

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 7:25 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 David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Director of Operations James Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, 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 January 19, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #100821 - APV #101110 on the General Docket, Totaling \$1,449,427.38
- B. APV #100824 - APV #101105 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$140,137.52
- C. APV #100858 - APV #101087 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$627,161.71
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$18,726.41
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, January Legal, \$7,814.71
- F. Park Bond 2018 Fund, DLZ LLC, Payment #22 NLT-1-12, \$17,750.00
- G. Cum Cap Development Fund, Peoples Bank, Principal & Interest Due - 2020 Firetruck, \$33,386.89
- H. Public Safety Fund, Franciscan Health EMS Academy, Pymt #2-Paramedic Training Agreement, \$6,000.00
- I. Various Funds, UPS, January shipments, \$79.95

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Fire Chief Patterson reported that the Fire Department responded to 321 EMS calls and 64 Fire calls, for a total of 385 calls for the month of January 2022.

Mr. Novacich reported that the Park Department will be hosting their annual Health and Wellness at the Community Center on February 24, 2022 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Mr. Volkmann stated that he has been working with Attorney Austgen on revamping our Animal Control standards. He stated since they are land use Ordinances they are embedded into our Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Volkmann stated that they are trying to strengthen standards where any place that has a pet store is only allowed in two of our zoning classes, but then if they board animals they have to go through the variance process. He stated that those are their current standards, but they are reinforcing those where those standards will preclude the sale of dogs and cats. Mr. Volkmann stated that he knows there is this term "puppy mill" out there, but those will not be allowed either.

Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Volkmann if this will be on our March agenda. Mr. Volkmann advised Mr. Connelly what the process and timetable will be. Mr. Connelly stated he would like to see it at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to add to the agenda, which would be under New Business, Item I., a Donation from the floor, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Schmitt reported that at the beginning of the year they formed a sub-committee to look at our ARPA Funds and they met for the first time to discuss on how the Town of Schererville will be spending American Rescue Plan Act money. Mr. Schmitt stated that our staff just received the final plans from the State on what we can spend the money on.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Presentation

By Caleb S. Johnson, Council Member, Robert Patterson,
Fire Chief, Dave Meyer, Deputy Fire Chief

Mr. Kris Zahrobsky, stated he has had the honor of serving as the awards and advancement chairman for the Pathway to Adventure for the Boy Scouts of America. He stated that the Pathway to Adventure Council provides the nation's foremost youth program for characters and values based leadership training for more than 13,000 youths across the Chicago land and Northeast Indiana area.

Ms. Amy Hutcherson, Program Director for Pathway to Adventure Council stated she is here with Kris tonight to present this very special award. She stated she serves as the director of camping and program services at Pathway to Adventure.

Mr. Zahrobsky stated that on the evening of November 24, 2018, a neighbor came to the Gibson household on Shawnee to report that he heard two explosions from the house next door. Johnathan Gibson, along with this father, uncle and aunt went to the house to investigate. Smoke was appearing from the house, from a vent, Jonathan and his father went to the front door as Jonathon's aunt called 911. Mr. Zahrobsky explained what steps Jonathon and his father took. The great thing about this story is that no one was injured.

Ms. Hutcherson stated that on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America they are here this evening to recognize Mr. Jonathan Gibson, an Eagle Scout and a resident of Schererville, along with the Schererville Fire Department. Mr. Gibson was then presented with an award.

Councilman Caleb S. Johnson stated that Jonathan was a part of the Explorer's program with the Schererville Fire Department. Chief Patterson and Deputy Chief Meyer presented the award.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #1978, An Ordinance Annexing Certain Contiguous Land to the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, And all Matters Related Thereto **(First Reading)**

Petitioner: Brian Lantz
Location: 12010 W. 85th Avenue
10300 W. 85th Avenue
Part of 10304 W. 85th Avenue

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a parcel on the Southside of Town right by 85th Avenue, just east of Amber Fields. He stated that it is approximately 10 acres of land and it is a voluntary annexation. The developer will be developing approximately 21 lots.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to consider on 1st reading, Ordinance #1978, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

Attorney Austgen stated there will be a schedule forthcoming on the Fiscal Plan, which will be subject to a public hearing, that will be next month and the second reading will take place the following month.

ITEM B. Res. #2022-2, A Resolution Opposing Legislation Regarding The Business Personal Property Tax

Mr. Gorman stated that there is a House Bill currently that passed through the House that would allow the State to reduce Property Taxes to business and personal. He stated that we are opposing it because they are not replacing any of that funding to municipalities throughout the State.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #2022-2. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Award Bid for Community Crossing Project 2021-2

Mr. Simstad stated that they opened bids on February 8th at 9:00 am, they had two bidders, the bid tabulations and summary reports and proofs of publication are attached herein. Mr. Simstad stated that the submitted bid cost for the Community Crossing Matching Grant application was \$1,316,269.00 and the bids range from \$1,421,830.38 to \$1,439,755.21. Mr. Simstad stated that both bidders submitted the correct bid security, and there were no errors noted in the bids. Based on the review of the bids, the award will be made to the most responsive responsible bidder. Mr. Simstad stated that the lowest would be Rieth Riley Construction Company Inc., in the amount of \$1,421,830.38.

Mr. Johnson asked how we now handle a bid that is over what our estimate is. Mr. Simstad stated that you will find the funds to make up the difference. Mr. Troxell stated that we do have some funds that we can use towards a project like this.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the Town Engineer's recommendation and to award the bid to Rieth Riley, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Donation to "*Dollars for Scholars*" \$1,200.00

Mr. Gorman stated that this is annual donation we make to "*Dollars for Scholars*". Mr. Schmitt made a motion to donate \$1,200.00 to "*Dollars for Scholars*", seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Annual Donation to the Tri-Town Safety Village \$34,500.00

Mr. Volkmann stated that this the annual donation to the Tri-Town Safety Village. He stated that their budget did go up approximately \$10,000.00.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to donate \$34,500.00 to the Tri-Town Safety Village, seconded by Mr. Connelly. Motion carries (4-1) Mr. Johnson voting no.

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Attorney Contract between Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis PC and the Town of Schererville

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the contract between Austgen Kuiper Jasiatis PC and the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Attorney Contract between Burke Constanza & Carberry and the Town of Schererville

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the contract between Burke Constanza & Carberry and the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$5,280.00

Mr. Troxell read the list of donations through January 31, 2022.

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

ITEM I. Donation

Beth Tiebel, President of the Ladies Auxiliary American Legion Post 485 in Schererville. She thanked everyone for their support for their events. She stated that she is here this evening to donate \$200.00 to the K-9 Unit. Chief Sormaz accepted the donation.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Johnson 7412 Forrest Ridge Drive, Schererville. He stated that they have an issue with the snow. He stated that he knows the Public Works department is overwhelmed with the amount of snow we have had, but Public Works is not the only ones overwhelmed, the residents are as well. Mr. Johnson stated that the reason he is here is because we need to come up with something that will alleviate a lot of the problems that the residents are having. He stated that every time it snows, and he just finishes shoveling his driveway, here comes a snow plow and throws the snow back in his driveway. After Mr. Johnson's lengthy comments, he was advised to get with Andy Hansen, Public Works Director to see if they can come up with a solution.

Meeting adjourned.

ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY