**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**JULY 18, 2017**

**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 Schilawski, Scott Alspach, Frank Vaughn, Mike Rogier and John Perrin. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the June 20th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Alspach moves to approve the minutes of the July 7th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the July 18th Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**Introduction of New Fire Chief**

Council President Perrin states that the council / interview board met on July 7th and interviewed five candidates for Fire Chief. Perrin introduces Dale Saucier as the new chief for the New Whiteland Fire Department.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Story Walk Update

Davin Kolderup, branch manager of Clark Pleasant Library updates the council on the status of this project. Kolderup states that the posts for the podiums were installed on July 10th. Kolderup thanks the Public Works Department, specifically employees Duane McCauslin and Dwayne Dykes for assisting with this project. Eagle Scout Shaun Donaldson installed the podiums on July 15th. Everything is on schedule for the grand Opening on August 5th at 10:00 a.m. Kolderup states that they will change the story every quarter. Kolderup asks permission to display a banner at the entrance to Country Gate from July 31st to August 7th advertising the Grand Opening. Council approves conditioned on the library calling for locates before putting the banner out and making sure that it does not obstruct the ability of drivers to see oncoming traffic. If there are no issues with this banner the library will be able to post a banner for 7 days each time the story changes.

National Night Out / Family Fun Day

Updated copies of the scheduled events and exhibits and an itinerary for the demonstrations and activities planned for the day are distributed to all members. Lists of those participating in the parade as well as those having booths are also presented. The posters will be ready tomorrow and placed in local businesses.

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Disc Golf

Council President Perrin states that he and Councilman Alspach went down to look at the course. Councilman Vaughn did as well. Councilman Vaughn believes the problem is caused by Hole #7. Council will look into cost of putting some type of netting up along the two fences near the tee for Hole #7 to stop the discs from entering their property. President Perrin will look into some netting that might be available through a softball league.

Community Crossing Grant

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach distributes a memo detailing the four (4) grant applications that were filed on July 14th. Grant award notification is expected at the end of August.

2018 Budget

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach distributes a comparison sheet between the 2017 approved budget and the 2018 budget requests. Alspach meets with the Department of Local Government Finance on Monday, July 24th for our budget hearing workshop.

Sidewalk Repair

Attorney Robbins has asked Supt Johnson for the status of the sidewalk repair at 350 Tracy Road. Johnson contacted the property owner today who said he hired a contractor but the work has not been done. Councilman Vaughn asks for the name of the contractor. Johnson states he didn’t ask. Council directs Attorney Robbins to send a letter giving the owner 30 days to make the repairs or the town will and he will be billed.

State Highway Complaint

Councilman Rogier asks what can be done to get State Highway to clean the west side of US 31 and maintain that ditch. Councilman Schilawski is going to contact Commissioner McGuinness to see if we can get some resolution to this ongoing complaint.

Skate Park Request

Council President Perrin has done some research on Skate Parks since it was mentioned at the last meeting. Perrin spoke with someone at the Parks Department in Franklin who said their Skate Park was rebuilt after the flood in 2008 at a cost of around $115,000.00. He said they do not have any personnel expenses and their maintenance costs around $500.00 per year. Councilman Schilawski asks about liability. Perrin states it would be posted “Use at Your Own Risk”. Attorney Robbins states that would not protect the town from litigation. Perrin states he spoke to PW Supt Johnson earlier today. Johnson states it would cost $10,000.00 to patch and paint the tennis courts. Councilman Alspach states he would not want a skate park in his backyard and the tennis courts are pretty close to the houses along Parkview. Perrin will do some further investigation.

Council asks about money budgeted for 2017 for playground equipment and tree removal. Johnson states there is a piece of wooden playground of equipment in the West Park that he believes is dangerous. He would like to replace it with something else and spend around $12,000.00. He states he hasn’t been able to get prices on replacement trees so hasn’t scheduled additional tree removal. Council asks what kind of trees he plans to plant. Johnson doesn’t know, he hasn’t talked to an arborist. Councilman Schilawski states he is alarmed that the PW Supt. would say that he believes we have a dangerous piece of

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equipment in our park and nothing is being done about it. Council directs PW Supt Johnson to immediately have the piece removed and get quotes on a piece of equipment to replace it. Schilawski also wants a written long range plan on the removal and replanting of trees in our parks. Johnson estimates we have between 75 and 100 ash trees that will eventually need to be removed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Scenic Construction Sewer Line Request

Tony Biasi is here to ask for relief with the hook on fee for his sewer connection. Biasi had a 1”meter installed at his business but did not realize that there was a connection fee. Biasi says that he had a larger meter installed than the size of the water line and does not want to pay the $4,650.00 for a 1” meter. Biasi says the town should have told him of that fee when he asked about fees for his building permit. Attorney Robbins states it is the property owner or their contractor’s responsibility to research costs associated with building not town employees. Council suggests that Biasi contact Indiana American and have the meter changed to a 5/8” or 3/4” and pay the $1,850.00 hook on fee. President Perrin states the hook on fees are a part of our Rate Ordinance and he does not believe we should treat one business differently than any other. Attorney Robbins states that New Whiteland is not under the IURC and has some discretion in matters like this. Biasi states that he will be in tomorrow to pay the $1,850.00. If the meter remains a 1” meter the hook on fee balance will either need to be paid or waived. A Certificate of Occupancy will not be issued unless at minimum the $1,850.00 is paid.

Fishing Derby Request

Jonathon Christopher with Indiana Trail Life 21-11 is requesting the use of Proctor Park from 8 – 1 on Saturday, July 29th for their Annual Catch and Release Fishing Derby. Christopher states participants can meet at the church and carpool if need be as cars cannot park on the grass or on Tracy Road.

President Perrin states that he spoke with the folks at the Jones Company who do testing on ponds to determine what needs to be done to balance the fish population. Cost to evaluate both the pond at Proctor Park and the pond at Country Gate will be around $300.00. Council approves expense and asks Perrin to get this scheduled.

Railroad Crossing on Tracy Road

President Perrin states the railroad crossing is horrible. Councilman Vaughn states the contractor is supposed to come back and finish the work – it was a 2 phase project. Hopefully it won’t take long for them to get it fixed and finished.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2017-07  
Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents and explains the transfer ordinance on first reading. Councilman Vaughn moves to adopt Ordinance 2017-07 on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.** Councilman Schilawski moves to suspend the rules and consider Ordinance 2017-07 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 5 affirmative**.

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Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents Ordinance 2017-07 in title only on final reading. Councilman Alspach moves to adopt Ordinance 2017-07 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John Perrin, Council President