

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 6:45 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 and Robin Arvanitis. Absent: Council Member Rob Guetzloff. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, 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, 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 December 10, 2025 and the December 30, 2025 Public Meetings, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0)

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #123020 - APV #123558 on the General Docket, Totaling \$6,523,657.69
- B. APV #123020 - APV #123556 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$362,413.40
- C. APV #123058 - APV #123404 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,978,161.23
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$10,191.20
- E. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance Agency, Various 1st Quarter & Annual Installment Payments, \$317,923.00
- F. Various Funds, Bank of America, 2023 Bana Principal & Interest Due, \$298,899.47
- G. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, December Legal, \$12,094.62
- H. General Fund - Police, Strypes, Decals, \$164.00
- I. General Fund - Police, Pantel Business Systems, Service Call, \$600.00
- J. Deposit Fund, Various Vendors, Security Deposit Refunds, \$800.00
- K. Cumulative Capital Development, Lot-O-Fun, Bed Caps, \$4,900.00
- L. Park Fund, Reeve's Fence, \$1,890.00
- M. Various Funds, Pro-Am, Apparel, \$3,169.00
- N. Various Funds, Powers Health, CDL Re-Cert, \$82.00

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Patterson stated that during the month of December they responded to a total of 385 calls; 323 EMS and 62 Fire related calls. He stated that 2025 was an extremely busy year for their department. They responded to approximately 4,143 calls for service throughout the year. Chief Patterson stated that during this time, they assisted the surrounding communities with 98 EMS calls, and they also received 93 EMS calls in return. He stated that their department was called 76 times by neighboring communities through Mutual Aid. Chief Patterson stated that since becoming Chief, they have worked closely with the Town every year, identifying opportunities to increase staff levels. Recognizing staff as a high priority, they will continue working with the Town to explore additional revenue sources and funding opportunities to further address their staffing needs and ensure that they can continue providing high-quality emergency services to our community.

Mr. Schmitt advised Mr. Hansen that he received a letter from INDOT, that they are going to possibly be working on the bridge on Route 41, and asked if that is correct.

Mr. Hansen stated yes, they do a study beforehand, so they are in the environmental phase. He stated it looks like they are tentatively scheduled for 2029, but I am going to try to get them to move that a little bit to help with the Kennedy Avenue Project, so they are not closed at the same time.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2042, An Ordinance Amending the Town of Schererville Regulations, Fees and Procedures For Adoption of Animals from the Schererville Animal Control Department, Establishing Fees for Adoption, and Repealing Ordinance No. 1549, Ordinance No. 1626 and Ordinance No. 1652, and all Matters Related Thereto **(Second Reading)**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2042, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Ord. #2043, An Ordinance Amending the Humane Control And Regulation of Animals within the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana; Repealing Town Ordinance No. 1549 and Town Ordinance No. 1652, And all Matters Related Thereto, **(Second Reading)**

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2043, seconded by Mr. Connelly. Motion carries (3-1) Mr. Johnson voting no.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Res. #2026-1, A Resolution Authorizing the Town Of Schererville to Enter into a Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with another Participating Unit of Local Government ("Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission") for the Construction Of SCADA Telemetry to Three Stormwater Facilities Project, and all Matters Related Thereto **(From Stormwater Board Agenda)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the same item from the Stormwater Board.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-1, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Consider Acceptance of Contract between NIES Engineering, Inc. and the Town of Schererville for Engineering Services in the Year 2026

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the contract between NIES Engineering and the Town of Schererville in year 2026, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Contract between Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, P.C. and the Town of Schererville For Attorney Services in the Year 2026

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the contract between Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, P.C. and the Town of Schererville in year 2026, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM D. Consider Release of Irrevocable Letter of Credit In the Amount of \$6,567.89 and Issuance of a Certificate of Release for the Portillo's Development

Mr. Hansen stated that Public Works has reviewed everything and it is appropriate to release this at this time.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Change Order #1 in the Amount of \$18,146.35 from M&J Underground Inc. For the Burr Street Reconstruction Project - Community Crossings Match Grant 2024-2

Mr. Simstad stated that this is for a change order, which included some unknown drains that they found when installing the shared-use Trail. He stated that they needed to be extended out so they did not terminate underneath the trail. Mr. Simstad stated there was also an unknown water main discovered that needed to be investigated and capped. He stated there was also an unknown blow-off valve that was broke and needed excavation and repair as part of this. He stated that the change orders are consistent with the specification manual on time, material, and allowable contractor markups based on State Statue and the contract documents. Mr. Simstad stated that these issues were not issues that were the fault of the contractor; they were unknown items that were found, generally in the 75th intersection and south of there.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Change Order #1 in the amount of \$18,146.35, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM F. Consider Pay Request No. 6 in the Amount of \$283,673.30 for M&J Underground Inc. for the Burr Street Reconstruction Project - Community Crossings Match Grant 2024-2

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the pay request for the majority of the work that was left for the Burr Street reconstruction project. He stated there is some restoration that will need to be paid after the spring when everything thaws out.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$283,673.30, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Engagement Letter from LWG For St. John Sewer Study not to exceed \$25,000.00
(From Utility Board Agenda)

Mr. Schmitt a motion to approve acceptance of engagement letter from LWG for St. John Sewer Study, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Community Service Agreement Between St. John Township of Lake County, Indiana And the Town of Schererville for the *Blue Envelope Program*

Cathy Lareau, St. John Township Trustee, stated that all of the Council Members have a copy of the flyer and it is also up on the projector screen. She stated that a few months ago Chief Flores had learned of a Blue Envelope program that was being provided through the Portage Township Trustee as in a collaborative effort with the Police Departments in that area. She stated that Chief Flores reached out to her, Chief Sormaz and the Police Chief from Dyer to see if they would be interested in partnering in with this program. Ms. Lareau stated that what is does is, those drivers that are on the spectrum of autism are able to pick up a blue envelope that will have a decal that goes on the window of the car. These envelopes can be picked up at the Police Departments, the Trustee's office and the BMV. She went into detail on how it would be a benefit, to not only the driver, but also the Police Officer. Ms. Lareau stated that the package includes the blue envelope with a card that they fill out and the decal they will

put in their window. She stated all of this would be paid through the Trustee Office.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is any vetting of this, is there any requirement for someone to take this blue envelope. He stated he is not saying there will be abuse, but is that something that we have to be concerned about or anything we have to oversee to make sure that it is going to the right people. Chief Sormaz stated that he thinks the individuals that are doing this program are sincere and they want a positive outcome if they are pulled over by the police. Chief Sormaz stated that they are prepared to train all of the officers; it is a short training program, maybe thirty minutes.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the Blue Envelope Program, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM I. Consider Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals to Replace Resigning Member - Term ending December 31, 2027

Mrs. Arvanitis stated she would like to have this item deferred until next month when Councilman Guetzloff is present.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to defer, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM J. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$8,600.16

Mr. Troxell read into the record the list of in-kind and monetary donations into the record.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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