

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

APRIL 9, 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, 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 March 5th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the April 2, 2025 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Combs moves to approve and ratify the April 2, 2025 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Accident and Sickness Insurance

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that he discovered that Mayfield, our new property insurance broker, also did not include an accident and sickness policy for the fire department in their original quote. Supt. Gillock thinks this is the last of the policies. He shares that he has a meeting with Mayfield tomorrow and they will be doing a walk-through of all of the facilities. Council notes we are not saving the \$16,000.00 that they originally thought we would be saving however there is still a savings of a few thousand dollars. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the above new policy and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Dave Curin shares a report with Council that shows the number of calls, volunteer hours, and paid standby hours in 2023, 2024, and 2025. In 2023 the Fire Department was getting an average of 50 calls a month. Now they are getting an average of 70 calls a month. Council asks about the progress our new Fire Marshal, Kerry O'Haver, has had regarding inspections. Chief Curin states that Mr. O'Haver has already accomplished a lot and has been explaining things to occupants and educating them as to why certain things are not up to code.

2025 Road Paving Project

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that 2 weeks ago he opened the bids for the 2025 road paving project. He received 4 bids. Town Attorney Robbins reviewed each bid and the one that is the lowest is E&B Paving. Their bid was \$1,487,004.91. Supt. McCauslin is asking Council tonight to award the contract to E&B Paving and get the process started. This project will take care of a portion of Tracy Road, a portion of Sawmill Road, and a portion of Whiteland Road. This is a CCMG project and the Town was awarded \$1.4 million. Our match for the project will be \$371,750.23. Councilman Purdie moves to award the contract to E&B Paving and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.** Attorney Robbins states that Council needs to authorize Council President Perrin to execute the documents related to the road paving project. Councilman Combs moves to authorize Council President Perrin to execute any documents related to the 2025 road paving project and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

CD Renewal

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss states that she sent an email to Council on April 4th and an updated email on April 8th with CD rates from 4 banks. Citizens had given updated numbers that were more competitive. She asks Council which term limit they would like to use to renew the CD which matures April 16th. Our other 2 CDs mature in October of this year. Councilman Combs moves to renew the April 16th CD for 12 months at 4.15% and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.** Councilman Purdie abstains from voting.

The interest from the CD will be deposited into the Money Market account. Councilman Schilawski asks what the balance is in the Money Market account. It is currently \$569,963.14. Council discusses what the plans are for using the funds in the Money Market account and whether to invest a portion of those funds into a CD. Councilman Combs moves to invest \$500,000.00 from the Money Market account into an 18-month CD at Citizens for 4.10% and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.** Councilman Purdie abstains from voting.

Compliance Officer

Council President Perrin shares that our Compliance Officer, Bob Downey, resigned and his last day was April 4th. We are currently without a building inspector and code enforcement officer. The Plan Commission meets after our Council meeting tonight to discuss options and they are tasked with the responsibility of choosing a building inspector. Council President Perrin suggests that the Town rely on the police department for code enforcement, which is already their responsibility according to Indiana Code.

Overtime

Fire Chief Dave Curin asks about the overtime rule and if we can work on a policy where if you have an employee that works for 2 different departments, they can work more hours. Attorney Lee Robbins states that it's not that we can't or are not willing to. However, due to the Fair Labor Standards Act, since it is the same employer, we do not have the ability to make those changes.

Paid Standby

Fire Chief Dave Curin also asks about the paid standby options for the Fire Department. He states that other departments offer firefighters regular 12-hour shifts every 3 days which allows more predictability with their pay and a consistent schedule. He states that is an issue because we are currently capped at 128 hours a month and if we offer the 12-hour shifts every 3 days then we would go over that amount. He asks Council if he could make changes to allow for 12-hour shifts every 3 days. Council President Perrin states that at this point it would require a change to the budget in order to allow for that. Chief Curin states that he would work within the current budget and it would not be necessary to increase this year's budget. Council President Perrin states another issue with increasing the paid standby hours is that they would then qualify for benefits. Chief Curin offers to waive benefits however Council President Perrin states that is not an option. Council states that we would need to look into this further before making a decision.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2025-01

Non-Emergency Calls

Attorney Lee Robbins reminds Council that this ordinance was introduced at a previous meeting to address the large number of non-emergency calls to a long-term care facility. Fire Chief Dave Curin has expressed interest in going ahead with this ordinance and setting the fee at \$500 per

occurrence. Attorney Robbins has researched the issue and finds that this ordinance is fine as presented. He discusses options regarding the fee and notes that a decision does not have to be made tonight. Fire Chief Curin asks Council if they need to add to this ordinance that the fee would be at his discretion, because there are some calls in which the long-term care facility legitimately needs their help. Attorney Robbins states that it can be at his discretion. The ordinance is worded in such a way that the fee applies to “non-emergency” calls. If Chief deems something to be an emergency then the fee would not be incurred. Council President Perrin asks if calls have decreased and Chief Curin states they have. Perrin suggests that we take the next month to come up with a fee and put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Fire Chief Curin has also expressed interest in another ordinance that would address other non-emergency issues and Attorney Robbins asks Council if they would like him to pursue working on that ordinance as well. He notes these are two separate issues and two separate ordinances. Council states they would like for Attorney Robbins to work on drafting such an ordinance. Chief Curin states that Fire Marshal Kerry O’Haver has been working on some numbers for that which he can send to Attorney Robbins.

Ordinance 2025-02

Wheel Tax Ordinance

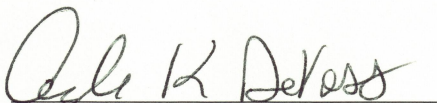
Attorney Lee Robbins introduces Ordinance 2025-02 and states that it is based on a House bill that has not yet been adopted. We are way ahead of the requirements on this. It has to be enacted by June if it comes into law but it would not make any sense to take action on it tonight because it’s not required yet. This item will be placed on the May 7th agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: _____
John Perrin, President