NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2, 2022 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 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.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the October 5th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

PUBLIC HEARING FOR STORM SEWER RATES

Public Hearing opens at 5:01pm. Attorney Robbins notes for the record that no member of the public is present. Council President Perrin closes the Public Hearing at 5:02pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to MS4 Contract w/ Wessler

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock asks council to allow bids to open for updating the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) because of new regulations with IDEM. He will continue work into 2023 on hitting the dates that IDEM wants changes to take place. This would add an additional \$16,500 to the current contract. Tonight Superintendent Gillock is seeking approval to start bids and would generate a PO in January because the project is in next year's budget. Councilman Combs moves to go forward with the bidding process and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. Vote 5 affirmative.

Fire Chief Salary

Council President John Perrin notes that when Council made Dave Curin the new Fire Chief at the meeting on October 5, 2022, we did not address the business of his salary. Discussion took place regarding making his salary \$15,000. Councilman Purdie moves to make the Fire Chief's salary \$15,000 effective 11/1/22 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5** affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Holiday Schedule

Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss requests that the Town employees receive Friday, December 22, 2023 off next year since Christmas Eve is normally a scheduled holiday and it falls on a Sunday next year. Councilman Combs moves to approve 12/22/23 as a holiday next year and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Truck for Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that the Public Works Department is in need of a newer truck. He had taken a vehicle out of his budget this year and next year and there was discussion about taking it out of either the Rainy Day fund or Cum Capital this year. He had waited for the order banks to open and wasn't able to get locked in on a price.

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Superintendent McCauslin shares that he found a 2022 F250 at Andy Mohr Ford that is available right now. This would replace a 2010 Dodge 1500 that has increasing mileage and maintenance issues. The cost on the 2022 F250 is \$59,153. He called around to other dealerships and there wasn't anything else available at a better price that fits the needs of the department. This would come out of the Rainy Day Fund as a police car was recently purchased out of the Cum Capital Fund. Council President Perrin asks what they will do with the 2010 Dodge 1500 and Superintendent McCauslin states that it will be listed on Gov Deals and sold at its fair condition value. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the purchase of the 2022 F250 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-13

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents and explains the transfer ordinance to be considered on final reading. Councilman Waltz moves to adopt Ordinance 2022-13 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2022-14

An Ordinance to Increase Rates

Town Attorney Robbins re-explains where we are in the process of the PILOT program and introduces the suggested new rate of \$9.63. The current rate is \$7.50 per ERU. Residents pay one ERU and commercial businesses pay the amount times their total number of ERUs. An ERU is supposed to be equivalent to the amount of water a residential property will throw off and commercial properties usually have a number assigned to them. Utility Superintendent Gillock performed calculations, saving the Town around \$5,000, to find a reasonable rate increase based on several factors that affect utility prices. Attorney Robbins explains that by using the PILOT program (Payment In Lieu of Taxes), and having the utility pay the Town back instead of taking a loan, we were able to save the extra expenses of interest rates and other costs that would be incurred with a loan. Attorney Robbins further explains to the Council various payback options. Discussion also took place regarding the impact of a rate increase on local businesses. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the rate increase at \$0.50, making the new rate \$8.00 effective January 1, 2022, on first reading, and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. Vote 5 affirmative. This item will be on the Agenda at the meeting on December 7, 2022 for final reading.

Ordinance 2022-15

Annual Salary Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents and explains the annual salary ordinance to be considered on first reading. Councilman Schilawski moves to adopt Ordinance 2022-15 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.** This item will be on the Agenda at the meeting on December 7, 2022 for final reading.

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Councilman Dennis Combs spoke highly of the recent Trunk or Treat event at Tracy Plaza over the weekend. He said that everything seemed to flow very well. He suggested if they have this event again, the Town should have a booth there and also hand out candy.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:

John Perrin, President