

# NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

June 16, 2020

## MEETING MINUTES

Town Council Vice President Scott Alspach opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were Scott Alspach, Frank Vaughn and Mike Rogier. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Alspach offered the opening prayer. Councilmen John Perrin and John Schilawski were absent.

### MINUTES

Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the minutes of the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

### HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS

K. Horban, 112 Hilltop Farms Blvd. is requesting an adjustment for a leak. The leak has been repaired. Total amount of the credit would be \$65.23. Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the adjustment and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval for June 16<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify all reports and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Steve Wahlberg, 303 Oakden asks if any measures have been put in place due to the recent unrest directed at police officers. Wahlberg asks about accountability for our officers and diversity / cultural training. Councilman Rogier states all officers are mandated to have a certain number of hours of ongoing training every year. Diversity/cultural training is among the required courses. Wahlberg asks who oversees disciplinary review in the event of a complaint on an officer. Council says that there have been no issues but procedures are in place if that should happen.

### BID OPENING

Attorney Robbins states that Wessler Engineering invited bids on our proposed Storm Water project. We received one (1) bid from Kings Trucking and Excavation, Inc. Attorney Robbins opens the bid and reveals the Total Unit Base Bid Amount of \$594,764.00. Mary Atkins states that Kings did attend the pre-bid meeting and did receive the addendum. Wessler Engineers, Attorney Robbins and Utility Supt. Gillock will review the bid packet for responsiveness and compliance. Mary Atkins states the bid is good for 90 days and we are tentatively scheduled to close our SRF loan in September.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Attorney Robbins opens the public hearing at 5:10 p.m. and explains that this is to consider Ordinance 2020-11 and the changes to our non-recurring charges for utilities. Robbins further explains that the Availability Fee is based on the standard EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) which is 310 gallons per day for a residential single-family home. He then explains the various changes in the rates / fees as previously discussed in our last meeting. Attorney Robbins asks if there is anyone present who has a question or a comment in regards to this matter. Being none, the public hearing is closed at 5:20. Councilman Rogier moves to adopt

Ordinance 2020-11 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 3 affirmative.** Councilman Rogier asks when the new fees are effective and Attorney Robbins states immediately.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Upgrade WWTP Capacity Permit

Utility Supt. Gillock states that after talking with IDEM and Wessler it has been recommended that we wait until we have more potential development to make the application. Gillock states that when we do apply, we will be requesting that our permit be increased to 950,000 gallons. Councilman Rogier asks if that will require additional plant upgrades. Gillock states all of the recent upgrades were planned to well exceed that amount. The UV System may need to be upgraded but due to age it will need to be at some point regardless.

#### Reopening

Date to reopen the offices – tabled until the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting after we enter Phase 5.

#### Disconnects

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states the Governor's Order suspending disconnects is set to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. As of today, we have 205 accounts that are delinquent totaling \$22,417.72. We have been encouraging residents to make whatever payments they can throughout the pandemic reminding them that they will be responsible for the unpaid balance when the restrictions are lifted. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach recommends placing a message on the July bill advising customers that if the arrears amount is not paid by July 21<sup>st</sup> they will be subject to disconnect. We will reiterate that in the courtesy letter that will go out to all delinquent accounts on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She will try to have more detailed information on the delinquent accounts for the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. She recommends allowing some short-term payment arrangements if the customer calls in to request it. Councilman Vaughn recommends any payment plan be no more than 90 days in total for the account to be paid in full. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach has tried to research any financial assistance that might be available for our residents but has not found any.

#### Lennar Homes

Attorney Robbins was contacted by Ty Rinehart who states they are looking at the Dixon/Downton property for possible annexation and future development.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Johnson County Senior Services

Public Works Supt. McCauslin states he has been approached by the County asking that the town waive the street cut permit for their future driveway. McCauslin believes the cost is \$25. Councilman Rogier moves to waive the fee and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

#### Trees in Right of Way

Public Works Supt. McCauslin asks that an ordinance be drafted prohibiting the planting of trees in our right of way. Trees planted near the street are not being kept trimmed and hang out into the traffic lanes. Trees planted between the street and the sidewalk are buckling the

sidewalks and the residents are not replacing or maintaining the sidewalks. Attorney Robbins states an ordinance is not needed because we have not given any permission for trees to be planted within the right of way. McCauslin is concerned that when the trees are removed for the road work on Warwick residents may want to replant them. Robbins will draft an ordinance for the council to consider at the next meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2020-11

This was passed during the public hearing.

Resolution 2020-06

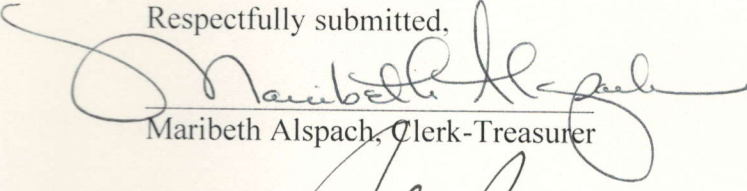
Attorney Robbins presents the Resolution as prepared by Tom Pitman, our bond counsel for the upcoming SRF loan, for the storm water project. This resolution allows us to reimburse the town for expenses that have been paid while we were waiting for the loan to close. Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the resolution and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

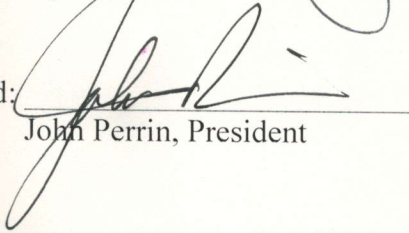
Transfer Memo

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach read and explains the transfer memo for Wastewater. Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the transfers and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President