

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 6:43 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 Rob Guetzloff. Council member absent: 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, Asst. Park Superintendent Irene Mireles, 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. Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #118731 - APV #119149 on the General Docket, Totaling \$3,386,319.01
- B. APV #118736 - APV #119152 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$164,542.90
- C. APV #118795 - APV #119132 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,231,725.11
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$21,447.63
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, February Legal, \$19,440.50
- F. Solid Waste Fund, Invoice Cloud, Invoice #574-2025_2, \$50.00
- G. ARPA Fund, Hasse Construction, Invoice #13664, \$55,480.00
- H. Public Safety Fund, Bank of America, 2024 Vehicle & Equipment Principal & Interest Due, \$166,358.82
- I. Park Bond, Series 2018 Fund, Gariup Construction, Final Pay Request #4, \$12,540.00
- J. General Fund - Court, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Unemployment, \$184.00
- K. General Fund - Court, Governmental Interinsurance Exchange, Invoice #2025020009, \$1,790.00
- L. Deposit N/R Escrow Fund, Various Community Center Renters, Security Deposit Refunds, \$1,150.00
- M. Various Funds, Pinkerton Oil Company, Fuel, \$36,341.80
- N. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$5,108.17
- O. Various Funds, Autowares, Parts, \$13,862.82
- P. Various Funds, Napa, Parts, \$1,000.00
- Q. Various Funds, Tri-Electronics, Repairs, \$4,752.50
- R. Various Funds, Lithographic Communications, February Utility Bill Mailing, \$6,920.03
- S. MVH Fund, Victoria Wojcik, Employee Reimbursement, \$225.00
- T. Park & Rec Fund, Krooswyk, Mulch, \$84.00
- U. Park N/R Fund, Strack & Van Til, Program Supplies, \$349.92

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Patterson reported that for the month of February 2025 the Fire Department had a total of 259 EMS related calls and 52 Fire related calls, for a total of 311 calls.

Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara stated that tomorrow at McDonald's they are having a Coffee with a Cop. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He invited everyone to come.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Troxell stated that he has approved the proof of Publications and find them in order.

Ord. #2021, An Ordinance Re-Establishing and Continuing a Cumulative Capital Development Fund (CCDF) for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, IN, and all matters related.

Mr. Troxell stated that this is a Public Hearing to re-establish the Cumulative Capital Development Fund back to a nickel per 100 of assess value. He stated that it's currently at .0483, so a little less than a nickel. He stated that they established this back in 2022 when the rate dropped to a similar amount. Mr. Troxell stated that if the Ordinance is approved and adopted this evening a notice of adoption is required to be published one time in two newspapers. He stated that the notice of adoption starts the thirty day remonstrance period where signatures from at least twenty five taxpayers is required for a valid objection. Mr. Troxell stated that if there is a qualified remonstrance to this re-establishment, a special hearing will be scheduled.

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

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to consider on 1st reading, Ordinance #2021, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2021, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Ord. #2013B, An Ordinance Amending Town 2025 Salary Ordinance No. 2013 Regarding the Salaries and Wages For Officials and Employees of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, an Repealing all Town Ordinances or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith

Mr. Gorman stated that the reason for his amendment is we're adding a few lines to the salary ordinance in the Fire Department clerical staff and recording secretary. This amendment also includes the Merit Board that was just established and the Merit Board Attorney.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to consider on 1st reading Ordinance #2013B, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013B, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM C. Res. #2025-3, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Opposing Significant Cuts to Municipal Property Tax Revenues Without an Equitable, Comprehensive Replacement Mechanism.

Mr. Gorman stated that this resolution relates to the proposed property tax reduction proposed by the State. He stated that reducing property taxes would reduce our revenue which could lead to cuts across Municipal operations. Mr. Gorman stated that if this resolution is passed, we would send it down State saying that we're not in favor of this property tax reduction.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-3, no second on the motion.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to table this until next month's meeting, no second on the motion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to deny Resolution #2025-3, seconded by Mr. Connelly. Mr. Guetzloff asked for a roll call vote. Mr. Johnson - Yes; Mr. Connelly - Yes; Mr. Schmitt - No; Mr.

Guetzloff - No. Motion tied 2-2. Attorney Austgen stated that Mr. Troxell may break this tie. Mr. Troxell stated that he is not going to vote on this item, and said we can bring it up at next month's meeting.

ITEM D. Consider Acceptance of Supplemental Agreement No. 2
Between DLZ Indiana, LLC and the Town of Schererville
Regarding Kennedy Avenue Improvements, Reducing
Compensation from \$2,060,265.00 to \$1,889,824.24, a
Decrease of \$170,440.76

Mr. Hansen stated that this portion, phase II, is Oak Street to Public Works. He stated the effort in scope of this and several of the tasks expanded through the course of the project. He stated that some task fees increased where we needed the right-a-way, however some of them were reduced. Mr. Hansen stated that the fees were decreased where possible. He stated the project fee overall decreased, so the total compensation to be paid to DLZ as outlined in the original agreement will be reduced from \$2,060,265.00 to \$1,889,824.24, so a decrease of \$170,440.76.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Supplemental Agreement #2 between DLZ Indiana, LLC and the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Agreement between the City of
Crown Point, Indiana and the Town of Schererville,
Lake County, Indiana, Regarding Water and Sewer
Regulatory Territories **(From Utility Board Agenda)**

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the agreement between the City of Crown Point and the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM F. Consider Annual Financial Contribution to the Tri-Town
Safety Village \$36,400.00.

Mr. Jarvis, from the Tri-Town Safety Village stated that we're here to help save the children in the Towns of Schererville, Dyer, St. John and all surrounding communities. He stated that they teach more students than ever. He stated that students come to them for police, fire and railroad safety classes that improves their life expectancy in the communities that they abide in. Mr. Jarvis stated that with the support of the two other Towns, Dyer and St. John, they will make it so they can hit their budget for year 2025.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to contribute \$36,400.00 to the Tri-Town Safety Village, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$3,973.25.

Mr. Troxell read the donations into the record.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Kevin Dean, 1905 Sir Richard Road, Schererville, Indiana stated that he was rather surprised on this Resolution 2025-3 and asked how much money Schererville is looking to lose if the State does this. He stated it says to curve it without an equitable comprehensive replacement mechanism. He stated that he is sitting here in the audience and listening to you create two positions that you're paying people, a lawyer and a recording secretary. Mr. Dean stated that he is very happy to say that since he's been coming to the Town Council Meetings and complaining about the Town Council giving away our funds to benefit things. He stated that he bought his house in May of 2022 and his mortgage payment was around \$2,200.00 a month and since that time, it's gone up to over

\$2,700.00 a month and the reason for that increase is basically my escrow, which means my insurance and property taxes are going up. Mr. Dean stated that if the State of Indiana wants to try and give him some benefit to where he can save some money for some other things, he's more in favor of that than the Town of Schererville trying to save some money.

Meeting adjourned.

ROB GUETZLOFF
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY