

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
MARCH 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, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer. Councilman Combs was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the February 7th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the March 6, 2024 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the March 6, 2024 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Longevity Pay & Salary Matrix

Council continued discussion about longevity pay and a proposed salary matrix. A Special Meeting was scheduled for March 20, 2024 to discuss this further and make a decision on that date.

Eclipse Office Hours

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss shares that Johnson County Emergency Management has asked which municipalities plan to be closed on the date of the eclipse, April 8th. Councilman Schilawski shares that there is the theory that people will not be able to cross US31 or 135 due to the amount of traffic. The school has gone to e-learning for the day and have offered options for staff to be off that day. Public Works Superintendent McCauslin suggests that the office be closed that day. Council approved closing the Town office Monday, April 8th.

Proctor Park

Public Works Superintendent McCauslin refers to a purchase order that was approved last year for Thomas Monuments for the Proctor Park project. The quote included repainted some limestone pieces. He has asked Thomas Monuments for prices on replacing some pieces with granite instead of repainting, which will need to be done again in the future. Specifically, the Vietnam Memorial has 6 pillars. The original price to go through and redo all of it with cleaning and hand painting would be \$25,000. That will be a reoccurring cost. To replace that monument with granite would cost \$6,912 more than the original quote but there would not be additional upkeep in the future. He does have those funds in his budget to cover the increase of \$6,912 and asks council for approval. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the extra expense of \$6,912 to use granite and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Police Department Car Replacement & Fire Department Radios

Police Chief Rynerson shares that the insurance decided to offer \$15,252 to replace the police car that was totaled. There is a \$1,000 deductible so we will receive a check for \$14,252. He sold a police car last year on GovDeals for \$5,000 total. John Jones Chrysler in Corydon, Indiana has a couple of police cars available for \$37,724 each. He asks Council if he can purchase both of these cars – one to replace the police car that was totaled and one to replace a police car that is 8 years old. These prices are cheaper than the SUVs he had originally looked at which are \$42,000 each.

Fire Chief Curin shared an email with Council prior to tonight's meeting explaining an issue recently in which the fire department radios were damaged and out of service. The radios are 15 years old. The fire department cannot use older refurbished units because they are no longer compatible with the county dispatch network. Radios are \$4243.56 each and they will need to purchase a total of 6.

Council discusses the purchase of the 2 police cars and the 6 radios for the fire department and various funding options. Councilman Purdie moves to fund both purchases using the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

2023 JCPL Year in Review

JCPL Director Lisa Lintner shares the year in review packet with council along with a program guide. She explains that the Clark Pleasant branch has recovered from the tornado damages from last year. They were only closed for a week. All repairs were completed by December, 2023. The Clark Pleasant branch has also added a STEAM exploration walk which includes activities along the fitness trail for preschoolers. Lisa highlighted upcoming programs and said that there are 15 more programs on the topic of the eclipse between now and April 8th.

Break-O-Day Soccer Permit Fees

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that the school is looking to redo the soccer fields off of Tracy Road. In the past the Town has waived permit fees for the school corporation and he wanted to ask Council how to proceed with fees for this project. Councilman Purdie asks what the cost is to the Town. Council decides to address this when more information is available at the Special Meeting on March 20th.

Biosolids Dewatering Improvements Proposals

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock presents three different quotes for the biosolids dewatering improvements needed at the waste water treatment plant. He wants an engineering company to do an evaluation on our equipment, projected flows, sludge volume, etc., especially in light of the new housing editions. Supt. Gillock does have money in his budget for this project and suggests the Town go with GRW since they are already working on a project at the waste water treatment plant and are already familiar with everything there. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the quote from GRW if they reduce their quote to \$20,000 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Attorney Conflict of Interest

Attorney Lee Robbins refers to an email he sent to Council attaching a Disclosure of Conflict of Interest. This was in light of recent discussions regarding a potential merger between Whiteland and New Whiteland. Due to the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct, he must disclose that the attorney representing Whiteland works at the same firm. Council has the option to consent, if they choose, to Stephen Watson representing Whiteland and Lee Robbins representing New Whiteland in merger discussions. Councilman Purdie moves to consent to the respective attorneys representing Whiteland and New Whiteland for the purposes of merger discussions and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Merger Meeting

Council President John Perrin shares that he and Councilman Purdie met with a couple of Councilmembers from Whiteland, Brad Goedeker and Joe Sayler, to open the discussion regarding a potential merger between Whiteland and New Whiteland. A feasibility study would need to be done, and that would be a large expense. Attorney Robbins states that a feasibility study would look at the economics of a merger and suggests that the two Towns schedule a meeting first to go over other ideas and details regarding a potential merger before funding a feasibility study.

Mediation

Attorney Lee Robbins shares an update with Council about a pending EEOC claim. The case has been set for mediation in March. He has spoken with the attorney who is representing the Town. As part of a potential settlement, Council will need to authorize Council President Perrin and Police Chief Rynerson to agree to the settlement on behalf of the Town. Councilman Purdie moves to authorize Council President Perrin and Police Chief Rynerson to agree on behalf of the Town to the terms and conditions of the mediation agreement and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

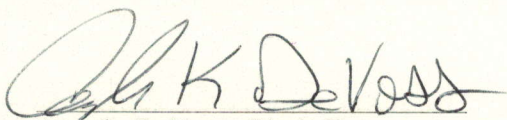
None.

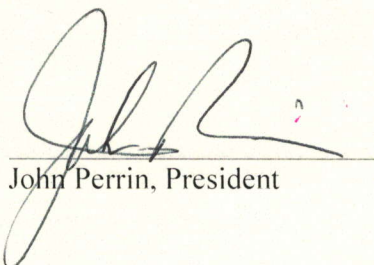
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President