

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:03 p.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 John Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Previous President John Perrin opens the floor for nominations for Town Council President for 2023. Councilman Schilawski nominates John Perrin and is seconded by Councilman Waltz.

Vote 5 affirmative.

President Perrin opens the floor for nominations for Town Council Vice President for 2023. Council President Perrin nominates John Schilawski and is seconded by Councilman Purdie.

Vote 5 affirmative.

MINUTES

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

Councilman Combs moves to approve the memos of the September 21st and December 7th Executive Meetings and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the December 30th, End of Year Fund Report and Docket for ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to ratify the December 30th End of Year Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the January 4, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Waltz moves to approve and ratify the January 4, 2023 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Town Christmas Tree

Councilman Schilawski asks about the Christmas tree, if we were able to get everything working. Public Works Superintendent McCauslin says that he talked to the manufacturer who remoted in from North Carolina via WiFi connection from Scoops. PW Supt McCauslin says he will take it to the shop and continue working on it once they take it down. If they can't figure it out the manufacturer will need to send someone next year to take a look at it. The residents have spoken positively about having the tree and we're willing to try to get it fixed. Councilman Schilawski asks if there was a warranty. PW Supt McCauslin says the controllers had a 1-year warranty and everything else had 30 or 60-day warranties.

Duke Energy Contract

Public Works Superintendent McCauslin refers to the discussion at a previous meeting regarding the Duke Energy Contract involving replacing and updating street light fixtures. This contract replaces 181 street lights and expires February 4th. He estimates a cost savings of \$400 per month in energy cost. Attorney Robbins indicates there were two items that he wanted to have changed or removed in the contract. In discussion with Duke Energy, they declined making any changes to the contract. They do not want to set a precedent to change their contract. Discussion ensues among Council regarding the pros and cons of new street lights. With better illumination, it can be a deterrent to vandalism of property and cars. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the contract and give Council President Perrin authority to execute it. Councilman Combs seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents a Memorandum of the thirteen (13) outstanding checks from 2020 that need to be written off. Clearing out the first four (4) checks will allow us to close out our account with First Financial Bank. Councilman Purdie moves to approve writing off the old checks and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Opioid Deposit

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss notes that the Town received their first Opioid settlement deposit in the amount of \$8,039.38 on December 9th. However, it was mistakenly deposited into the wrong bank account. We have notified the State Auditor's office which account to deposit future Opioid settlement funds and are working on correcting this error so that the funds are in the correct account.

Administrative Assistant Duties

Council President Perrin presents a flyer listing the jobs that Administrative Assistant Maribeth Alspach was doing. Town employee names are assigned to various jobs on the list. He wants everyone to go over the list and discuss at the February Council meeting if there need to be any changes. Council President Perrin would like to sit down with each employee and go over their new duties with them and re-evaluate in 6 months. He further states that he will be retiring April 1st and will have more availability to help the Town at that time. Public Works Superintendent McCauslin states that the things he signed up for are things he's already been doing.

ARP Money

Council President Perrin talked to Police Chief Joe regarding the department head wish lists for spending the ARP money. He informs Council that they will need to review the lists from the department heads and decide what the Town will do with the money. He suggests having a meeting similar to what we do during budget preparation where each department head shares their wish lists and gives explanations for their purchase requests.

Addition to WWTP

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock presents contract proposals from GRW, Curry, and Synthesis which would add approximately 1500 square feet to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This would add a conference room and an area enabling items to be moved out of the shop in the flood plain and up into the new addition, which is out of the flood plain. Ut Supt Gillock explains this is something he budgeted for and does not need to come out of ARP funds. The contract amounts are as follows: GRW-\$66,000; Curry-\$28,000; and Synthesis-\$58,881. He went through and read the contracts and didn't see any major differences. He further explains that this would move the breakroom up out of the shop and out of the flood plain as well. It's been flooded multiple times and could become a health issue. Council decided to add this to the February agenda for further discussion.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-18

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds, End of Year Transfer

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the end of year transfer ordinance that was signed on December 30th and presents it for ratification. Councilman Waltz moves to adopt Ordinance 2022-18 and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski moves to suspend the rules and consider the end of year transfer ordinance on final reading. Councilman Combs seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.** Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads the ordinance in title only for final ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2022-19

Transfer to Rainy Day Fund & ARPA

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the Rainy Day & ARPA transfer ordinance that was signed on December 30th and presents it for ratification. Councilman Combs moves to adopt Ordinance 2022-19 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski moves to suspend the rules and consider the transfer ordinance on final reading. Councilman Purdie seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads the ordinance in title only for final ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2022-20

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the final end of year transfer ordinance that was signed on December 30th and presents it for ratification. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt Ordinance 2022-20 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski moves to suspend the rules and consider the end of year transfer ordinance on final reading. Councilman Waltz seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads the ordinance in title only for final ratification. Councilman Waltz moves to approve and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Resolution 2022-05

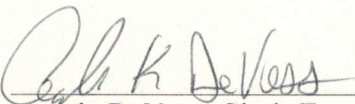
Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss reads and explains the resolution encumbering funds for all of the open purchase orders at the end of 2022 that was signed on December 30th and needs to be ratified. Councilman Combs moves to ratify Resolution 2022-05 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

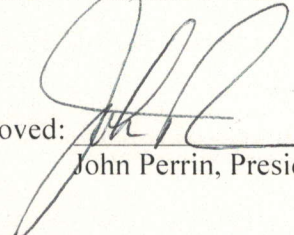
None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 

John Perrin, President