

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 6:39 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, Robin Arvanitis, Thomas Schmitt and Rob Guetzloff. Council Member absent: Kevin Connelly. 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, 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. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #119153 - APV #119567 on the General Docket, Totaling \$6,860,211.63
- B. APV #119166 - APV #119556 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$132,301.19
- C. APV #119236 - APV #119497 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,265,650.01
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$10,512.59
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, March Legal, \$17,267.70
- F. Cedit Fund, Total Roofing & Construction Services Inc., Deposit - Scherer House, \$24,800.00
- G. Various Funds, Invoice Cloud, Invoice #574-225-3, \$135.00
- H. Stormwater N/R Fund, F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Assoc., LLC, Final Pay Request#2, \$16,560.00
- I. ARPA Fund, Hasse Construction, Invoice #24113, \$471,219.00
- J. General Fund - Planning & Building, Mike Szany, Mileage Reimbursement, \$225.12
- K. Various Funds, Grainger, Parts & Supplies, \$394.17
- L. Various Funds, Unifirst, Clothing & Towels, \$1,290.45
- M. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Parts, \$11,830.87
- N. Various Funds, Office Depot, Office Supplies, \$183.96
- O. Park Impact Fee, NuToys Leisure Products, Benches, \$5,150.00
- P. Public Safety LOIT, Shorewood Home & Auto, Equipment, \$4,368.99
- Q. Park N/R Fund, Strack's, Supplies, \$74.96
- R. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$2,696.12
- Q. Various Funds, MC Tools, Subscription Renewal, \$6,565.11

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Chief Patterson reported for the month of March 2025. He stated that they had 298 EMS related calls and 72 Fire related calls for a total of 370.

Chief Sormaz stated that next month the Schererville Police Department and the Schererville FOP is partnering with Dunkin Donuts to have their annual Cop on a Rooftop event. He stated that will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He stated that Cop on a Rooftop is basically officers are on the rooftops of Dunkin Donuts and soliciting donations for the Special Olympics of Indiana. Chief Sormaz stated that every year they do this at the Dunkin Donuts on US 30 and US 41, and this year they are adding a new location which is at 275 East US Highway 30, it is the new Dunkin Donuts that just opened up.

Mr. Hansen stated that approximately every two years we do a vehicle lease where we purchase vehicles and equipment.

He stated that one of our equipment leases is falling off this year, so they are looking to acquiring some additional items. Mr. Hansen stated that he summarized it, and has it posted up on the projector screen. He stated that he is looking for some approval to move forward on looking at financing for this. He stated usually it's a four-year lease.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to have administration pursue all financing and all needs, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Gorman stated that Mr. Reardon is here this evening and would like to give a report on the Illiana Speedway Redevelopment Project. Mr. Reardon stated that he is pleased to say that the project is on schedule and is within budget. The project team is actively developing three unique conceptual alternatives focusing on circulation connectivity and engineering aspects to maximize the potential development of potential park features and amenity options. Mr. Reardon stated that the project team is collaborating closely with Town officials, typically meeting with or speaking with Town administrative staff. He stated that they have added another meeting with American Structure Point. He stated he is working to establish some potential meeting dates to present the deliverables over the course of the next several weeks.

#### THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mr. Kevin Dean, 1905 Sir Richard Road, stated that under old business you have Resolution 2025-3 from last month's meeting, something to the effect of sending a resolution down to Indianapolis regarding loss of tax revenue. He stated that he spoke to Mr. Schmitt and he stated that it's possibly as much as \$3.5 million. Mr. Dean stated he asked Mr. Schmitt if there is any way that the Town of Schererville can cut expense. He stated he did some research on Gateway and it seems that the Town of Schererville has actually had the percentage of the taxing going down, but the revenue from the taxes has gone up quite substantially because the property values have gone up. He stated that as a taxpayer, if somebody wants to cut his taxes he is very much for it. Mr. Dean stated that maybe Schererville needs to start looking at tightening their belts.

Mr. Colin Zackavec, 605 213<sup>th</sup> Ave, Dyer, IN stated he is the secretary for the Schererville Firefighters Union Local 4279. He stated he is here to speak today regarding Resolution 2025-3, the resolution to oppose Senate Bill #1 that would cut our property taxes that will in turn cut municipal operation budgets. He stated that he came here today to ask you do not vote along party lines, but to speak for your constituents, your employees and those that serve you in the Town of Schererville. Mr. Zackavec stated that year after year their calls for service have continuously increased for both Fire and Police. He stated that they answer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without fail. He stated they are experiencing a significant increase in calls to assisting neighborhood Towns that includes Dyer, St. John, Munster, Highland, Griffith and basically anyone that calls them for Mutual Aid. Mr. Zackavec stated he is asking the Council to vote to oppose this bill and send a Resolution down State.

#### THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. 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 (Deferred from March 12, 2025 meeting)

Mr. Gorman stated that this relates to the proposed property tax reduction proposed by the State, reducing property taxes which would reduce our revenue which could lead to cuts

across municipal operations. Mr. Gorman stated that they are looking for the Council's approval tonight for this Resolution.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-3, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis.

Mr. Johnson stated that he doesn't disagree that he doesn't want to cut funding to our Public Safety, he doesn't disagree that we want to make sure there's an equitable way of continuing to fund our Town and our essential services, but he thinks this resolution misses the point and misstates what he would like to see from our legislature. Mr. Johnson stated he doesn't believe that transferring the ability to control our budgets and raise our own revenues here locally is a bad thing, so when the State says we're going to take some of the burden off of the residents and allow the Town to raise their own funds if needed or cut their budgets and spend some time reviewing where there's waste and maybe make some tightening of the belt. He stated that this forces us to really look at our budget and what is actually needed and then what is needed we replace that funding with our own local funding through a public hearing process so that we can raise those funds.

All in favor on the motion (3-1). Mr. Johnson voting no.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2022, An Ordinance Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) in the Downtown District in the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing all other Ordinances and Town Code Sections, or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, And all Matters Related Hereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this is the establishment of a designated outdoor refreshment area, also known as DORA within the downtown district. Mr. Hansen stated that basically it will be in front of the Town Hall and Police Department and part of the property to the west of us, 22 West Joliet Street. He stated this allows restaurants and businesses that sell alcohol for consumption and temporary permits located within the DORA to serve alcohol to anyone over 21 years of age and leave their premise with open containers as permitted by Indiana Code. Mr. Hansen stated that the Parks Department came up with it, it would be called Pennsy Pints and Performers, which will be taking place August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated there would be food vendors, beverage vendors and live music.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Hansen if we are proposing to do this for four weekends, and that's because that's what the State wants us to do as opposed to a single weekend event. Mr. Hansen stated that we did it for the entire month of August, Fridays and Saturdays, but it will only be for this particular event. He stated that if we do this event again next year we won't have to pass another Ordinance, this will still be in effect.

Mr. Johnson asked the Police Chief if we are ready to handle an event like this without a designated beer garden that we can handle the traffic and making sure people understand where they are going and what they are doing. Chief Sormaz stated yes absolutely, they have been meeting with the Town Staff and they have evaluated the situation. He stated that the footprints are a lot smaller than the Schererville Fest and we're definitely prepared to handle an event like this. Additional discussion took place on the DORA.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #2022, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2022, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. Res. #2025-4, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell explained the Transfer of Funds.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-4, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM C. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 220 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN, from Robert Christopher Foster Revocable Living Trust in the Amount of \$32,100.00 (Right of Way and Temporary Easement) and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director Of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents (Phase 3 - Parcel 5) **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for Kennedy Avenue Phase 3 - parcel 5, which is the first parcel we're purchasing in phase 3. He stated that phase 3 consists of from Oak Street North to Main Street. This is just for some temporary right-of-way and some permanent right-of-way in the amount of \$32,100.00, which was the appraised value.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase of property located at 220 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM D. Consider Approval of Contract with Burke, Constanza And Carberry for Fire Department Merit Board Services

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the contract with Burke, Constanza and Carberry for the newly formed Merit Board. They will do all their legal work and attend the meetings.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Award Bid for Community Crossing Grant 2025-1

Mr. Simstad stated that they have the 2025-1 CCMG INDOT Grant award for the 2026 street resurfacing projects. He stated that they had two bidders. Mr. Simstad stated that his recommendation is to award the bid to Milestone Contractors in the amount of \$1,912,198.90. Mr. Johnson asked which roads are these for. Mr. Nondorf stated that there's 27 road segments in the 2025-1 CCMG, they consist of roads in the Nova Selo subdivision, Camden Woods subdivision, Fawn Valley subdivision, Cline Avenue and Burr Street south of Route 30 all the way down to 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the bid for Community Crossing Grant 2025-1 to Milestone Contractors as recommended by our Town Engineer, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Amendment to Interlocal Community Services Agreement between St. John Township, Lake County, IN and the Town of Schererville, Lake County, IN

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the old agreement which would allow a police officer if somebody was stranded to purchase fuel for them through this gift card program. Mr. Gorman stated that this amendment to the agreement will allow them to not only buy fuel but also food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Cathy Lareau, St. John Township Trustee, stated that after they had passed the fuel gift card program she found out

that when officers would pick up somebody who didn't need fuel but needed food, the officer would pay for it out of their own pocket. She stated that once she discovered that she wanted to make an amendment so they could use it for both purposes.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the amendment, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM G. Proclaim May 4 - May 10, 2025 as *Professional Municipal Clerks Week* in the Town of Schererville

Mrs. Arvanitis read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to proclaim May 4 - May 10, 2025 as Professional Municipal Clerks week in the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mrs. Arvanits. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$4,329.69

Mr. Troxell read the list of donations for the month of March 2025.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Jeff Minard, 1279 Poppy Field, stated that he is glad to hear that the Novo Selo subdivision is on the CCMG list because in his campaigning he walked every street in Schererville and that was definitely a noticeable neighborhood that needed it.

Georgiana Glavis, 1727 Chelsea Street stated that she is here on behalf of Logan's Love. She stated they just had their Easter Egg Hunt this weekend and she wanted to thank the Town of Schererville, John Novacich with the Parks Department and the Fire and Police that were there putting eggs together. She stated she also wanted to thank Mr. Gorman because he saved the day with the tornado siren being an hour late due to their event.

Meeting adjourned.

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ROB GUETZLOFF  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY