

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 7:11 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, Police Commander Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Jeff Huet, Director of Operations James Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #96009 - APV #96533 on the General Docket, Totaling \$1,846,195.31
- B. APV #96013 - APV #96515 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$197,243.88
- C. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, April Credit Card Charges, \$12,226.95
- D. General Fund - Administration, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, April Legal, \$12,281.77
- E. Various Funds, Enterprise Fleet, Monthly Lease, \$3,346.64
- F. Various Funds, Palos Music Instruction, Schererville Fest, \$500.00
- G. Public Safety Fund, Franciscan Health - EMS Academy, Final Payment - R. Abens, \$1,500.00
- H. Promotion Fund, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, 2021 Summer Concert, \$12,000.00
- I. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Kankakee Tent and Awning, Celebrate Schererville Tents, \$3,813.00
- J. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Kankakee Tent and Awning, Fall Craft Tent, \$4,806.00
- K. Promotion Fund, Eclipse Entertainment, LLC, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$5,000.00
- L. Promotion Fund, Sunbelt Rentals, Firework Light Towers, \$2,478.48
- M. Promotion Fund, Sunbelt Rentals, Celebrate Schererville Light Towers, \$1,102.08
- N. Park Non-Reverting Fund, L. Mysliwicz and Associates, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$450.00
- O. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Joe Christian, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$200.00
- P. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Dan Reisen, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$200.00
- Q. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Steve Kessler, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$600.00
- R. Promotion Fund, Eric Lester, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$600.00
- S. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Vintage Postcard, Celebrate Schererville Fest Entertainment, \$500.00

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Sormaz stated that this Friday, May 14, 2021 they will hold their annual Police Memorial across the street. He stated

that this year it will be a little bit modified due to COVID, they encourage Social Distancing for the safety of our community. He stated it will be held from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Chief Patterson reported that the Fire Department responded to 301 calls during the month of April. He stated that 206 of those calls were EMS Related.

Mr. Schmitt stated he attended the installation of the Baby Box. He stated it was a tremendous presentation. Mr. Schmitt asked Chief Patterson to say a few words.

Chief Patterson stated that last Tuesday they had the Unveiling of the Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station 2. He stated that the box is officially open. Chief Patterson stated in ways you hope it is never open, but in ways you hope it is utilized when needed.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #1966, An Ordinance Amending Town Ordinance No. 1207 Being: "An Ordinance Establishing a Law Enforcement Aid Or Confidential Petty Cash Fund", Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Provisions, or Parts Thereof, In Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Volkmann stated that Clerk-Treasurer, Michael Troxell was looking into a petty cash fund for the Parks Department for the Concession Stand they will be operating. Mr. Volkmann stated that while doing that he looked into all of the petty cash funds. He stated that Mr. Troxell just updated the formats, and is asking for the Councils approval.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #1956, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1956, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Ord. #1967, An Ordinance Amending Town Ordinance No. 989 Being: "An Ordinance Establishing a Petty Cash Fund for The Police Department of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, and Declaring that an Emergency Exists", Repealing all Ordinance and Town Code Provisions, or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Volkmann stated that the Police Petty Cash Fund was \$30.00 dollars, Mr. Troxell is asking for that to be increased to \$100.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #1967, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1967, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Ord. #1968, An Ordinance Establishing a Parks and Recreation Department Petty Cash Fund for Park Concessions for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Provisions, or Portions Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, And all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Volkmann stated that the Park Department will be running the Concession Stand at Rohrman Park, so it was necessary to establish a Petty Cash Fund for \$500.00.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #1968, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1968, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Ord. #1969, An Ordinance of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Establishing the "ARP" Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund for the Town in Conformance With the Provisions of Applicable Law, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Volkmann stated that this is establishing guidelines of the ARP Funds so the Town can receipt in the money that comes from the Federal Government. Mr. Volkmann stated there will be more guidelines on how this money can be used. He stated that this is only the start on what will be legislated for the use of these funds.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #1969, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1969, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Res. #2021-8, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Volkmann explained the Transfer of Funds.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-8, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Appoint Deputy Chief of Police

Chief Sormaz stated that he is recommending to the Council to affirm Steve McNamara as Deputy Chief of the Police Department.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to appoint Steve McNamara to the position of Deputy Chief of Police, seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Guetzloff asked Mrs. Thiel for a roll call vote:

Mr. Johnson - Yes; Mr. Connelly - Yes; Mr. Schmitt - Yes; Mrs. Arvanitis - Present; Mr. Guetzloff - Yes.

Motion carries (4-0-1)

Chief Sormaz stated that with the appointment of Steve McNamara as Deputy Chief, that will create a vacancy for Patrol Commander. Chief Sormaz stated that he would like to announce that Michael Bork will be our new Patrol Commander.

ITEM G. Consider Sponsorship to Campagna Academy's Annual Fundraiser "Restoring Hope & Building Dreams 2021" Scheduled On-Line Auction from September 2, 2021 Through September 9, 2021 (\$1,000.00 Donation - Restoring Hope Sponsor)

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the donation of \$1,000.00 to "Restoring Hope & Building Dreams 2021", Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Town of Schererville, and Authorize the Town Council President to Execute Necessary Documents (\$412,677.68 - Community Crossing Grant 2021-1)

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement, and to authorize the Town Council President Execute the agreement, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM I. Award Mowing Contracts for 2021

Mr. Volkmann stated that last month we awarded the mowing contract to one vender, and after we notified him that he was the successful bidder, he was scrambling to put together crews together to take on all of our mowing. Mr. Volkmann stated that after the first week of mowing he informed us that he could not put together crews to handle the volume of mowing. He stated that they contacted the second lowest vendor and he informed us that he didn't have crews to put together to handle all of the mowing. Mr. Volkmann stated that they split the mowing between two contractors. He asked the Council to award the second mowing contract to R & R Landscaping.

Mr. Johnson asked if splitting the contracts will result in an increase to the Town. Mr. Volkmann stated it will increase by approximately \$30,000.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the split Mowing Contracts to Great Lakes and R & R Landscaping for 2021, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM J. Consider Donation to Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation (NICKS) for the Alex Lemonade Stand (\$1,000.00).

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation (NICKS), for the Alex Lemonade Stand, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM K. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$119.20

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

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Mr. Guetzloff stated that the month of May has always been dedicated to honor our fallen officers. Mr. Guetzloff stated that for our officers who are here this evening for support, and all of our Schererville Officers, on behalf of the Town Council they would like to thank the officers for the fine job they do, they put their lives on the line every single day.

Meeting adjourned.

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ROB GUETZLOFF  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO  
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY