

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
JANUARY 8, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, John Purdie, and Dennis Combs. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Waltz was absent. Councilman Combs offered the opening prayer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Previous President John Perrin opens the floor for nominations for Town Council President for 2025. Councilman Purdie nominates John Perrin and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

President Perrin opens the floor for nominations for Town Council Vice President for 2025. Councilman Schilawski nominates Councilman Purdie and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the December 4th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Combs moves to approve the minutes of the December 18th special meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the December 31st, End of Year Fund Report and Docket for ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to ratify the December 31st End of Year Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the January 8, 2025 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Combs moves to approve and ratify the January 8, 2025 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance Presentations

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock introduces 3 insurance brokers who are here tonight to give presentations. The Town's liability insurance costs increased dramatically last year and Council is doing due diligence to see that we have the best rates and coverages.

Kim Merideth is with Mayfield Insurance along with Dean Mayfield, owner Ms. Merideth presents a quote from Tokio Marine, which came out to \$20,000 less than what we are currently paying. Tokio Marine has an A++ rating and offers a lot of claim-prevention help. Dean Mayfield has owned Mayfield Insurance since 1989. Mr. Mayfield notes that with the Tokio policy the deductible on vehicle claims is higher however the deductible for other claims is lower.

David Wheatley and Jon Slusser are with Gibson

Mr. Wheatley shares that what is most relevant is choosing a broker for the Town and have that broker represent the market for the Town. He states that Gibson is a little different in how they approach insurance with municipalities. Mr. Slusser notes that the process which they follow is instrumental. Their process is focused on predictability, longevity, and stability. Mr. Slusser shares that it is ideal to get quotes from various carriers after they

release their financials for all their shareholders. He advises beginning the process in March for the best quotes.

John Parmley with EPIC

Mr. Parmley is our current broker and took over the Town's insurance needs very recently when our previous broker retired. He recalls the short time-frame the Town had in which to select an insurance carrier in June of last year when we received a non-renewal letter. He mentioned at that time the importance of developing a game plan and in the future securing a quote at least 30 days in advance. Mr. Parmley's team works primarily in the public entity space. His goal going forward is to start the renewal process in February.

Council asks each insurance representative what options they have for training as the Town has benefited from the OSHA training videos currently have available to us. After discussion Council President Perrin thanked the representatives for their presentations tonight and states that Council will not be making a final decision tonight.

Rate Study

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that the consultant will be attending the February 5th Council meeting to do a presentation and answer any questions. Attorney Robbins shares that tonight the Ordinance will be introduced and he will be sending a notice to the paper regarding a Public Hearing at the next meeting regarding the rate increase. He states that Council can approve a rate increase less than what is noticed and various phase-in options are discussed. Supt. Gillock states that it was 5 or 6 years ago when the rates were last increased.

Code Enforcement

Councilman Purdie shares that he met with Bob Downey in early December to discuss Code Violations. He shared on behalf of the Council that they would like for him to take some proactive steps, going through the Town and looking for violations. Council President Perrin notes that he noticed some clean-up was done in some of the areas that have been of concern. He further states that in looking at the monthly report there appear to be a lot of inspection-related tasks. He states that Tim Brown, Zoning Administrator, still needs to be involved in the inspection process. He needs to be aware of everything that is inspected. Council President Perrin was made aware that there have been times Tim Brown has not been notified of inspections that have taken place. Plan Commission President Matt Gillock states that calls come in to Cindy Yates, Utility Secretary, and need to then be communicated to Tim Brown, who should either do the inspection or ask Mr. Downey to do the inspection.

NEW BUSINESS

New Fire Marshal

Fire Chief Dave Curin introduces our new Fire Marshal, Kerry O'Haver. He has 40 years of experience in fire service and a long impressive resume of various experiences. He received his Paramedics Certification in 1985 and worked full-time with South Bend where he served for 13 years and left as a Captain in the training division. He also served in the military and went on 2 deployments. Most recently he worked in Zionsville. He also received a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Management and has completed the Ohio Fire Executive Program. Council welcomes Mr. O'Haver.

Vehicle for Fire Marshal

Public Works Superintendent reminds Council during budget meetings for the 2025 budget, the Fire Department had originally asked for a vehicle for the Fire Marshal. The DPW offered one of their trucks to the Fire Department. He asks if that's the direction the Council wants to go. If so they will need to go ahead and purchase the vehicle they planned to purchase out of their 2025 budget. Council asks Fire Chief Curin if the DPW truck will be adequate and he states that it will. Councilman Schilawski moves to transfer the 2019 Chevy 1500 extended cab truck from the DPW to the Fire Department and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

2024 Fire Department Report

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Wire shares a report from the Fire Department. He states that in 2023 they had around 625 runs and in 2024 they had 749 runs. Those run totals include EMS runs, Fire, and everything else including mutual aid. With VITA, which opened in June, they have had 74 runs specifically at the north building, which is the Assisted Living and Memory Care. At the south VITA building, the Independent Living, there have been 9 runs since August when the building opened. Council President Perrin notes that almost on a daily basis there are calls to VITA for lift assists and asks if there is any way to recoup any of those costs. Assistant Chief Steve Wire notes that we cannot charge for those. Fire Chief Curin states that VITA's policy is such that their staff are not allowed to move a patient unless their nurse examines them first. They currently have 1 nurse and are short 2 nurses so they end up calling 911 quite a bit due to short staffing.

Santa Parade

Council President Perrin thanks the Fire Department for doing a great job with the Santa Parade for the community.

Memorandum of Outstanding Checks

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents the memorandum to write off old outstanding checks in the General, Wastewater, and Payroll accounts. General Fund total is \$1,306.62 for seventeen (17) checks. Wastewater total is \$14.98 for one (1) check. There are no outstanding Payroll checks this time. Council approves.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2024-13

Transfer Ordinance, CCMG Match

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the transfer ordinance showing our 25% match for CCMG. Councilman Combs moves to adopt ordinance 2024-13 and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. The ordinance was introduced and passed with unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all four (4) members present.

Ordinance 2024-14

End of Year Transfer Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the end of year transfer ordinance that was signed on December 31st and presents it for ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt ordinance 2024-16 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. The ordinance was

introduced and passed with unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all four (4) members present.

Resolution 2024-11

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the resolution encumbering funds for all of the open purchase orders at the end of 2024 that was signed on December 31st and needs to be ratified. Councilman Combs moves to ratify Resolution 2024-11 and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2025-01

Sewer Rates


Attorney Lee Robbins introduces Ordinance 2025-01 which is the rate increase ordinance discussed in new business tonight and is scheduled for public hearing on February 5th. Councilman Purdie moves to introduce Ordinance 2025-01 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

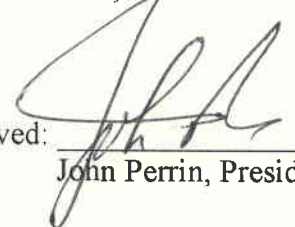
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President