

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 7, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:02pm. 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 Combs arrived at 5:17pm. Councilman Purdie offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the May 7, 2025 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the May 7, 2025 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Perrin opens the Public Hearing at 5:44pm regarding the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Proposed Project. Joe Tierney and John Evans with GRW refer to the report which they have distributed to Council. The Town of New Whiteland submitted an application to the SRF program for funding of the WWTP project. The PER was submitted on April 1st for the SRF application and the Public Hearing is also a necessary step as part of the process. The purpose of the PER is to identify potential issues and suggest improvements to the sanitary sewer system. The report outlines various project phases with specific projects under each phase. Attorney Robbins notes that Council does not need to make decisions on the specific projects tonight. The current requirement is to hold the Public Hearing. No one from the public is present to ask questions or comment. That being noted the Public Hearing is closed at 6:13pm. Attorney Robbins presents Resolution 2025-02, the PER Acceptance Resolution. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve Resolution 2025-02 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Tot Park Sign

Councilman Schilawski asks about the status of the sign for Tot Park. Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that the sign is now up.

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer Hookups

Commissioner Ron West, who represents District 3, addresses Council regarding sewer hookups on 7 properties along US31 that are still in unincorporated Johnson County and on well and septic. Due to being on well and septic, this limits planning and zoning options for those properties. If they are connected to the sewer the county could deem those areas commercial and New Whiteland could annex the properties. The properties are currently zoned residential and that area on US31 has not been ideal for residential use for many years. There is a discussion regarding a sewer study that took place in that area, estimated daily use, and peak use. Council President Perrin states that we need to do what is best for the people in the Town and that he is willing to consult with Joe Tierney with GRW as well as homeowners in the area. Councilman Purdie asks if Mr. West has asked Greenwood if the properties can connect to their sewer lines and Greenwood has stated they are not willing to. It would be costly to go under US31. State Representative Michelle Davis speaks on behalf of herself and other property owners affected

stating that she is willing to discuss costs to hook up to New Whiteland's sewers and is willing to look at sharing those costs. She notes that the 7 properties in question are no longer residents despite the area being zoned residential.

2025 CCMG Road Project

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that he has a pre contract meeting Monday with E&B Paving. As part of that he has reached out to some of the utilities because he has identified water utilities and meter pits that will be in conflict of the new sidewalk. He cannot get the utility to move things without proper identification. That said, he needs a survey done and has reached out to 4 survey companies to stake the right of ways and provide drawings. The best lowest quote that meets the requirements of the project is from Projects Plus at \$15,700. He states this will come from his MVH budget and asks Council approval because E&B wants to be the road project in early June. Councilman Combs moves to approve the survey quote from Projects Plus and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

AC Unit in Police Department

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that the AC went out in the Police Department. Due to changes in freon regulations and availability, it is recommended that they replace both units. Premier Heating & Cooling has quoted \$16,000 to replace both units. Supt. McCauslin notes that funds are in his budget for the AC units as Council approved that in his 2025 budget with the requirement to not replace the units unless it became necessary. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the replacement by Premier Heating & Cooling for \$16,000 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Overgrown Vegetation

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that there is a lot of overgrown vegetation along US31 on the west side of the road near the power lines. He shares that the State takes care of the vegetation up to the bottom of the drainage swell, even though their right of way goes farther than that. Brightspeed Fiber has given a quote to go through and just clean up 10 feet around the lines. They are also willing, at an additional cost, to take the overgrown vegetation all to the ground. The cost would be \$11,700. He suggests getting the vegetation all cleaned up and then afterwards holding homeowners responsible to keep those areas clean. Supt. McCauslin states this was not in his budget this year because he was still trying to work with the State to get those areas cleaned up. However, that has been unsuccessful. No decision was made.

Pest Control

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that our current pest control company has had some internal changes and that we're not getting the service that we once did. He reached out to 2 additional companies. 1 did not get back with him. The other one, Irish Brothers, quoted \$65/quarter per site. We are currently paying \$29/month per site. He asks Council for approval to switch pest control companies. Councilman Waltz moves to approve contracting with Irish Brothers for pest control and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Building Inspection Fees

Plan Commission President Matt Gillock reminds Council that at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding building inspection fees now that our Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer is no longer with us. At the last Plan Commission meeting, the Plan Commission gave Matt Gillock the authority as Plan Commission President to bring this matter to the Council because it is the function of the Council to change the fees. He offers a list of

proposed fees to Council. The new fee schedule is more condensed. The purpose is to offset the cost since we've hired a consultant to do the building inspections. Permit and application fees have only minor changes. This item will be placed on the June agenda.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2025-01

Non-Emergency Calls

Discussion regarding this ordinance has been postponed.

Ordinance 2025-02

Wheel Tax Ordinance

Attorney Lee Robbins notes that Ordinance 2025-02 was introduced at the April 9th meeting. House Bill 1461 passed which now requires us to pass our own Wheel Tax Ordinance in order to be eligible for Community Crossing Grants. Attorney Robbins states that we really do not have a choice but to pass this ordinance if we want the town to receive CCMG funds for road projects and our ordinance has to be adopted by the end of June. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve Ordinance 2025-02 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2025-03 Nuisance Ordinance Amending 2017-14

Ordinance 2025-04 Nuisance Ordinance Amending 2020-01

Ordinance 2025-05 Ordinance Amending Civil Penalties

Attorney Lee Robbins shares that these 3 ordinances all go together and have come about due to the police department taking back over the handling of ordinance violations since our Code Enforcement Officer is no longer here. The previous Ordinances were outdated and needed to be cleaned up and made more user-friendly, clear, and concise. The procedure will be to issue a warning and give 5 days to correct violations. At that time, if there is still a violation a citation will be issued. There will be 10 days to admit or deny the violation and pay the fine with the Town. Unpaid violations will be sent to Attorney Robbins to handle at that point. Councilman Combs moves to adopt Ordinances 2025-03, 2025-04, and 2025-05 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. Ordinances 2025-03, 2025-04, and 2025-05 are passed with unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all five (5) members of the Town Council present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

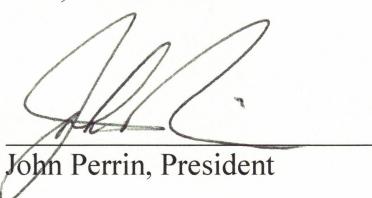
None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:


John Perrin, President