

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 6:50 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 September 10, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #121784 - APV #122220 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,426,674.05
- B. APV #121808 - APV #122212 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$185,282.70
- C. APV #121884 - APV #122138 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,248,897.18
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$5,395.41
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, September Legal, \$18,813.27
- F. Cable TV Fund, Advanced Engineering Services, Invoice #2510621002, \$14,374.00
- G. Various Funds, Invoice Cloud, September Usage, \$210.00
- H. Various Funds, Kristie Klein, Mileage Reimbursement, \$261.73
- I. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance Agency, 4th Quarter Installment, \$203,540.00
- J. General Fund - Animal Control, Crossroads Animal Hospital, Veterinary Services, \$92.75
- K. Solid Waste Management Fund, Homer Tree Service, Tree Services, \$24,500.00
- L. Various Funds, RAL, Landscaping Supplies, \$583.00
- M. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Parts, \$9,100.69
- N. Public Safety LOIT N/R Fund, MES, Turnout Gear, \$84,334.00
- O. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$3,045.39
- P. Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Fletcher, Pursuit Durangos, \$298,848.00

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

THEREUPON, Presentation

Larry Veracco, Lake Central School Corporation
Superintendent

Mr. Veracco thanked the Town Council for inviting him out to share information on this important public question that's on the ballot November 4th. Mr. Veracco gave a lengthy and detailed explanation on the referendum. He gave a summary of the 2025 Senate Enroll Act One (SEA1), which would be a \$45 million revenue decrease to Lake Central School Corporation (LCSC) over the next 8 years. Mr. Veracco stated that the LCSC is seeking to modify our voter approved referendum rate in order to offset the loss in the tax revenue from the legislation. If the referendum is approved, most homeowners will see a lower tax bill in 2026 even with the increased Operating Referendum rate. Mr. Veracco asked that everyone come out and vote "yes" to this referendum.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2029, Adoption of 2026 Civil Town Budget
(Second Reading)

Mr. Troxell stated that this is the 2nd Public meeting held On the Town Municipal Proposed 2026 Budget. Mr. Troxell stated:

- During last month's Public Hearing of the Notice to Taxpayers, there were no oral remonstrations, nor were any written remonstrations received on the 2026 Schererville Civil Budget. The Town Council is ready to move forward with the adoption of Ord. 2029.
- The 2026 General Budget is figured with an increase of 4.25%. The DLGF has stated that the Maximum Growth Levy factor will be about 4% for 2026. We expect some downward adjustments to this adopted budget. Total Budget for all funds is \$57,036,891.
- Property Tax rate proposed is .6191%. After expected DLGF adjustments, the Property Tax rate is expected to be around .4676%. In comparison to last year, we proposed a tax rate of .5012% and it was reduced to .4969%.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2029 - the 2026 Schererville 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 (DLGF), seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2031, An Ordinance Amending the Miscellaneous Town Police Department Fee Schedules for Release of Towed Vehicles and Unclaimed Vehicles, Repealing Town Ordinance No. 1688 and Town Ordinance No. 1993, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this comes from the Board of Safety as a 5-0 recommendation. He stated that this would raise the tow release fee from \$40.00 to \$50.00 and also does the same for the unclaimed vehicle fee.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Ordinance #2031, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Ord. #2032, An Ordinance Amending Fees for Police Department Incident Reports, Accident Reports, Photographs, Vehicle Identification Number Checks, and Electronic Captured Information, and Repealing Town Ordinance No. 1533 and Town Ordinance No. 1713, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this comes from the Board of Safety with a 5-0 recommendation. He stated that this would raise the following fees: Accident reports were \$8.00, they will now be \$12.00; Photographs were \$7.00, they will now be \$15.00; Audio Video fees were \$2.00 and \$1.00 respectively, they will now be \$100.00 for sixty minutes or less in length and \$150.00 for over sixty minutes in length. Mr. Hansen stated that this Ordinance also establishes a non-refundable advanced request fee of \$50.00, which will be required for each electronic reproduction including email requests. The fee covers research of the request, retrieval of the information, copying and production of the request. He stated the fee will be applied to the total charge of electronic reproduction. He stated that this significantly changed due to the body cameras that are just going into use currently.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Ordinance #2032, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Ord. #2033, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 1266, Ordinance No. 1266A, Ordinance No. 1266B, Ordinance No. 1578, Ordinance No. 1578A, Ordinance No. 1608, Ordinance No. 1608A, Ordinance No. 1726, Ordinance No. 1750, Ordinance No. 1925, Ordinance No. 1933, Ordinance No. 1956 and Ordinance No. 1956A of the Town of Schererville And Replacing the Same by Adopting and Establishing a Personnel Policy for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana **(First Reading)**

Mr. Gorman stated that this is an update for the Town Personnel Policy, the last one was done in 1994. He stated that it includes major changes like Holiday Pay, Vacation, Sick Days, FMLA and other changes that are related to new laws.

Mr. Schmitt stated he would like to compliment Mr. Gorman and his staff, they did a great job on this.

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

ITEM D. Award Bid for Kennedy Avenue Lift Station Project
(From Utility Board Agenda)

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve as explained in the Utility Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 232-248 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN from Dean's Properties, LLC in the Amount of \$155,800.00 (Right of Way and Temporary 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 3) **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for the Kennedy Avenue Project, Phase 3-Parcel 3. He pointed out on the screen the property he is talking about. This is for Dean's Landscaping, in the amount of \$155,800.00, the amount is based on the appraisal.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase of property located at 232-248 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Change Order #4 from CSK Architects, P.C. in a Credit Amount of \$11,100.00 for The Bio-Solids Storage Building Project
(From the Utility Agenda)

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

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$1,847.98

Mr. Troxell read into the record the donations for the month of September 2025.

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

Meeting adjourned.

ROB GUETZLOFF
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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