

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 1, 2023  
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, Dennis Combs, John Purdie, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman Dennis Combs offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of an additional December 30<sup>th</sup>, End of Year Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the February 1, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Waltz moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

ACCESS Johnson County Fund Request

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss refers to a Fund Request made available to Council and adds that the Town of New Whiteland has 56 registered residents who use the Dial-A-Ride service. Of those registered residents, there was a total of 2,358 passenger trips last year. Councilman Combs expresses that this is a needed service in our community. Council would like Becky Allen to come to a meeting prior to planning the 2024 Budget so they can ask questions.

Tracy Road Improvements

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin submits a visual aid of what improvements could look like from US31 to the bridge at Proctor Park. He has talked with the engineer and is looking at funding options. There is a time crunch for some funding options. One has an application due the end of October. The improvements could potentially affect 59 parcels however they're fine-tuning the breakdown of various options and their related costs with the engineer. Council plans to hold a Special Meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2023 to further discuss these improvements with the engineer.

Girl Scout Project

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin got a phone call from a resident who is a leader of a Girl Scout troop. They would like to put something up similar to a Little Free Library at Proctor Park. It would be a place for free canned food. They would like to put it next to the book library there. Council discussed concerns about potential vandalism as well as other possible locations for the project in Town. It's suggested that the Town Hall might be the best location with most visibility. PW Supt. McCauslin states the troop would build it and stock it the first time. From that point on they will be responsible for maintaining it. Part of their requirement is to have a long-term project to maintain. Council President Perrin says he's inclined to agree but would like the troop to attend a meeting and present their plans, how they will maintain it, etc. Councilman Combs says he and his wife helped with the book library at Proctor Park and have wood they can use and would be willing to help.

#### Community Clean-Up Day,

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin says he's been talking with the Town of Whiteland to see if we could partner for Community Clean-Up Day. Council President Perrin says he'd like to see this twice a year. There is a discussion about potential locations. Council believes it would be a great idea to partner with Whiteland for this event.

#### Police Officers

Council President John Perrin points out that we've lost 3 officers in 6 months. We lost a couple prior to that. Many of our officers go next door to Whiteland and that often comes down to more money and perks that Whiteland offers. Police Chief Joe Rynerson offers a list of the costs involved in putting an officer through ILEA. Police Chief Rynerson also explains that we're getting fewer applicants when there are job openings than we did years ago and this is happening in law enforcement everywhere. Some locations provide sign-on bonuses because of the difficulty in getting and keeping officers. Councilman Purdie would like to see statistics of local municipalities and a proposal from Police Chief Rynerson of desired changes.

#### New Captain

Fire Chief Dave Curin formally introduces Curtis Huffman, who is on the Indianapolis Fire Department and was recently brought back as a Captain to strengthen fundamentals and skills of our unit.

#### Auxiliary Program

Fire Chief Dave Curin shares that there were intentions to get this programing going and then it dropped with Covid. There is a lot of interest, especially with retired firefighters in our community. Members of the program would come to the fire station and help with scout troops, events, and generally be involved in any way they can. Councilman Schilawski would like to see a written proposal – what they're going to do, the purpose, activities, what is envisioned, etc. Council President Perrin states that former firefighters have so much knowledge they can pass on and would be an asset to our Fire Station. There have been multiple requests for whether we have a room to rent for birthday parties. Could this be included in something the Auxiliary Program helps with? Council President Perrin says to include that in the proposal and adds that we would need to go through details such as having a waiver, rules, a cleaning deposit, etc.

#### New Building in Country Gate

Council President Perrin asks Fire Chief Dave Curin if the unit is prepared for the new building going up in front of Country Gate. He asks if it's 4 stories, do we need to do anything different as far as equipment. Fire Chief Curin explains that with the mutual aid agreements with local fire stations, we have access to what we need to respond to emergencies. He says the plans were sent to him and he was also invited to walk through and look at things as the building is being built.

### LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

#### Ordinance 2023-01

##### An Ordinance Correcting a Clerical Error

Attorney Robbins presents an ordinance to clean up some things brought to his attention by the County Clerk for the upcoming 2023 election. This ordinance will correct the mistake. The ordinance was introduced with the unanimous consent of all members. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt the ordinance and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **By a vote of 5 to 0, the ordinance is adopted.**

Ordinance 2023-02

An Ordinance Recertifying Existing Legislative Body Districts

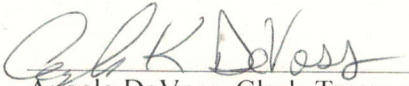
Attorney Robbins presents an ordinance the Town must do every 10 years after a Federal Census. Local areas are required to look at the Census and decide whether any of the legislative districts need to be redrawn or to recertify existing districts. When the 2020 Census was concluded, at that time the new Lennar and Beazer developments had no one living in them. Therefore, there are no necessary changes to the legislative body districts based off of the 2020 Census. However, Robbins explains to Council, after the Census is done in 2023, we will need to redraw the districts. The ordinance was introduced with the unanimous consent of all members. Councilman Combs moves to adopt the ordinance and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **By a vote of 5 to 0, the ordinance is adopted.**

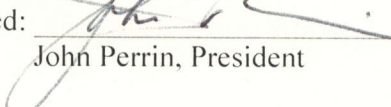
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President