

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL  
MAY 3, 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 (arrived at 5:05pm). Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman John Purdie offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman John Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the May 3, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

ARPA Wish lists

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin says he's waiting on some quotes to come in for some items on his wish list. He requests a Special Meeting for Monday, May 15, 2023 in order to go over bids regarding the 2023 Road Paving Project.

Police Chief Joe Rynerson discusses updates to his ARPA wish list requests. He has removed the drunk goggles altogether. He'd like to proceed with the body cams and tasers from Axon. For the handheld radars he'd like to go with Ray O'Herron, which offers the lowest price of 3 bids at \$10,560.00. His department has done some research and these radars hold up in the Florida heat and the company has a good replacement policy. Police Chief Rynerson notes that the cost of the weapons has gone up since the quote he received six months ago. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the purchase of the 14 handguns (Kiesler-\$11,446.08), 3 shotguns and 3 rifles (Fields Outdoor-\$3,150.00), 12 handheld radars (Ray O'Herron-\$10,560.00), Trunk Rack Weapon Mounts (Charles Security-\$4,200.00), and Tasers and Body Cams (Axon-\$40,898.06) using ARPA funds and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. Further discussion regarding the pop-up tent and training mats will occur at a future meeting.

Fire Captain Curtis Huffman shares quotes received for new firefighting boots to upgrade to current standards. The Black Diamond boots are preferred due to previous feedback. Only two of the four quotes presented are for the same type of boots. Council President Perrin notes that there are not very many suppliers for fire-regulated boots. However, we need three bids for the exact same item. He asks Captain Huffman to try to secure three quotes of the same type of boot and return with that information at the Special Meeting on May 15, 2023.

ARPA Reporting

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss notes that Kellie Robertson of GRW submitted the annual reporting for the ARPA funds on April 21, 2023. Many municipalities ran into issues with submitting their reports however Kellie had no issues. A copy of the report was included in the email to Council.

Tracy Plaza

Owner of Whit's Inn, Mark Clark, explained that after the previous meeting he had a positive conversation with the Town Attorney, Lee Robbins. He stated that he came into the office to pick up paperwork and was scolded to be quiet, then left. He went online to try to submit the forms there and had multiple issues. It was kicking back and not letting him submit the forms. Mr. Clark expressed frustration with staff and the process to get things accomplished. He said that he spoke with the state of Indiana regarding his sign, per recommendation from the last meeting, since US31 is within the

jurisdiction of the state. They told him that he needed a permit from the Town of New Whiteland. He said he's looking at roughly \$30,000 for a new sign and the prices are not getting cheaper. He would like to do what he can to move forward with replacing the sign. He also wants to have a tent in Tracy Plaza for Chuck Welch to have a produce stand. Since he was having difficulty completing the forms online he asks how to proceed. Attorney Robbins notes that these issues are for the Plan Commission which meets on a different night. Regarding the paperwork, Robbins told Mr. Clark to call him. Sometimes it's easier to work with hard copies than online forms. Council President Perrin asks if there is a way to make it so hard copies of the documents can be printed online. He notes that it's somewhat relevant for the Town Council to hear of these challenges however they won't be able to move these issues along like the Plan Commission can.

#### Damage to Police Car

Police Chief Rynerson presents bids on repairs to the damage of the 2018 Ford Interceptor due to damages incurred when encountering a resister when making an arrest. The lowest bid is from Wood Auto Body at \$428. He asks Council for permission to do this repair and take it out of his car budget. He was under the impression that he can authorize repairs for safety but not for cosmetic body issues. Chief Rynerson states that the car will be in the shop for three days. He also wanted to make sure Councilmembers are getting his emails as he had trouble with his email system a while back. Attorney Robbins states that the decision on whether to repair an insurable item or to make a claim should probably come before Council. That way they can give careful consideration since there could be financial implications beyond the cost of the repair. Discussion ensues about a potential policy outlining when to approach Council for such matters and when Department Heads can make these decisions. Councilman Combs moves to approve the repairs at Wood Auto Body for \$428 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Surplus Items

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin identified and presents items as surplus to Council. He asks Council for permission to approve of disposing of the items on the list. He would like to donate the radios to Rocklane Christian Church for their security team. The town purchased the radios from Amazon.com at roughly \$30 each to communicate in the event of an emergency. After testing several times, he noted that they couldn't go a mile with a clear view and receive a signal. Regarding the generator, it is rusted and repairs would be more expensive than purchasing a new one. It's also been through a flood. Councilman Waltz moves to allow disposal of the list of surplus items presented and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This will be on the June 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda for final approval.

##### Tracy Road Complaint

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares with Council that he received a complaint from a resident who lives on Tracy Road near Delbrook. The resident complained about the traffic and the number of pedestrians with the Sweet Scoop Market there. Supt. McCauslin asks about putting in speed bumps, more lines painted, or brighter red flashing LEDs on the stop signs. He wants to make Council aware but doesn't want to sink a lot of money into it because it is part of a larger project he's already working on. Council President Perrin notes that he has seen more police officer presence in that area. He asks about the signs that show your speed as you're driving up. Councilman Combs suggests putting LED lights all around the stop signs. Attorney Robbins suggests doing some research on the type of signs available, costs, and if there is a study showing their effectiveness.

##### New Officers

Police Chief Joe Rynerson introduces two new officers, Jason Beck and Nathan Brooks. Jason Beck has been in law enforcement for over ten years and has worked for both the Whiteland and Center

Grove police departments. Nathan has been in law enforcement for the last decade and has a masters in Criminal Justice in addition to being an army vet.

#### Vehicle Use Policy

Police Chief Joe Rynerson drafted and presents a Vehicle Use policy for Council review and approval. The policy extending boundary lines for driving take-home vehicles should be one of the things that will help with retention. It is not restrictive, only more specific. The new policy looks at allowing driving to any county adjacent to Johnson County and within a 25-mile radius. Council President Perrin notes that if we are going to change the driving policy for one department we should change it for all departments. Councilman Schilawski notes that there was a previous discussion in which Council noted that a restrictive vehicle policy limits people's options for housing. Attorney Robbins asks that he add off duty employment usage as well. Chief Rynerson will make some changes to the policy and send it to Attorney Robbins for further review.

#### Captain Steve Wire Promotion & Salary

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss shares an email from Fire Chief Dave Curin stating that he created a second Fire Captain position and promoted Steve Wire to that role. He would like to begin paying him the allotted salary starting in May. Chief Curin would like to transfer funds from his fuel appropriation to the Fire Captain appropriation since they are saving money on fuel by using the DPW fuel station. Council discusses whether to transfer the funds from the fuel appropriation or the appropriation for an Assistant Chief, as there is currently not an Assistant Chief. Council asks if Chief Curin intends to hire or promote someone to Assistant Chief. Captain Huffman states that the department would like to have an Assistant Chief at some point however no one is currently ready to assume that role. Councilman Combs moves to approve Ordinance 2023-04, an Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance 2023-04, adding the second Fire Captain position and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. Ordinance 2023-04 is introduced and adopted by the unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all five (5) members of the Town Council.

#### CEDIT Plan

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin speaks regarding the economic development money that municipalities are starting to receive. He states that there are a bunch of statutes that we have to follow to receive the money from the county. One of those is that we adopt a capital improvement plan. This plan doesn't have to be set in stone and can be changed. The current Ordinance presented this evening has three projects. Supt. McCauslin says these funds will be helpful especially since the county has relieved themselves of maintaining the bridges. The Ordinance will allow this money to come to the town. Supt. McCauslin speculates that we could solely fund the Tracy Road project with the economic development money. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve Ordinance 2023-05 Approving and Adopting a Capital Improvement Plan on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This item will be placed on the June 7<sup>th</sup> agenda.

#### Employee Retirement Benefits

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock says that we will be having a meeting with Amy Haupt-Kulik, our contact who does investments for all the town employees. AUL has stopped selling the 457 plan as of 2 years ago. She was going to be here tonight but had a death in the family. Amy is recommending that we switch to Lincoln out of Fort Wayne. AUL will no longer be able to keep us compliant with the Secure Act, unless we pay a significant more amount of money. Supt Gillock says that Amy can be at the next Council meeting to discuss this further.

#### Xylem Quote

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock states that Xylem recently performed yearly preventative maintenance on the pumps. One of the pumps had an issue and repair costs total \$9,635.43. That pump was originally purchased in 2001. The sales rep got a quote for a new pump identical to this

one which would be \$10,920.90. He's asking Council if he can move forward with getting a new pump as the repair isn't even a substantial repair and more could go wrong with it in the future. Supt. McCauslin notes that this isn't something they can receive other quotes on. Xylem is the supplier of this particular item. Xylem is offering a 10% discount since they do our preventative maintenance. Supt. Gillock states this amount is in his budget. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the purchase of the new pump at \$10,920.90 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Connect to Sewer

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock states that Greg and Patty Booth of 6254 N 25 W are not in the town limits but would like to connect to the town sewer. The sewer main is right across the street from them. They are currently having septic issues. Supt. Gillock states that we do have a few others who do not live in town who are on our sewer system and pay a flat fee. Councilman Schilawski moves to allow them to connect to the town sewer system and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Sewer CCTV Machine Bids

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock seeks Council approval to collect bids for the town to purchase a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera. He has done a lot of manhole rehab work. Every manhole in town has been rehabbed or inspected and rated at least a three or higher. Now he's going to focus on sewer mains to eliminate inflow and infiltration issues. We have approximately 119,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer main. In initial research, a new system could cost around \$130,000. Supt. Gillock is asking for permission to talk to suppliers and get quotes on various systems and see what would benefit us the most. Councilman Purdie asks if this would come out of ARPA funds. Supt. Gillock states that he had budgeted for a new building that they're not going to do and could use unused funds from that appropriation. Councilman Purdie asks if this is something the town can rent. Supt. Gillock explains that a lot of companies will not rent this item. There is a liability with the software and the camera. In the last five years the town has spent around \$75,000 having companies come out to camera the lines. If we have our own camera then we have a way to inspect lines quickly and easily without paying a company to come out. Council President Perrin says he would like to see a presentation.

#### Midwest Remediation

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss presents the invoice received from Midwest Remediation for work on the water damage due to a leak at the town office. She asks if we can pay the invoice of \$11,377.21 out of the Rainy Day fund. The funds are there and we have not used them so far this year. We will get some of this amount reimbursed through insurance. Councilman Purdie moves to approve paying the Midwest Remediation invoice out of the Rainy Day fund and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Lennar Homes

Attorney Lee Robbins lets Council know that there is interest in purchasing the Brown, Dixon, and Whitaker properties that surround the wastewater treatment plant. Prospective buyers have asked questions about timing for zoning, platting, etc. If someone wanted to purchase it for commercial use it would have to go to Council. It's not a place for a commercial property. Lennar might want to put higher-end homes there. Attorney Robbins advises that Council needs to set parameters for whoever buys the property. Councilman Schilawski expresses concern about development land-locking the wastewater treatment plant since we will still need the capacity to grow. Attorney Robbins says at this point he's just bringing this to Council's attention so they know this is in the works.

#### Exit Interviews

Councilman Combs asks about the exit interviews. Discussion follows about getting schedules together to have Councilmembers do exit interviews in the future.

Road Painting

Councilman Combs asks about the road paint on Tracy Road going to US31. He states that most of the time someone in the right lane is trying to go straight. Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that that area was painted last fall. Councilman Combs asks if that is in our jurisdiction. Supt. McCauslin states that where the stop bars are and a little back from there is the state's responsibility. We did paint it last year. However, there is so much traffic that it wears itself off. Supt. McCauslin says that he's looking into a latex paint that might last longer, but the best way to do it is to have it milled into a pattern and use thermoplastic.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Resolution 2023-02

Attorney Robbins introduces the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Town's Participation in the INDOT 2023-01 Community Crossings Matching Grant Program and Authorizing Council President to Sign All Related Documents. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Resolution 2023-02 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2023-04

The ordinance amending salary ordinance 2022-15 was introduced and passed with unanimous consent and unanimous vote of all five (5) members of the Town Council under New Business regarding Captain Steve Wire's Promotion & Salary.

Ordinance 2023-06

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss introduces the ordinance transferring funds for the new position of the second Fire Captain. This ordinance will be brought before Council at a future meeting after consulting with Fire Chief Curin to see if he intends to hire an Assistant Chief and to verify with him which funds to transfer from.

Ordinance 2023-05


The ordinance approving the capital improvement plan was passed after first reading under New Business regarding the CEDIT Plan. This item will be placed on the June 7<sup>th</sup> agenda.

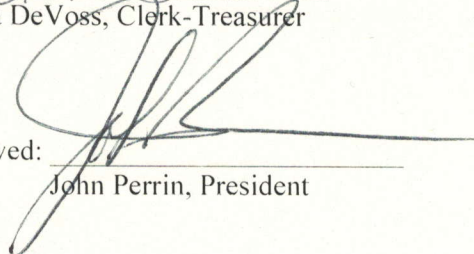
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President