

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 6:48 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, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Park Superintendent John Novacich, 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. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV # 121417 - APV #121779 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,086,342.81
- B. APV #121420 - APV #121783 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$424,117.17
- C. APV #121462 - APV #121711 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,260,437.38
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$11,047.65
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, August Legal, \$14,030.62
- F. Various Funds, H3 Concrete, Town wide Concrete, \$81,372.90
- G. Cable TV Fund, Advanced Engineering Services, Invoice #2510620829, \$6,424.00
- H. Various Funds, Invoice Cloud, August Usage, \$165.00
- I. General Fund - PSAP, Various Employees, Mileage Reimbursements, \$176.96
- J. Public Safety, Otis Elevator, Service Contract, \$12,743.28
- K. Various Funds, Terminal Supply, Parts, \$640.54
- L. Various Funds, Napa, Parts, \$404.22
- M. Park N/R Fund, Gordon Food Service, Concession Stand Supplies, \$84.68
- N. Various Funds, Sam's Club, Supplies, \$1,063.83
- O. Various Funds, Auto Wares, Parts, \$26,690.60
- P. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies/Parts, \$2,226.88
- Q. Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Chester, Cybersecurity Subscription, \$1,610.00
- R. Various Funds, RJ Safety, Supplies, \$919.00

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Deputy Fire Chief Myer stated that on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. they are going to have their Annual Schererville Fire Department open house for Fire Prevention Week. He stated that everyone is invited to come out and join them. They will have plenty of demonstrations, kid's obstacle courses and refreshments. This will take place at Fire Station 2, 280 Plum Creek Drive.

Police Chief Sormaz stated that last month the Schererville Police Department was credited once again for the fifth time by the CALEA Commission. He stated to be a CALEA-accredited agency means a public safety agency has voluntarily committed to and met rigorous, internationally recognized professional standards for excellence in management and service delivery, verified by an independent team of Assessors. This accreditation demonstrates a commitment to best practices, requires comprehensive written policies, promotes

accountability, and helps agencies improve community relations and operational efficiency.

Chief Sormaz also reported that tomorrow (9/11/25) they have their annual 911 memorial, which will be staffed by the 911 committee members and police and fire departments from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Chief Sormaz stated he hopes everyone can stop by, remember, and honor those that died on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Novacich stated that the Park Department has their Country Affair event this Saturday at Redar Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He stated there will be a lot of food vendors, crafters and kid's games and contests.

Mr. Nondorf gave an update on the Burr Street reconstruction project. He stated that they are still installing the water main. They got through the first section of bad ground where the water main needed to be supported by pilings. Mr. Nondorf stated that they would be working north from there and getting into the next section of bad ground. He spoke with the construction superintendent from M&J Underground and he said the project is going to be pushed back in time for the reopening of the road, to possibly late October, early November. Mr. Nondorf stated that Rieth Riley would be coming in and doing curb, asphalt, binder and the trail on the south end.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mr. Kevin Dean, 1905 Sir Richard Road, Schererville stated one of the agenda items is giving \$2,000.00 to some children with cancer. He stated he is adamantly opposed to the government here taking his tax dollars and using them for pet projects like this. He stated he has nothing against children with cancer or their fundraising efforts, but to give them money, he is opposed to that. Mr. Dean stated that he has a problem with the development of the raceway property. There is a request for about \$15,000.00 and he is not sure if this \$15,000.00 is approving expenditures of the \$93,000.00 that was previously approved or is an addition to the \$93,000.00. He stated that his problem is that he has seen some of the presentations from Reardon Associates for the development of this land and he is trying to wrap his head around the problem of how are we going to fund it. There is 30,000 people in Schererville, not sure how many households, but if the Council is looking at a \$45 million expenditure even over 30 years, and you are going to have to maintain it for 30 years, then you are probably looking at another fifteen or twenty million. He asked how they are going to fund that, and what the tax will be on each individual household going to be. He stated that he understands that there are other ways to help fund it, but ultimately the taxpayers are going to be responsible for it. Mr. Dean stated that we have some very qualified people working for Schererville who could adequately do what Reardon and Associates are doing for his tax money.

Mr. Bill Poronto, 1750 St. George Drive, Schererville stated he has one question for the Town lawyer and the Police Chief since they are here. He stated he has a question about the law and he could not understand it this afternoon and seven Schererville Police Officers could not explain it to him. He asked how is it determined the decibel level of a voice. How does the voice determine disorderly conduct and the threat of arrest in jail? He stated that he would like a response from either the Attorney or the police. Mr. Poronto stated that he wants it explained to him because he was threatened with jail several times this afternoon because of his voice, because of the tenor of my voice. He stated that he was the one that called the Police to his home to keep a contractor from blowing his crap all over his driveway. Mr. Poronto stated he wants on

record that for 30 years, the idiot that lived next door to him called the police every other day. He complained about me washing grass down the curb and on his yard and every time that happened the Schererville Police Department came and told me I can't do that. Mr. Poronto stated he woke up one morning and all along Cline Avenue behind his property, on the Town's property there were at least 30 white sheets of paper, copying paper all along the back yard. He stated that there was one piece of paper on his yard and the rest were on the neighbor's property line. He stated that he went back there and picked up the one piece on his property and moved it over. He stated the police threatened him with vandalism. (Mr. Poronto's three minutes to speak were up).

Mikey from 222 Plum Creek Drive stated that he has been to hundreds of Council meetings, and he thinks the Council here is doing a great job. He stated that years ago he used to represent the Schererville FOP for a few years. He stated he would like to commend all of the Police Officers in Town, they do a fantastic job. He stated one person mentioned that there is a possibility that the Council will be deciding to donate money to children with cancer. He stated in his opinion, whatever you people decide is in the best interest of the Town. He stated he would like to thank the Council very much.

Mr. Ira Zimmer, 1720 South Park Avenue, Schererville, stated that he is here to represent the Veterans Memorial/Crossroads Museum. He stated that last month the Town Board actually, rather did a verbal unofficial vote that said you would support them. He stated that he is here tonight to ask if there is any new information on how the construction is going or anything like that. Mr. Gorman stated no, not at this time. Mr. Zimmer stated that he spoke with the Chief earlier and he wants to commend him and his department. He stated they are doing a great job keeping us safe.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Troxell stated that this is the first of three hearings that will be held on the town municipal proposed 2026 budget. He stated that the citizens will be given the opportunity to speak. Mr. Troxell stated that the Proofs of Publications are in order. He stated that this meeting was noticed and needed to be submitted through the State Gateway program at least 10 days prior to tonight's meeting, it was submitted on Thursday, August 28, 2025. Mr. Troxell stated that he has copies of the form three, which is the estimated budget for 2026 that was submitted through gateway. The budgeting process is for 18 months, July 1 to December of the following year. Mr. Troxell stated that reviewing of past budgets, identifying and forecasting revenues for the coming period, and assigning amounts to spend on the Town's various cost. The Department of Local Government Finance has stated a 4% levy increase has been approved for 2026; a 5% levy increase has been used for a budget estimate.

Mr. Guetzloff opened the Public Hearing to the floor.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NO COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Hearing on Proposed 2026 Town Budget, Ordinance
2029. Review and Discuss **(First Reading)**

Mr. Connelly made a motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare documents pertinent to the 2026 budget for

final action on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in this meeting room, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Troxell stated that the notice is hereby given to all taxpayers and this was posted in both newspapers and it was properly advertised. Attorney Austgen stated that publication has properly been made legally. You can conduct the Public Hearing. Mr. Troxell stated that this additional appropriation is coming from the budget, class 300, \$100,000.00 for the Stormwater improvement fund. He stated that last December the Council passed the Stormwater Fee and no budget was approved at that time for 2025 since we did it in December of 2024. The budget had already been approved, so there is no budget appropriated to spend any money out of that fund. Mr. Troxell stated that we did have some expenses this past year, so he is asking that the appropriation for \$100,000 of those funds that were received be approved. He stated that if approved this evening, then he would be required to send this to the Department Local Government Finance. They are going to review and make sure we have the funds in that account appropriate and then we will get notice that it has been approved.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
NO COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR
CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ord. #2030, An Ordinance Providing for an Additional Appropriation in the Stormwater Improvement Fund of the Town of Schererville for Year 2025, and all Matters Related Thereto.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve on first reading, Ordinance #2030, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2030, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Res. #2025-10, A Resolution Articulating the "Sense Of the Town Council," Vehemently Opposing the Indiana Regulatory Commission's Approval of NIPSCO's Increase To Residential Electrical Rates of Approximately Sixteen and Three Quarters Percent (16.75%).
Cause No. 45160

Mr. Gorman stated that this Resolution is opposing the Indiana Regulatory Commission's approval of NIPSCO's increase to residential electric rates. If approved this evening he will forward this Resolution to the IURC (Indiana Regulatory Commission).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-10, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Resolution #2025-11, A Resolution Supporting our Police Department and a Police Appreciation day and All Matters Related Thereto.

Mr. Connelly read Resolution #2025-11 in its entirety.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-11, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Approval of a Budget Increase in the Amount Of \$15,000.00 to Reardon Consulting Services for the Phase II Agreement of the Illiana Redevelopment Project

Mr. Reardon stated he is here this evening to explain to the Board and the public why they had to increase it by \$15,000.00. He stated that the Council and Town Administration has the paperwork that was previously submitted in short form. He stated that they are asking for increase because the project has gone on significantly longer than anticipated and because of the budget amount that we have. Mr. Reardon stated that they will run out of money for Reardon Consulting. He stated that they anticipate that with the Council's approval for the concept that they would deliver a final draft concept to the Council within four to six weeks. Mr. Reardon stated that over that four to six week period they would eat up the entire remaining budget, so they are asking for the increase to cover their time.

Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Gorman if Structure Point is asking for an increase. Mr. Gorman stated they are not, I do not see the need. Mr. Connelly stated that American Structure Point works directly with municipalities, they do not work with third parties. He also stated that the \$15,000.00 should be re-appropriated toward town services.

Mr. Schmitt stated the he agrees with Mr. Reardon. This amount ties directly to the scope of his services to get the final master plan put together. Mr. Schmitt stated that at the beginning of the year the Council cut out any contingency on his contract, which if we would have left on there, this would have covered a situation like this. He stated naturally, Reardon Consulting will finish this phase up here with our engineering company in the next month or two. Therefore, he feels that they need to get paid for their work that they are going to do. The work that has been done so far has been excellent and he feels that we should finish it.

Mr. Schmitt stated he would like to make a motion to approve the increase for \$15,000.00 to the consultant for their Phase 2 agreement of the Redevelopment Project. Mr. Connelly seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. Connelly stated that in speaking with American Structure Point, they typically don't work with a third party for one, they work differently with the municipality and this \$15,000.00, we are asking each of our departments to cut their budget in light of Senate Bill One. Mr. Connelly stated that he disagrees with this entirely, so he will not be supporting this request.

Mr. Guetzloff asked Mr. Reardon if there would be any more additional costs to Phase two. Mr. Reardon stated no.

Mr. Guetzloff asked for a roll call vote. Mr. Johnson - no; Mr. Connelly - no; Mrs. Arvanitis - yes; Mr. Schmitt - yes; Mr. Guetzloff - yes. Motion carries (3-2).

ITEM F. Consider Donation to the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids Foundation (NICKs) for the *The Great Gold Rush Race* In the Amount of \$2,000.00

Mr. Gorman stated that they requested this for their race, just like they have every year and the amount matches what they requested last year.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve, Mr. Johnson seconded the motion for discussion. Mrs. Arvanitis explained what the Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids is about and what they do for the kids with cancer and their families.

Mr. Johnson stated that he was the one who raised concern about this donation because we are donating the second time to this charity. He stated that he thinks taxpayer dollars should not be used for donations to nonprofits. This is a

great cause, he loves the Nick Foundation, but this is the second donation this year. Mr. Johnson stated he is going to vote for this but he thinks they are setting a bad precedent.

All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 94 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN from Sharon Rastovsky in the Amount of \$27,200.00 (Right of Way) And to Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (Phase 3 - Parcel 13)
(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for Kennedy Avenue phase three, parcel 3 (shown on the screen). He stated that this is based on the appraisal and it is purchasing right-of-way for the Kennedy Avenue expansion.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase the property at 94 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 249 Kennedy Avenue., Schererville, IN, from Leona Pikul & Warren R. Schafer with Interest to Peter Pikul in The Amount of \$40,000.00 (Right of Way) and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (Phase 3 - Parcel 4)
(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is also for Kennedy Avenue Phase 3. Its parcel number 4 on the screen. He stated that the amount was also based on the appraisal and this is purchasing right-of-way for the Kennedy Avenue expansion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of property at 249 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM I. Proclaim September 15 - 21, 2025 as *National See Tracks? Think Train* Week in the Town of Schererville

Mrs. Arvanitis read the Proclamation in its entirety.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to Proclaim September 15 - 21, 2025 as *National See Tracks? Think Train* week in the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM J. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$5,351.39

Mr. Troxell stated that there was in-kind donations totaling \$3,448.06 and the total monetary donations was \$1,903.33. Mr. Troxell stated he would be happy to read all of these, or if the Council would like, we can have them added to the minutes instead.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to add the list of donations to the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor.

Mr. Poronto, 1750 St. George Drive, Schererville stated that he does not understand this Illiana thing. He stated he is not sure on the \$15,000.00 that they are adding, is that on top of an already agreed to bid, how did they get it in the first place?

Mr. Gorman stated that there was a contract, but there was room in there, if it extended the time, that they could add to it. Mr. Poronto asked if the Town delayed the job, if they

did delay it then and there is a reason for it, this person deserves his money.

Mr. Reardon, 2712 Sunny Court, Schererville, stated, following up, they were looking for the Council's guidance on moving forward with the Master Plan Concept. He stated that they submitted paperwork that speaks to the suggested modifications to the plans that were submitted before. He stated that with the Council's approval, they would like to move forward and as he mentioned earlier, deliver that draft master plan concept to the Council within four to six weeks. Mr. Reardon stated that following the Council's joint meetings, Andy's great notes, and Mr. Schmitt's notes, we met with Structure Point. He stated they had conversation with Town Administration and took into consideration the suggestions on modifying the plan. He said they submitted that and want to move forward. He stated that if the Council is fine with that, they would get back to work and be back to the Council with that draft master plan. Mr. Reardon stated that he doesn't feel that's where we're at though, he doesn't think we have a consensus among the Council as to what the master plan is supposed to look like yet. He stated he did not know there was notes being handed off to the consultants.

Mr. Schmitt stated that he believes with Andy's notes from the meetings is why a rough draft master plan needs to be presented to the Council.

Mr. Reardon stated that they presented a new concept plan reflective of those comments made during your joint meetings as summarized by Andy, and reflective of the meeting that is on video. He stated they are just looking for permission to move forward and present you with a draft master plan.

Mr. Johnson stated that they had something in the back room that was dated yesterday, that they never even seen or discussed. They did not have any time to spend on it at the Executive Session.

Mr. Gorman stated that he just wants to clarify that this was just given to Administration yesterday, so the Council has not even really seen it yet.

Mr. Schmitt stated that his recommendation is for Pat to meet with staff and go over the notes and everything that Andy has put together and the drawings that he is talking about. He stated that they just got them from Mr. Reardon yesterday, less than 24 hours ago.

Meeting adjourned.

ROB GUETZLOFF
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY

DONATIONS ACCEPTANCE - 8/31/25

DONATION FUND - TOWN HALL

V & L PLUMBING - 1 DOZEN DONUTS, BOX OF JOE FROM DUNKIN'	IN-KIND	\$40.00
	TOTAL IN-KIND DONATIONS TO TOWN HALL	\$40.00

DONATION FUND - ANIMAL CONTROL

Anonymous - 30 cans wet cat food	IN-KIND	\$35.00
Anonymous - Dog Kennel Towels	IN-KIND	\$105.00
Nanfелdt Family - Cat/Kitten food, litter	IN-KIND	\$100.00
Dana Juzwicki - Wet Cat Food	IN-KIND	\$20.00
Steve Edman - Cat Food	IN-KIND	\$80.00
Caroline - Cat Food	IN-KIND	\$5.00
Lisa - Dog food, Cat carrier	IN-KIND	\$70.00
Donna - Laundry Detergent and softener	IN-KIND	\$100.00
Anonymous - Bleach and Soaps	IN-KIND	\$50.00
Anonymous - Towels and Blankets	IN-KIND	\$20.00
Anonymous - Wet Dog Food	IN-KIND	\$30.00
William - Towels	IN-KIND	\$20.00
Judith - Towels and Cat Food	IN-KIND	\$30.00
Anonymous - Towels, Dog Food, Blankets	IN-KIND	\$80.00
Anonymous - Opened Cat Food and Towels	IN-KIND	\$35.00
Janice - Cat Trap	IN-KIND	\$65.00
Nanfелdt Family - Cat Litter and Sharpies	IN-KIND	\$60.00
Tina Way - Laundry soap, 5 (5 gallon) bleach bottles	IN-KIND	\$110.00
Anonymous - Wet Cat Food	IN-KIND	\$16.00
Diane - Dog Food Bag	IN-KIND	\$15.00
Irene - Dawn Dish Soap, Clorox Wipes, Dog Bed	IN-KIND	\$70.00
Anonymous - Dog Food and Treats	IN-KIND	\$50.00
Nancy & Ray - Dog and Cat Food, Detergent, Towels	IN-KIND	\$80.00
Jackie - 9 cases of pads	IN-KIND	\$359.37
July - Towels and Blankets	IN-KIND	\$20.00
Kathey - Bleach	IN-KIND	\$28.00
	TOTAL IN KIND ANIMAL CONTROL DONATIONS	\$1,653.37

DONATION FUND - WILLOW FUND

SCHERERVILLE POLICE DEPT/ANONYMOUS	\$40.00
SCHERERVILLE POLICE DEPT/DYER ANIMAL CLINIC	\$181.95
LINDA MYERS	\$40.00
AES RESTAURANT FOUNDATION/ARBY'S	\$550.00
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TOTAL WILLOW FUND DONATIONS	\$811.95

DONATION FUND - POLICE & FIRE (9/11 MEMORIAL)

CHARLES AND CAROL ST CLAIR (9/11 MEMORIAL)	\$30.00
TOT.POLICE & FIRE DEPTS. (9/11 MEMORIAL) DONATIONS	\$30.00

DONATION FUND - POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS

Circle K - 30 BOXES OF COOKIES, 10 CASES OF WATER	IN-KIND	\$204.25
Georgette Depew - 5 LB. OF ALBENESE GUMMIE BEARS	IN-KIND	\$24.99
Jonathan Gunn - 3 BOXES OF DONUTS	IN-KIND	\$45.00
Rosati's Pizza - 2 LARGE PIZZAS	IN-KIND	\$55.70
Crossroads Animal Hospital - K9 DADO TEETH EXTRACTION	IN-KIND	\$685.25

	TOTAL POLICE DEPT. IN-KIND DONATIONS	<u>\$1,015.19</u>
<u>DONATION FUND - FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND</u>		
JAMES DINGES		<u>\$300.00</u>
	TOTAL FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND DONATIONS	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>DONATION FUND - NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</u>		
SOPHIA'S HOUSE OF PANCAKES		\$250.00
SOUTH SHORE OIL AND GAS, INC		\$500.00
ALBERT'S JEWELERS - DONATIONS FROM TIP JAR		<u>\$11.38</u>
	TOTAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT MONETARY DONATIONS	<u>\$761.38</u>
Strack & Van Til - 50 CASES OF WATER FOR NNO	IN-KIND	\$312.50
Lowes - PALLET OF WATER FOR NNO	IN-KIND	\$307.20
Circle K - 20 LARGE BAGS OF ICE FOR NNO	IN-KIND	<u>\$119.80</u>
	TOTAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN-KIND DONATIONS	<u>\$739.50</u>
	TOTAL IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$3,448.06
	TOTAL MONETARY DONATIONS	<u>\$1,903.33</u>
	GRAND TOTAL DONATIONS	<u><u>\$5,351.39</u></u>