindings and restore the areas with black dirt, grass, seed and blanket. Mr. Nondorf stated that a

big thanks go out to everyone from the Town that was involved. It was quite the storm event, but everybody responded above expectations. He stated that the four-leaf machines are all ready to go, they will be picking those leaves up as they fall off the trees. Mr. Nondorf stated lastly, the grand opening of the new Kennedy Avenue, Junction Avenue and Kaeser Boulevard intersection. The Town Dump at Public Works will be reopening on Monday, October 19th. He stated that residents will use Junction Avenue from Town Hall to get access down to Public Works facility. That's the only way in there.

Mr. Hansen put on the projector the video that the Police Department did with their drone. He pointed out the new intersection of Kennedy Ave., at Junction Avenue. He stated that this will open Friday at 5:00 p.m. this week. Mr. Hansen stated that this will be for only local traffic. You cannot go north on Kennedy Avenue and you cannot get to Division or Main Street from this area. He stated that the Pennsy Greenway was also relocated. There is a pedestrian signal that's going in right there (on the screen), everything should be operational by Friday.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Hansen if they are going to continue working right now on the extension from Junction Avenue to Avenue H. Mr. Hansen stated that they are going to do some of the preliminary underground work over the wintertime. They really can't start anything that's going to require asphalt because the plants close in the next month.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that she was asked to read some correspondence from the Nick Foundation, the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids. *"Dear Schererville Town Council, your recent donation of $2,000.00 in support of our childhood cancer awareness month event that takes place at Lake Central High School means more to Schererville families than you can imagine. Each year since 2009, we are honored to be invited to be a part of the Schererville Parade with our annual Alex's Lemonade Stand supporting life-saving research specific to childhood cancer. On behalf of all the Schererville children that have been benefited from your generosity, we thank you and their families thank you. We are proud to be a part of a community who supports charities that support their residents in need of help. We are currently assisting 56 families who have a child in treatment, please keep those families in your prayers. Thank you for partnering with us."*

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Presentation

A. Anthony "Tony" Ferraro, Northwest Region Incident Commander

Mr. Ferraro stated that he was the co-incident commander for District 1, during the storm response for all three counties and he had an opportunity to work with each community across that footprint on behalf of Homeland Security and the emergency operations center through the response. Mr. Ferraro thanked Chief Sormaz specifically and the Council and the Town Manager. He stated that they needed to stage equipment in various locations as we moved through the district overnight. He stated he called Chief Sormaz and told him that they need to drop some equipment for DOC or some of our DNR and forestry crews. Chief Sormaz stated that he thinks Speedway is available and would be a great spot. Chief Sormaz got that done for us in a matter of hours. Mr. Ferraro stated that Councilman Connelly contacted him and he was really adamant about the effort that our Public Works Department did here in Town. He said Mr. Connelly said that we need to recognize these unsung heroes. Mr. Ferraro stated that he never got a call from Schererville. He worked with Paul Petrie in Lake County, and he told Mr. Petrie that Schererville never called, not because they weren't doing their jobs, it's because they

did such a great job that they didn't need the help and that is purely on your Public Works Department. Mr. Ferrara stated that on behalf of the Governor, he has a letter of approbation for Director Nondorf and the Schererville Public Works Department. He read a letter from Mike Braun, Governor.

B. Citizen and Staff Recognitions by Fire Chief Robert Patterson

Chief Patterson stated that it is great honor to have all of us here today as we come together to recognize several outstanding individuals whose actions exemplify courage, compassion, and service to others. Chief Patterson stated imagine a moment everything changes in an instant and an ordinary day suddenly becomes a test of courage, compassion and quick thinking.

Chief Patterson stated that on March 24, 2026, following a serious incident involving a member of a local facility, you stepped forward to assist an injured person in need. Your actions helped prevent further harm and provided reassurance to those around you during the incredibly stressful situation by stepping forward when it mattered most. Today the Schererville Fire Department proudly recognizes your commendable actions and extends its heartfelt gratitude for your contributions to the safety and well-being of others. Chief Patterson stated that at this time he would like to recognize citizen Obi Egbujor. He stated that we want to thank you, the firefighters and paramedics that were there really wanted to recognize you for the assistance that you did and how calm that was held that day. Chief Patterson stated that they were going to recognize Citizen Brian Hernandez, who could not be here tonight but we still wanted to mention his name.

Chief Patterson stated that he would also like to recognize four members of our department for their professionalism and exceptional performance during a challenging medical call. These members were also recognized by the University of Chicago for their outstanding work in successfully intubating a patient who had sustained significant facial trauma, severely compromising the patient's airway. Their clinical skills, teamwork and ability to remain calm under extremely difficult circumstances were instrumental in providing life-saving care. Chief Patterson stated that their efforts deserve our sincere recognition and appreciation. Chief Patterson asked the following members to step forward. Firefighter/Paramedic Dominic Zuccarelli, Firefighter/EMT Ariana Herrera, Battalion Chief Joe Konicek and Firefighter/EMT Michael Alonzo. He stated that on behalf of the Schererville Fire Department, congratulations and thank you for representing the very best of our community and your professionalism.

C. Phil Taillon, President/CEO of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority

Mr. Taillon stated that he brought a presentation this Evening. He stated that they are the Destination Marketing Organization or DMO for Lake County. He stated that they market and promote communities, events, attractions, anything that is going on to draw some new people and dollars to Lake County. Mr. Taillon stated that he recently gave this presentation to the Schererville Chamber of Commerce and Councilman Johnson and Councilman Schmitt were there, so they will see some repetitiveness. He stated that in Lake County right now, we're doing very well in the tourism industry. We are number two in the State of Indiana. There's a lot of different ways to draw people to areas, Schererville actually does a very good job of that. Mr. Taillon stated that we're the second largest county, so we must be working with the second largest budget when it comes to tourism in the State of Indiana, that's not true. He stated that they're actually sixth. He spoke about several taxes that would be a source of revenue for Lake County. Mr. Taillon stated he would imagine that a lot of people in this

room have attended many different events throughout the entire County, but it's not just the bigger ones, it's really every event. He spoke in length about taxes, events, tourism and stated that if we didn't have tourism in the State of Indiana, specifically Lake County, every household in Lake County would pay about $750.00 more a year in taxes. Mr. Taillon stated that Schererville's representative on the Board for South shore is Mr. Wiser. If the Town Council ever wants information specific to what's going on in Schererville, he has access to this and can provide it to you. Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Taillon if he could give them an update on the Convention Center. Mr. Taillon stated that the Convention Center is in design mode right now. He stated you have the City of Gary, Hard Rock Casino, the Lake County Commissioners, the RDA and the SSCVA all working with AECOM, who was the chosen design group for the Convention Center. He stated that there is a lot of back and forth right now on how the Convention Center should be designed. He stated that his best guess as far as when the Convention Center will be open, is probably in 2030.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Proposed 2027 Town Budget Ordinance No. 2053
Review and discuss **(Second Reading)**

Mr. Trowel stated that this is the second public meeting held on the Town Municipal proposed 2027 budget. He stated that during last month's public hearing of notice to taxpayers, there were no oral or written remonstrations received. Mr. Troxell stated that the 2027 general budget is figured with an increase of 4.25%. The DLGF has stated that the maximum growth levy will be about 6% for 2027. He stated that we expect some downward adjustments to this adopted budget. The total budget for property tax funds is $22,115,452.00. The proposed property tax rate is 0.5964%.

Mr. Troxell stated that he would like to have a motion to adopt Ordinance #2053 for the Schererville 2027 Civil Town Budget and authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to submit all documents through the Gateway portal for review, certification and approval by the Department of Local Government Finance.

Mr. Caleb made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2053, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Resolution #2026-9, A Resolution Authorizing the Town Of Schererville to Enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for Interim Disaster Recovery Funds for Emergency Vegetation Debris Removal and Disposal, Subject to Federal and State Cost-Share Reimbursement

Mr. Hansen stated that this would provide temporary funds up to $250,000.00 to help cover the cost of recovering from the August 11th storm. We would have to repay them within 30 days of receiving funds from FEMA. He stated that they would have to repay them 75% of what we received from FEMA. If we do receive additional funds from the State, we would also have to reimburse the Little Calumet River a higher percentage based on whatever we get.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-9, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Resolution 2026-10, A Resolution Authorizing Entry Into The Second Amendment and Reinstatement of the January 1, 2001, Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Sewage Treatment by and Between the Town of Schererville, Indiana, and The Town of St.

John, Indiana, for Mutual Benefit, and all Matters Related Thereto **(From Utility Board Agenda)**

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-10, seconded Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Addendum No. 1 for the Emergency Disaster Debris Removal Disposal Services Agreement with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc. Not to Exceed Extension from $250,000.00 to $310,000.00 per Article 3 of Original Agreement dated September 9, 2026, authorized by the Town Council of Schererville, Indiana.

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the company that just finished up with the grinding and hauling of the mulch, as well as some of the damaged tree removal throughout the Town from the August 11th storm. He stated that the original estimate of the debris to be removed was around 14,000 cubic yards. Mr. Hansen stated that Public Works did such a good job of compacting it, it ended up being 18,000 cubic yards. He stated that is the reason for the additional cost.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve Addendum No. 1 for the Emergency Disaster Debris Removal Disposal Service agreement, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Entering into a Drainage and Utility Easement Agreement between Grantor, Pine Island Ridge Community Association, Inc., an Indiana Not-for-Profit Corporation and Grantee, the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, a Municipal Corporation **(From Stormwater Board Agenda)**

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Variance of Use to Allow the Operation of an Automobile Service Station within the U.S. 41 Commercial Corridor

B.Z.A. #26-9-31 1950 U.S. 41 – Speedway Service Station
Petitioners: Deaco Group, Represented by Attorney James L. Wieser of Wieser & Wyllie, LLP
Location: Overlay District
BZA Favorable Recommendation to Town Council (5-0) September 28, 2026

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the Speedway just south of the Omelet House. They are doing some work on the exterior and during the permitting process, their site was never plated. He stated in order to bring it into compliance with our Ordinance they applied for the necessary variances. He stated that this business has been there for quite some time. Nothing is changing, they are just bringing it into compliance with the Town Ordinance.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve BZA Case #26-9-31, seconded by Mr. Schmitt.

Mr. Johnson asked if there were any conditions that were in the approval from the BZA. Mr. Wieser stated no, there were no conditions.

All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Falling Timbers Subdivision – Release of the 2-Yr Cash Maintenance Surety in the Amount of $5,067.97 and Issuance of the Certificate of Release

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the redevelopment off of Division Street just east of Gatlin Road. Public Works has

reviewed everything and it's appropriate to release the Cash Maintenance Surety at this time.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to Release the Maintenance Surety, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Donation to Schererville Baseball League in The amount of $1,000.00 for season costs for the 14U American Team

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to donate $1,000.00 to the Schererville Baseball League, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Donations in the Amount of $6,621.28

Mr. Troxell read the list of donations into the record.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Joe Algozzini addressed the Council Members and said as a concerned Schererville, Indiana homeowner, he has attended the last three Town meetings. He stated that as everyone is aware that NIPSCO power outages can cost our community a lot of time and money. He stated that he does not want to experience another power outage like that again and he hopes the Council doesn't want too either. Mr. Algozzini stated he has prepared a three-minute recap. He stated that sometimes people have tunnel vision as they can only see what's directly in front of them. He said sometimes he has the ability to think outside the box and help fix certain problems. For instance, in June of 1982 he was responsible for the Town of Lansing, IL building a wall along the Little Calumet River when it was declared a disaster emergency area by the Federal Government. Since then, there has been no flooding. In July of 1981, FEMA used his insurance agency in downtown Lansing as one of two locations for their headquarters during the crisis. In 2008 he helped Northwest Indiana with their Little Calumet River problem and he has a letter from the Congress of the United States of America thanking him for helping them with the problem. Mr. Algozzini stated that on Saturday, August 15, 2026 he personally helped NIPSCO restore power to two Schererville, Indiana subdivisions. He said it was such an easy fix, that power could have been restored as early as Tuesday the 11th or as late as Wednesday the 12th. He stated that he shared this exact information with you before it occurred. That's on record. And finally, he told the Council if they ever would like to learn how NIPSCO can fix their power outages problems, just call, you have my number.

Meeting adjourned.

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ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY