

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
DECEMBER 6, 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, John Purdie, Dennis Combs, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Combs offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Combs moves to approve the minutes of the November 1st regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the December 6, 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

Proctor Park Committee

Maribeth Alspach, Chairperson of the Proctor Park Committee, shares updates on the proposed project for Proctor Park. She presents the design plan that the Committee is recommending for approval. The proposed design includes moving the first responder's area to the front. So far the Committee has raised almost \$30,000 in donations. They are trying to raise \$50,000 however she is not sure if that will be enough. They hope to get more corporate sponsors however they need to be able to show them the design so they know what their money is going towards. She also states that the Proctor Park Committee has joined up with UpLift Johnson County, who has donated towards the project, and plans to hire a contractor who will oversee the project, taking that duty off Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin. UpLift will also create a Proctor Park Website to keep everyone updated on the project and donation totals. She asks Council to approve the design. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the design for the Proctor Park project that was presented this evening and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Maribeth Alspach also states that they are looking to create their own non-profit, Friends of Proctor Park. There are organizations that will give grants to non-profits and this could help raise more funds. If more funds are raised than needed, they would hold that money for future needs of Proctor Park. She is seeking Council approval to set up this non-profit. Council President Perrin notes that with regard to the 501c3 status for Proctor Park, the Town Council would still need to approve matters such as they did tonight with the design. Attorney Robbins states that a motion and vote is not necessary to set up the non-profit status. Council expresses their approval.

Maribeth Alspach asks if the Town could commit to roughly \$50,000 for the Phase II portion of the Proctor Park project which involves cleaning and sealing the existing monuments which have incurred visible wear over the years. Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that he has funds in his parks budget that he was supposed to use this year. That project fell through and that money is currently unspent. It would be enough to cover Phase II of this project. President Perrin states that we would need 3 quotes for the

monument cleaning and sealing and agrees to make calls this week to get other quotes to comply with the large purchase policy.

5:45pm – John Schilawski leaves

Councilman Combs moves to approve allocating \$50,000 from the parks budget to the best quote of 3 vendors pending phone calls Council President Perrin will make this week and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

JCPL Bookmobile

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin mentions an email that he sent to Council regarding the JCPL Bookmobile. They are looking at the 3rd Saturday of the month for a half hour at Proctor Park. They are open to visiting other parks in New Whiteland as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Administrator

Council President Perrin introduces our new Zoning Administrator, Tim Brown, to Council. He currently works full time for Bargersville doing commercial inspections. He was also recently elected as a Councilmember in Whiteland. Tim Brown wanted to introduce himself and also get some guidance from Council as to what they would like to see and what is expected of him. He has some ideas to help everything adhere to uniform standards and wants to do the best job that he can for the Town.

Disc Golf

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin had a phone call from someone associated with the Pro Disc Golf Association. They would like to have a Women's Global Event at East Park on May 18, 2024. Supt. McCauslin wants to ask Council how to proceed, what fees to charge, etc. He suggests that we charge the same amount that we charged State Rep. Michelle Davis for her event in October which was \$200. Councilman Combs moves to allow the event and set the fee at \$200 for the day and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Wessler MS4 Contract

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock presents Amendment #5 to the current contract with Wessler which will allow them to move into the next phase. IDEM is requiring changes to the MS4 program and Wessler has been helping us with compliance. Supt. Gillock asks permission to approve Amendment #5 with a do not exceed of \$12,300. He has money left in his 2023 budget and would like to allocate those funds for this purpose. Councilman Waltz moves to approve Amendment #5 to the Wessler contract and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Lawn Mowers

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that he planned to purchase 2 lawn mowers and has money left in this year's budget and would like to allocate those funds for this purchase. He presents 2 quotes to Council and reached out to a third vendor who did not respond. The best quote is from Premier Outdoor Power Equipment for \$12,879. He decided

to only purchase 1 lawn mower instead of 2 at this time. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the purchase of the 1 lawn mower from Premier Outdoor and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Annual Santa Parade

Fire Chief Dave Curin states that the Santa Parade will be on Sunday, December 17th. They are opening the station to the public from 5-6pm for pictures with Santa. Police Chief Rynerson mentions he will be having Cookies with Santa at the station on Friday, December 15th from 5-8pm.

Public Safety Panel

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss mentions an email she received from Davin Kolderup of the Johnson County Public Library. They are having a panel discussion about public safety on Saturday, April 27th at 2pm and would like to have representatives from the towns of Whiteland and New Whiteland and the Clark-Pleasant Schools. They are wanting Fire Chief Dave Curin, Police Chief Joe Rynerson, and one of the Councilmembers to attend. Council states they will see if John Schilawski would be available to attend the event.

Johnson County Church Event

Council President John Perrin asks Supt. McCauslin if he has talked to State Rep. Michelle Davis yet. She reached out to him and indicated that she would like to have another church event in East Park like the one she had in October this year. She would like to do it earlier in the year, on August 16th and have East Park reserved for that. Council would like to charge the same fee of \$200. Councilman Combs moves to approve and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

2024 Solar Eclipse

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin states that he attended a public meeting about the Solar Eclipse recently. There will be a lot of people coming to the area for that. He suggests that we not plan any events but try to have everyone available to manage what will already be taking place and keep everyone safe. Supt. McCauslin suggests meeting sometime after the holidays with the other department heads.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-13

2024 Salary Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents the 2024 Salary Ordinance on final reading. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2023-13 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Ordinance 2023-14

Trash Ordinance

Public hearing opened at 6:24pm and being no public here for this matter the public hearing was closed at 6:24pm. Attorney Lee Robbins states that earlier in the year the Town approved extension of the contract with Best Way. Notice was published for this meeting for Council to vote on a potential rate increase. There is discussion as to whether to increase the

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administrative fee of \$0.50 per household however Council decides to leave the administrative fee at \$0.50 for now and reassess an increase in the future if that becomes necessary. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2023-14 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. Ordinance is adopted by majority vote of Council.

Attorney Lee Robbins notes that we also need Council to authorize John Perrin to sign the new contract with Best Way which is the same as before except with updates to reflect the increase in rates. Councilman Waltz moves to authorize Council President Perrin to sign and execute the trash contract with Best Way for service beginning in 2024 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Ordinance 2023-15

Utility Write-Off Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents the Write-Off Ordinance which is an annual housekeeping item for the Town's records and bookkeeping. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2023-15 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. Ordinance is adopted by majority vote of Council.

Food Truck Ordinance


This item will be postponed until 2024.

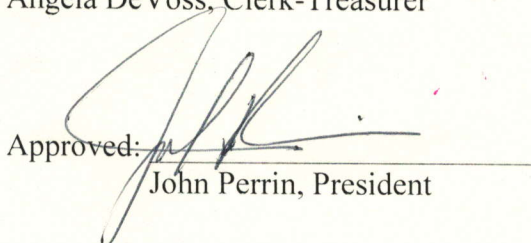
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President