

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
DECEMBER 7, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

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

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the November 2nd meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Combs moves to approve the minutes of the Special November 16th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval.

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

UV Disinfection System Upgrade

Utility Supt. Matt Gillock received the contract from Ottenweller and it needs to be signed by Council. Councilman Purdie moves to authorize Council President Perrin to execute the contract for the UV Disinfection Upgrade and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Duke Energy Proposal

Public Works Supt. McCauslin states that Duke Energy reached out to him about a contract to convert several street lights to LED and presents the documentation to Council. Supt. McCauslin estimates that the proposed 10-year contract would save around \$400/month on the electric bill. He further states that both Greenwood and Franklin have similar contracts or plan to. Supt. McCauslin isn't asking for approval tonight, but for Council to review. President Perrin asks how much better the illumination would be. Supt. McCauslin refers Council to look at Tot Park sometime as they just had 2 new street lights installed there. President Perrin and Council glance at the documents and notice the cost of \$167,000 for the initial term, noting that's money we're not paying right now, bringing to question the total amount of savings. After further discussion, Council agrees to look more closely at the documentation before making a decision.

Cash Only Account

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss is requesting that a resident be removed from Cash Only status and offers a detailed report showing that the resident has paid in cash on time for over a year, meeting the requirements to be removed from Cash Only status. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Email Situation

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss gives an update on the Rackspace email outage which has affected millions of customers, including the Town. The Town has been without email service since the morning of Friday, December 2, 2022. Our IT vendor, Wright Tech, is staying updated and will migrate our emails to Microsoft, which is the recommendation from Rackspace. He expects to be able to get started on the migration process this evening or tomorrow. This service is not included in our monthly maintenance agreement. President Perrin gave emergency approval for the email

migration earlier in the week and tonight Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss is asking Council to ratify that decision. Councilman Combs moves to ratify the decision to go ahead with the process of migrating the Town's emails to Microsoft and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski asks if there is any type of appreciation for Christmas for Town employees. Administrator Alspach states that most department heads are doing something for their employees.

Utility Supt. Gillock presents a contract from GRW for construction and admin services that is a continuation of what they're already doing. It included progress meetings, reviewing all shop drawings, inspections throughout, etc. Their fee is \$21,000 with a do not exceed. Services will be billed hourly and will possibly be less than the given amount. Supt. Gillock states that he can pull this out of either this year or next year's budget. President Perrin states that he wants Attorney Robbins to be able to review the contract. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the contract pending Attorney Robbins' review of it and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-14

An Ordinance to Increase Rates

Attorney Robbins presents and explains the ordinance to increase storm water rates on final reading. This will increase rates by \$0.50 per ERU and allows the Storm Water utility to pay back the Town for

Councilman Purdie moves to adopt the ordinance on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2022-15

Annual Salary Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents the 2023 Salary Ordinance on final reading. Councilman Schilawski moves to adopt the ordinance on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2022-17

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds

Clerk-Treasurer presents and explains the transfer ordinance on first reading. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt the ordinance and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski moves to suspend the rules and consider the ordinance on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

President Perrin reads the ordinance in title only on final reading. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the ordinance on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

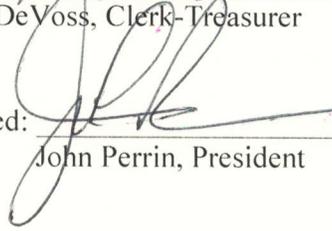
Bob Matthews, president of HOA, 1052 Hilltop Commons, states that the yellow curb paint in front of the fire hydrants and entrances hasn't been done in 15 years. He spoke to American Water and they told him those areas belong to the Town. He talked to Supt. McCauslin a couple years ago and he was going to look into having the fire department do it. However, that was pre-Covid. He wonders if the HOA could do it themselves, but he's not sure if the Town wants them to. Mr. Matthews also states that their HOA had their annual meeting in October and discussed the speeding issues on County Road 25 and asks Council if something can be done about that. He says that ever since the new paving has been done, lines haven't been painted. He also states that the curb is horrible and the grading is coming apart. Supt. McCauslin says part of the issue is that the whole stretch of road does not belong to the county. A portion belongs to the Town and there is a section in between our two sections as well as the rest of County Road 25 that's all county. President Perrin suggests that Mr. Matthews approach the County Council with this issue. President Perrin also stated that he spoke with Police Chief Rynerson this morning about complaints regarding speeding near bus stops. Chief Rynerson is having officers be more visible to make people aware they're watching, hoping people will be more mindful of their speed. They'll concentrate on different areas at different times. The issue is being heard and addressed. Mr. Matthews further asked if the Town had thought of annexation of certain areas and asked about that process. President Perrin says the Town has looked at a few specific areas that would make more sense to annex however the state government has made the annexation process more difficult.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 

John Perrin, President