

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
JUNE 7, 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, Chad Waltz, and Dennis Combs (arrived at 5:33pm). Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the May 3rd regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Purdie moves to approve the minutes of the May 15th special meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the June 7, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Wish lists

Fire Chief Dave Curin updates the Council with his ARPA wish list items. He has two of the three quotes on the vehicle. He is waiting for other items to be cleared before receiving the last couple of items. The turn-out gear is in progress.

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss gives an update summary of the Police Department wish lists and documentation of overall ARPA spending to date.

Surplus Items

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents the list declaring certain items or equipment surplus and allowing for its disposal on final reading. Being no further questions, Councilman Purdie moves to approve disposal of surplus items as listed and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

Best Way Contract

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin recommends to Council to extend the Best Way Contract as written. In addition, he proposes having the port-o-lets in our parks be serviced by Best Way. Attorney Robbins describes changes in legislation relating to trash contracts which relax the requirements for cities and towns, but not counties. Therefore, we have the opportunity to extend the contract that we have now without going through the formal bidding process. The contract we've had with Best Way has gone very well for the Town. Best Way Sales Manager Kim Schafstall is present and has proposed continuing the same contract with the same scope of service, with minimal price increase if we are able to renew our term for another four (4) years. Ms. Schafstall compares price increases in surrounding municipalities and notes that Best Way is keeping us at a much lower annual increase. Best Way will add a port-o-let clause providing two (2) port-o-lets at no charge to Proctor Park and two (2) at East Park at a discounted rate. Councilman Purdie moves to approve renewing the contract with Best Way and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 Affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Retirement Benefits

Amy Hauptert, owner of Midwest Deferred Comp Specialists, LLC, has been helping the Town with our government 457 accounts since around 2005. She suggests switching our current plan with One America, where it has been for fifteen (15) years, to Lincoln Life in Fort Wayne. She has been transitioning business from One America to Lincoln Life because One America is no longer selling

the 457 accounts and stopped servicing the accounts, which has resulted in several issues. These transitions have been smooth for her other accounts. Ms. Hauptert anticipates that at some point One America will sell off blocks of accounts. If that is done then there is a 120-day hold on the sold accounts and no one can touch their money during that time. She suggests being proactive and making a decision now before that happens. Councilman Waltz moves to authorize the transfer of accounts from One America to Lincoln Life and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Budget Assistance

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents a proposed contract from Janet Alexander of Local Government Services, LLC, for the purposes of training her with the Budget process for the 2024 Town Budget. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss notes that Ms. Alexander trains and assists forty (40) municipalities per year with their budgets and stays current on training by attending relevant conferences and webinars. Council President Perrin suggest that funds be approved for the training to not exceed the amount of \$2,000.00. Councilman Purdie moves to authorize using funds not to exceed \$2,000.00 for purposes of Budget training and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Cash Only Account

Council President Perrin is requesting that a resident be removed from Cash Only status due to the resident meeting the requirements of the policy. Documentation was provided to Council showing timely cash payments for the required period of time. Councilman Schilawski moves to allow resident to be removed from cash only status and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Camera System

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock conducts a power point presentation regarding closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras. He states it would be better to have our own system instead of needing to call a company every time a line needs to be inspected. It would help better maintain the sanitary and storm system, address recurring issues with backups, help zero in on repairs before digging, and pinpoint gas lines for heavy root cleaning. The cameras have locating technology to mark above ground. A private contractor costs around \$7.45/linear foot. With 119,000 linear feet of line in town, the cost would be \$0.73/linear foot if we had our own camera system. Supt. Gillock also points out that when we request a company to inspect a line, it can often take 7-10 days before someone can come out unless it is an emergency. Council President Perrin states that he would like to see more research. He would like Supt. Gillock to give 2-3 references of municipalities similar in size that are using a camera system like this.

2023 Health Insurance Renewal

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents the given options for employee health insurance. Melissa, Matt, and Duane had a meeting and went over all the options and it seemed like the best option overall was the renewal option with a 9.17% increase. If we switch away from the current plan, we would not be able to go back to it because we are currently grandfathered in. This is what has allowed us to keep our rates lower. On the dental and vision, Supt. McCauslin recommends alternative 2 which is a combined Delta Dental/VSP plan and would be a little better than the current plan. Any changes would take effect August 1st. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock asked why they couldn't receive the rates sooner and was told that the companies only have to give a 30-day notice on plan renewal options. Council notes that next year it might be helpful for the insurance rep to come in and explain the various options and be available to answer questions. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the renewal option for insurance with the 50/50 split and the Delta Dental/VSP dental and vision together which is alternate 2 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 Affirmative.**

Fire Chief Dave Curin mentions that the station has received training for the new Lucas device which is now in service. He asks if Council would be interested in a demonstration at the next meeting. Council says yes.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-05

Attorney Lee Robbins presents the ordinance approving the capital improvement plan on final reading and explains. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Ordinance 2023-05 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2023-06

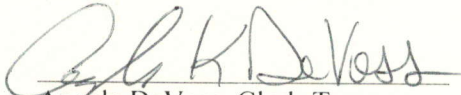
Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents the transfer ordinance on final reading and explains. Councilman Combs moves to approve Ordinance 2023-06 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

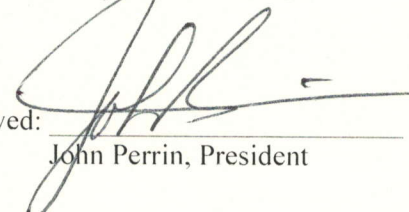
None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 

John Perrin, President