

A Special Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 5:06 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis, Rob Guetzloff and Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, IT Robbie Hansen, 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, Public Comments regarding Agenda Items

Jeff Minard, 1279 Poppyfield, Schererville, stated that he appreciates the opportunity, he presented an application to the Park Board and the Planning Board. He stated he would appreciate consideration. He stated that everybody in this room knows how much Schererville means to him and how well he would represent these areas.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

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

Mr. Gorman stated that there's three changes to the Salary Ordinance that was approved in November. One of them is since we have added a Stormwater Management Board we need to put that line into the Salary Ordinance, even though there is no pay for that Board. Mr. Gorman stated that the second item is the cell phone stipend, they had to change the language slightly to accommodate the payroll and how we're going to pay that out, from what time to what time. Mr. Gorman stated that the last change is for a Court employee, they combined two positions into one and all of the Council Members were copied on that.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to consider on first reading, Ordinance #2013A, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2013A, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Res. #2024-18, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell stated that these are other funds that need end of year housekeeping, to clear out any negative line items they may have within these budgets.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-18, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Utility Reimbursement Agreement Between Explorer Pipeline Company and the Town of Schererville in the Amount of \$262,131.54 (Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is similar to the one we passed last month, just a different pipeline company.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Utility Reimbursement Agreement, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0)

ITEM D. Consider Refund of 10% Surety in the Amount of Twenty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$24,500.00). Bidder was Unable to Meet RFP Requirements for Redevelopment of 22 W. Joliet Street Project (From Redevelopment Commission Agenda)

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the same item that was on the Redevelopment Commission Agenda.

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

ITEM E. Consider Approval to Purchase Property, in the Amount Of \$511,900.00, and Temporary Easement, in the Amount Of \$1,500.00 (Total Amount \$513,400.00), Located at 812, 925 & 1050 Kennedy Avenue and 1190 Junction From Midwest Pipe Coating, Inc., and to Authorize The Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents. **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for Kennedy Avenue Phase 2. This is parcel 9, which is Midwest Pipe. He stated it is approximately two acres of right-of-way and some temporary easements. Mr. Hansen stated that that they will accommodate the roadway expansion and storm drainage. Mr. Hansen pointed out the area on the projector screen.

Mr. Johnson asked if these amounts were based on appraisals. Mr. Hansen stated that we did appraisals and they did an appraisal and we met partially in the middle.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of property as stated above, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Approval to Purchase a Portion of Property Located at 595 Kennedy Avenue (Rakoszy Eminent Domain Parcel) in the Amount of \$113,000.00 and to Authorize The Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents. **(Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)**

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for Kennedy Avenue Phase One. This is known as parcel 3 and pointed out the area on the projector screen. Mr. Hansen stated that INDOT actually pays for Phase One, this is the last property that we need to purchase for Phase One.

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

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance and Approval of an Agreement between Reardon Consulting Services (Performing Consulting Services for the Town of Schererville) and American Structurepoint, Inc. for Professional Services at Illiana Speedway in the Amount of \$95,000.00 - Previously Approved at the December 3, 2024 Town Council Meeting in the Amount of \$87,000.00. An Increase of \$7,500.00 to Include Rohrman Park in Professional Services.

Mr. Gorman stated that this was on the agenda earlier this month and there were some conditions that were put on, wanting Rohrman Park included in the agreement. He stated that this agreement is updated to include that parcel.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to approve the increase for Professional services, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. 2025 Appointments

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion for the following 2025 Appointments:

Town Council President - **Rob Guetzloff**

Town Council Vice President - **Robin Arvanitis**

Utility Board President - **Thomas Schmitt**

Utility Board Vice President - **Rob Guetzloff**

Redevelopment Commission President - **Kevin Connelly**

Redevelopment Commission Vice President - **Thomas Schmitt**

Stormwater Management Board - 3 Members (2-D: 1-R) - **Caleb Johnson
Thomas Schmitt; Robin Arvanitis**

Stormwater Management Board President (R) - 3 year term -
Caleb Johnson

Stormwater Management Board Vice President (D) - 2 year term -
Thomas Schmitt

Stormwater Management Board Secretary (D)- 1 year term
Robin Arvanitis

Waterworks Appointment (D) 3 year term - **Thomas Schmitt**

Waterworks President - **Robin Arvanitis**

Waterworks Vice President - **Thomas Schmitt**

Attorney - Town; Redevelopment Commission; Waterworks Board;
Stormwater Management Board; Utility Board; Town Council; EDC and
Town Court **David Austgen, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis P.C.**

Attorney - Plan Commission; Board of Zoning Appeals; and Park
Board - **Alfredo Estrada, Burke Constanza & Carberry LLP**

Attorney - Board of Safety - **Alfredo Estrada - Burke Constanza
& Carberry LLP**

Town Engineer - **Neil Simstad, NIES Engineering**

Plan Commission Appt. (R) - 4 year term - **Robert Kocon**

Plan Commission Staff Members Appt. (1)- 1 year term - **Tom Anderson**

Plan Commission Staff Members Appt. (2)- 1 year term - **Chris Rak**

Plan Commission Staff Members Appt. (3)- 1 year term - **Miles Long**

BZA Appt. - A Non-Plan Commission Member - 4 year term -
Mike O'Rouke

Park Board Appt. (R) - 4-year term - **Joseph Skavarek**

Board of Safety Appt. (R)- 3-year term - **Robert Volkmann**

Southcom PSAP Executive Board Member - 2-year term (2 members) -
Jim Gorman, Mike Troxell

Liaison to Park Board; Park Foundation; Park Dept. -
Robin Arvanitis

Liaison to Public Works - **Thomas Schmitt**

Liaison to Board of Safety (Fire & Police Dept.) - **Thomas Schmitt**

Liaison to Wastewater Treatment Plant - **Kevin Connelly**

Liaison to Plan Commission; Board of Zoning Appeals -
Robin Arvanitis

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) Appt. -
Thomas Schmitt

Lake County Solid Waste Management District Appt. -

Robin Arvanitis

Liaison to Lake Central School Board - **Mike Troxell;**
Clerk-Treasurer Office

Liaison to Lake County Drainage Board - **Rob Guetzloff**

Liaison to Schererville Chamber of Commerce - **Mike Troxell;**
Clerk-Treasurer Office

Mr. Connelly seconded the motion on the floor. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Jeff Minard, 1279 Poppyfield, Schererville, stated that he is disappointed that he didn't get considered for the positions of Planning Board and Park Board. He stated that those of you who know me know that how he cares about this Town. He stated it's going to be his duty to the citizens of Schererville to keep them informed on what's going on.

Robert Dauksas, 2122 Schilling Drive, Schererville, stated that his problem is Schilling Drive. He stated that it's turned into an expressway due to the construction that occurred on Route 30. He stated that a lot of traffic has found that Schilling Drive is a shortcut from Route 30 to St. John Road. He stated that they are exceeding the speed limit, disregarding the stop signs and in generally becoming a nuisance. Mr. Schmitt advised Mr. Dauksas to speak with Chief Sormaz after the meeting. Chief Sormaz stated that they do have cars out there working in Patrol during these high traffic times and they have officers in the neighborhoods to manage the traffic.

Mr. Schmitt wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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