

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA  
JUNE 11, 2025

Mr. Troxell stated that the Town Council meeting this evening is a unique situation, where our President and Vice President are not here. Mr. Troxell stated there needs to be an election held by the secretary (Mr. Troxell) to elect a Town Council President Pro-tem to handle the Town Council Meeting this evening. Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. Connelly, no other nominations. All in favor (3-0).

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, President Kevin Connelly, Pro-tem at 6:39 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN., called IN to order.

Attendance was taken with the following Council Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Thomas Schmitt and Kevin Connelly. Councilmembers absent: Robin Arvanitis 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. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #120074 - APV #120489 on the General Docket, Totaling \$2,347,015.04
- B. APV #120075 - APV #120479 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$99,449.70
- C. APV #120087 - APV #120364 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,273,479.68
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$18,223.87
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, May Legal, \$14,550.56
- F. Community Crossings Grant Fund, Milestone Contractors North, LLC, Invoice #238790-01, \$407,224.53
- G. Improvement Inspection Fund, Robinson Engineering, Invoice #25050381, \$845.00
- H. Public Safety Fund, Peoples Bank, Principal & Interest Due - 2020 Fire Truck, \$65,472.98
- I. 2016 Taxable G.O. Bond Debt Service Fund, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$112,262.50
- J. Park Dist. Bond Debt Svc. Ser. 2004, Computershare Corporate Trust, Invoice #TOW15072025, \$5,865.00
- K. Park Dist. Bond Debt Svc. Ser. 2018, Huntington Bank, Principal & Interest Due, \$402,128.25
- L. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance, Various Invoices, \$5,000.46
- M. Various Funds, Menards, Misc. Supplies, \$3,664.61
- N. Public Safety LOIT, Total Roofing & Construction, Repairs, \$2,269.38
- O. Various Funds, Pro-Tech Sales, Vests, \$18,196.00
- P. Various Funds, Civicplus, Civicrec Annual Fee, \$6,030.43
- Q. Cedit N/R Fund, Republic Services, Railroad Tie Removal, \$5,289.78
- R. Ambulance Fund, Blue & Co., LLC, Annual Report for Medicare, \$5,700.00
- S. Cedit N/R Fund, Beautyguard, Siding, \$9,024.30

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Nondorf stated he has a couple of reports for the Public Works Department. He stated that the Cline Avenue roundabout work is moving forward, the concrete milling work is complete and they have two-thirds of the new asphalt surface down from US 30 south to 82<sup>nd</sup> Ct. Mr. Nondorf stated that they

are hoping to finish the asphalt work tomorrow and the striping on Friday.

Mr. Nondorf stated that the Burr Street reconstruction project would be starting on Monday, June 16, 2025. This will entail a road closure to through traffic. He stated that the American Legion and two local residents would have access to their properties. The project will include replacement of the 16' water main, installation of curbing, and installation of a multi-use trail along with new asphalt. Mr. Nondorf stated that the estimated completion date is early October 2025.

Mr. Nondorf stated that the 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue roadwork would be starting in a few weeks. He stated they are waiting a final date from our contractor, Milestone Construction. He stated that this will include a milling and paving project from US 41 to Capri Drive. He stated there would not be a road closure but there will be flaggers that direct traffic around the workers on site.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Ord. #2025, An Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements on Public Works Projects in the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Provisions, or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto  
**(Second Reading)**

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the second reading of this ordinance. This ordinance will run in conjunction with Ordinance #1900, which requires bidders to meet certain minimum requirements in order to be classified as a responsible and responsive bidder. Mr. Gorman stated that the main difference between this proposed ordinance and the current one, it sets minimum requirements for evidence of apprenticeship training programs.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2025, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM B. Ord. #2026, An Ordinance Establishing Responsible Business Practices and Submission Requirements for Public Works Projects being Awarded Economic Incentives from the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing all Ordinances and Town Code Provisions, or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto  
**(Second Reading)**

Mr. Gorman stated there is one small difference; this is for any construction projects financed in part with economic development incentives from the Town including property tax abatements, TIF financing tax credits, tax deductions, tax exemptions, grant loans guarantees and any other financial economic development assistance asked by the Town.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2026, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Authorize the Town Council President to Execute Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Agreement  
**(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this authorizes the Town Council President to sign off on the final FRA agreement for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge, the total amount is \$8,452,558. He

stated then the FRA will obligate the funds to the Town of Schererville.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to authorize the Town Council President to Execute Federal Railroad Administration Agreement, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM B. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 208 Kennedy Avenue and 192 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN, from Banks Lambert Duffey in The Amount of \$28,000.00 (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 8, 8A) **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated this is for Phase 3, parcel 8, shown up on the projector screen. The amount is \$28,000.00, this is for right-of-way only.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase of property located at 208 Kennedy Avenue and 192 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM C. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 212 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN, from Robert E. Foster and Christine M. Foster in the Amount of \$35,000.00 (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 6) **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is just south of the last item (Item B). He stated that this is the southern portion of Phase 3 Parcel 6, for \$35,000.00. Mr. Hansen stated that was the appraised amount; we are taking part of their patio that is also part of their driveway. Mr. Johnson asked if that turn-around is going to stay or is coming out. Mr. Hansen stated that will come out, that portion will have utilities.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the purchase of Property located at 212 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM D. Consider Release of 2-year Maintenance Bond and Issue Certificate of Release for Canyon Creek Planned Unit Development, Phase 2

Mr. Gorman stated that our Town Engineer as well as our Public Works Department have inspected this and it is appropriate at this time to release the maintenance bond for Phase 2.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the release of Maintenance Bond for Canyon Creek, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (3-0).

ITEM E. DAV Event Committee "Thank You" for Support of Event On Saturday, August 23, 2025.

Cathy LaRue stated that with her this evening is Bob Carnegie and Steve Kramer with DAV Chapter 17. She stated we also have Jim Gorman, Andy Hansen and Chief Sormaz from the Planning Committee. She stated that they have already begun the planning of the DAV walk, and has invited the other Town Councils. Ms. LaRue stated they are here tonight to tell you thank you for your support and again sponsoring and hosting the walk.

Mr. Carnegie stated that once again they are pleased to be here. He stated the DAV is fortunate enough to have

partners like represented in this room; without your help, we could not be in existence. He stated he would like to thank Robin Arvanitis; she had a banquet for the Veterans the day after Memorial Day. He stated there were probably over 150 people that participated in that and they greatly thank you.

Mr. Kramer thanked the Town Council for having them here this evening and he wanted to reiterate that 100% of the proceeds go to disabled veterans in our area. He thanked the Council for letting them have the DAV walk this year again. He stated it has gotten bigger every year. Mr. Kramer stated that they are going to have a claim seminar at the St. John Township, so if anyone needs help with their claim, they will have national service officers there to help. He stated that event would take place on Sunday, August 3.

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Donations - \$8,128.28.

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

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (3-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Jeff Minard, 1279 Poppy Field, Schererville, stated it is always great to hear from DAV and he hopes they have extra flyers, he knows some businesses he could display them. Mr. Minard stated he would like to thank the police force for a phenomenal job with the Fest, along with the Fire Department and Parks Department. He stated he thinks there is room for improvement; they need to make some drastic measures. Mr. Minard stated that he had people coming up to him and say they do not feel safe going to the Schererville Fest. He stated that on Saturday night he did not feel safe. He stated that he thinks the Midway contract is out and there was some conversation before maybe to reduce the number of big rides. He stated another idea is to charge for out of Town guest and maybe allow Schererville residents to get wristbands, not just for rides but to verify ahead of time that they are Schererville residents.

Kristie Nance-Hmurovich, 1900 Govert Drive stated that she was at the Schererville Fest and felt very safe. She stated that is not why she is here; she is here to talk about chickens. She stated, "Chickens do not belong in a community, they belong on a farm, and not in our neighbors back yards. Chickens draw out pests; they bring out flies and other insects that carry diseases. Larger pests such as fox, raccoons and coyotes are drawn in by the smell of those chickens. Those larger pests also attack our domestic animals that are pets in our back yards, cats and dogs. Chickens also bring in rodents because the rodents are attracted to chicken feed. Chickens bring in diseases; they excrete them through their intestines" Ms. Nance-Hmurovich spoke quite a while on why the Town should not allow chickens. She said if residents want chickens then they should move to Jasper County or Newton County.

Rob McCants, 4975 W. 82<sup>nd</sup> Ct. Crown Point, IN stated that they have been having problems where he lives. He stated the Police used to patrol, but they do not see them patrolling anymore. The older people are complaining of loud music and all sorts of things going on there. He stated there needs to be more patrolling there; I know Schererville has grown, but you still have to patrol the entire Town.

Kevin Orze, 1217 Bemis Heights Avenue, Schererville stated he would like to comment briefly on the chicken ordinance. He stated that every time somebody ask for a variance or a change in our ordinances, he hopes that intelligent people gave thought to should we have livestock or

should not we. He stated that his understanding is that this Ordinance as it is going to be considered would only affect a handful of residents in Schererville. He stated that just the nature of this strikes him as absolutely wrong.

Kevin Dean, 1905 Sir Richard Road, Schererville, said he would like to discuss the Schererville Fest. He stated that he attended the Fest on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He stated that the park employees kept the place very clean, the Police Department kept it very calm. He stated that he had people say to him that they felt threatened, he stated the only time he felt threatened was when he left the Fest at 10:30 pm Saturday night. There were many kids by the skate park, although he did see a police car parked about a half a block away watching them. Mr. Dean stated one concern he has is he would like to see more lighting at night, seems like there is not quite enough. Mr. Dean stated there was a meeting here on Monday evening regarding the racetrack property. He stated when he was at the Schererville Fest; at the Democratic booth, he picked up a piece of paper that said Schererville is potentially going to lose \$3.5 million in revenue because of SB1. He stated that you are talking about spending \$45 to \$85 million dollars on the raceway park, but you are losing \$3.5 million.

Cathy LaRue stated that she attended the Schererville Fest and praised Chief Sormaz and the Police Department. She said that even though she did witness an incident about 15 feet away from her, she never felt threatened.

Mr. Connelly stated that he sees we have a couple of Scouts with us tonight. He then if one of them would want to step forward and tell us why they are there. The three Scouts stepped up and stated that they are Troop 532. Present was Logan, Jake Lane and Josh Ninsky. Logan stated that they are there because they are working towards their communications merit badge.

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