

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 6, 2024
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, Dennis Combs, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Combs offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the October 2nd regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the November 6, 2024 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the November 6, 2024 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Property & Liability Insurance

Councilman Purdie asks about the recent Mayfield quote. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock said they originally gave him a partial quote and when he compared it to our current quote it's roughly a 20% difference. Recently, our IT vendor added two-factor authentication to improve our Microsoft Score which will help reduce costs on our cyber security liability coverage. Councilman Purdie asks how much time it takes to work with a broker to get a quote. Utility Supt. Gillock says there is usually an introduction meeting and then a few emails each week sending documents back and forth. Councilman Purdie says one of the reasons he asks is that someone reached out to Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss regarding insurance for the Town. Councilman Purdie wondered if it is feasible to get a quote from this third company and states we should consider action on it if it will benefit the town to get another quote. Utility Supt. Gillock says that he can definitely meet with them and see what they have to offer.

Phone System

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock reminds Council he mentioned switching to Ring Central for the Town's phone system at the September 4th meeting. This would switch just our phone service to Ring Central. We would still use Metronet for internet. The current cost for Metronet for the phone portion is \$473.71. Ring Central would be \$392 but they offer additional features. Our IT vendor noted that sometimes it takes a while to get Metronet to fix issues with the phone system. There is an up-front cost for switching out the phones which is about \$3,125.50. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss notes that Metronet informed us recently that our current phone system is obsolete and would need to be replaced anyway. Employees will have the option to use a desk phone, have calls go through their computer, or through an app on their cell phone. Councilman Purdie shares that the bank started using Ring Central a couple years ago and it has been a positive experience. Our IT vendor came in for a meeting to do a demonstration of the new system with the office employees. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss states that she has funds in the other equipment appropriation to use to pay for the phones. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the purchase of phones and phone service from Ring Central and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Remaining ARPA Funds

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that Kellie Robertson with GRW recently met with Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss to come up with the final ARPA amount remaining which is \$367,317.74. Council had previously committed to use the remaining ARPA funds for Tracy

Road and/or the CCMG Match and/or sidewalk projects. Ms. Robertson stated that we need Council to put officially on record the intention to use those funds for that purpose. ARPA funds need to be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Councilman Purdie moves to commit the use of the remaining ARPA funds of \$367,317.74 towards either the Tracy Road project, CCMG project, or sidewalk projects and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Washer

Fire Chief Dave Curin refers to an email that he sent to Council with quotes for a new gear washer because the one they had quit working. They contacted some companies to try to repair the washer however since it is 20 years old, none were interested in repairing it. Even if they could find out what was wrong with it, they might not be able to get parts. Chief Curin contacted 4 companies for quotes and 2 replied. They're looking at the quote from Arnold for \$8,499.00. It has a sanitizing feature to remove the fire carcinogens out of their gear. It has a 7-10 day lead time. The fire department has funds in their budget with a transfer to their Other Capital Outlay appropriation. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the purchase of the gear washer from Arnold for \$8,499.00 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Status of Proposed PUD Ordinance

Attorney Lee Robbins shares with Council that the developer, Gradison, is proposing a PUD for this property on the corner of Whiteland and Sawmill Roads. They presented their proposed development to the Plan Commission at a public hearing at their meeting on October 22, 2024. After going through their presentation and members of the public making comment, the Plan Commission members voted 4-0 (4 members were there) to approve the PUD and send it to Council with a favorable recommendation. Because it is a re-zoning of the property, that decision ultimately rests with the Town Council. The Plan Commission is an advisory committee in this process. Gradison also will be submitting a plat of the subdivision but did not have that available at the October 22nd Plan Commission meeting. After the meeting, we learned that the developer had missed mailing notices to about a dozen property owners. Therefore, the previous public hearing and vote do not count. Attorney Robbins re-made the list and re-wrote the notice and sent to them in order to meet the requirements for notice so that this can be on the agenda for the November 21st Plan Commission meeting. If the Plan Commission gives a favorable recommendation, then the PUD Ordinance will be on the Council's agenda for the December 4th meeting. At the same time, we have this request to annex the property. Before the Council can exercise jurisdiction over the property and approve any submitted plats or conditions on the development, we would have to annex the property. This is addressed under legislative business by adopting the fiscal plan, which is Resolution 2024-08 and introducing Ordinance 2024-08 to annex the property.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-07

Establishing a Misc Grant Fund

Attorney Robbins shares that we need a place to put the grant money the Fire Department recently received. Resolution 2024-07 establishes the Miscellaneous Grant Fund and instructs that the grant money be deposited in, administered, and paid out of that fund. The fund will also serve as a place for future grants going forward except to the extent there is a specific

requirement otherwise. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt Resolution 2024-07 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Resolution 2024-08
Adopting Fiscal Plan

Attorney Robbins states that adopting a fiscal plan is a necessary step to complete prior to an annexation. Council has been provided with a fiscal plan prepared by Adam Stone of Stone Municipal Group who is here to explain and answer any questions. Councilman Purdie notes that on page 11 it states that the Town of New Whiteland provides trash service to the Town. We have a contract with Best Way for trash disposal. We do not provide the service. Councilman Purdie also notes that after looking at the entire plan, he believes that the development would end up costing the Town money, instead of there being a financial benefit to the Town. He asks Mr. Stone if his assessment is correct. Mr. Stone shares that the growth does not have an immediate change on the Town's revenue as much as the levy growth quotient does. The state's annual determination of how much our levy can grow is really what dictates how much property tax we can bill. The maximum levy does not automatically change however we can statutorily appeal the maximum levy and have it increased due to various factors including growth. An appeal would be due October 21st so it's too late to do a levy appeal this year. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt Resolution 2024-08 adopting the fiscal plan and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2024-07
Directing Funds to LECE

Attorney Robbins shares that there was an intention to bring an ordinance to Council late last year with regard to the towing contract at that time. The towing agency is willing to pay a \$25 fee to the Town for each tow. Attorney Robbins researched this situation last year and drafted an ordinance in December, 2023. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss noticed recently that we needed to have some kind of ordinance or resolution directing the tow fee money to go somewhere, with the suggestion that the money go into the LECE fund. Attorney Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss both looked for the ordinance drafted in 2023 and could not find that it was adopted. Attorney Robbins pulls forward the ordinance that authorizes the \$25 fee per tow and directs it into the LECE fund. He has included a statement that Council is also ratifying the practice that payments received in the past have been receipted into the LECE fund. Councilman Waltz moves to adopt Ordinance 2024-07 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2024-08
Annexation

Town Attorney Lee Robbins introduces the Annexation ordinance and explains. Councilman Purdie moves to introduce Ordinance 2024-08 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This item will be placed on the December 4th agenda for a vote.

Attorney Robbins leaves at 6:15pm

Ordinance 2024-09
2025 Salary Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss introduces the 2025 Salary Ordinance for first reading. Councilman Purdie moves to pass Ordinance 2024-09 on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This item will be placed on the December 4th agenda.

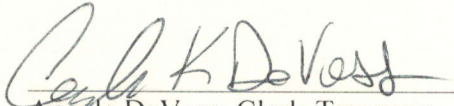
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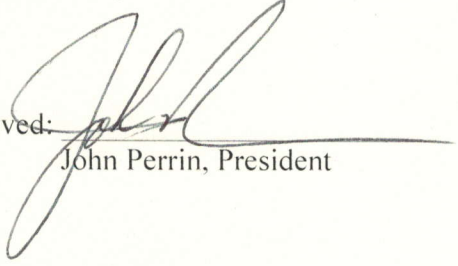
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None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President