**The Town Council of Winona Lake, Indiana met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. – some attending in person, others by Zoom (video conference).**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Swaim, Austin Reynolds, Heather James

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT (ZOOM): Dennis Duncan

ABSENT: James Lancaster

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Allebach, Laurie Renier, Adam Turner, Joe Bumbaugh,

Tim Goshert, Holly Hummitch, and Mike Raymer

OTHERS PRESENT (ZOOM): Randy Rompola; Bond Counsel, Jaime Richardson, and Brandon,

Scruggs

**Opening –** Rick opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

* Rick called for additions or corrections to the August 16, 2022, regular session minutes and the September 14, 2022 executive session minutes.

Motion to approve both the August 16, 2022, regular minutes and the September 14, 2022, executive session minutes was made by Heather and Austin seconded. Hearing no additions/corrections, the minutes stand approved as presented.

**Approval of Claims**

* Laurie Renier, Clerk-Treasurer, requested approval for the amount of $22,796.60 for Lifetime Products for tables, chairs, and carts for the tables and chairs for the new pavilion. The company is requesting payment before they will place the order. Since the amount is above $5,000, Council approval is required. Austin motioned to approve the purchase as presented and Heather seconded. Motion passed.
* Approval for August 16, 2022, End of Month claims in the amount of $67,393.23 and

September 20, 2022, claims in the amount of $334,080.91. Austin moved to approve the claims as presented and Heather seconded. Motion passed.

**“Winona Happenings”**

* September 24, 10:00 am-5K Fun Run/Walk with Dogs in the Park
* September 24, 7:30 pm-Nocturnal Community Bike Ride at GHAW
* October 1, 1:30 pm-Jerry Franks Memorial Concert at Christ’s Covenant Church
* October 1, 8:00 pm-Symphony of the Lakes Concert at the Heritage Room
* October 7, 10:00 am-Fear is a Liar 5K in the Park
* October 15 & 16-Winona Lake Trail Fest at Hauth Trailhead
* October 29, 3:00 pm to 5 pm-Trick-or-Treat on the Trails, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm S’mores. Storytelling, bonfire, and The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown at dusk

**2023 Budget Review and Public Hearing**

* Brandon Scruggs, Baker Tilly, and Laurie Renier, Clerk-Treasurer, presented the 2023 Budget to Council for review. Laurie said the official adoption will be at the October 18th Council meeting. The 2023 Budget shows an increase of $43,119,972 in assessed value (20.68% increase). The estimated tax rate decrease is -.0470%. Brandon said this is a trend being seen throughout the state. We will be looking into pursuing the 3-year levy appeal due to the rapidly growing community. The appeal process would establish a permanent increase in your maximum levy. Regardless, you will still see a decrease in the tax rate due to the increase in the AV.
* Rick opened the Public Hearing for any questions or comments.
* Discussion followed.
* In hearing no further questions, Rick closed the Public Hearing.
* The adoption will take place next month.

**Ordinance 2022-8-1 Second Reading of Bond Ordinance**

* This is the second reading of the bond ordinance for the financing of the pavilion, which was first read last month.
* Heather made the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-8-1 Bond Ordinance and Denny seconded. Motion passed.

**Ordinance 2022-8-2 Second Reading of Additional Appropriation**

* This is the second reading of the additional appropriation ordinance for additional appropriation of the revenue bonds, which was first read last month.
* Randy Rompola, Bond Counsel, stated public notice for this ordinance was published and the proof of publication is on record with the Town.
* Rick opened the Public Hearing for any questions or comments.
* Hearing none, Rick closed the Public Hearing.
* Austin made the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-8-2 Additional Appropriation Ordinance and Heather seconded. Motion passed.

**Ordinance 2022-9-1 Vacation on Sunday Lane**

* Craig invited JT Jacobson to present his request for vacation.
* JT presented a petition to vacate a roadway near 1301 Sunday Lane.
* Rick opened the Public Hearing for any questions or comments.
* Linda Unruh requested an explanation of the request. Adam Turner stated that when any public right-of-way is vacated, it is divided in half and each bordering property receives the half nearest their property. Craig added that any public utilities, drainage, or easements will remain the unchanged. In addition, Linda shared concerns that her neighbor was on vacation and had not received the notice. Jaime Richardson, Attorney for the Petitioner, stated registered notices of this public hearing were issued timely. However, they would make no objection to postponing a decision if that is more agreeable to the Council.
* In hearing no further questions, Rick closed the Public Hearing.
* The matter was tabled until next month.
* Adam requested a diagram showing how the land would be divided if the request was approved. Jaime agreed to have a diagram available at the next meeting.

**Conflict of Interest**

* This is a conflict-of-interest form Jim Lancaster would need to sign in order to be involved in the operations of the pavilion.
* Austin made the motion to approve the conflict-of-interest form for Jim Lancaster, and Denny seconded. Motion passed.

**Pavilion Operations Agreement**

* This is an agreement between K&J Operations and the Town of Winona, for the operations of the Miller Sunset Pavilion at an annual rate of $152,000.
* Austin made the motion to approve the agreement between K&J Operations and the Town of Winona Lake, and Heather seconded. Motion passed.

**Report from Town Engineer**

Craig reported on behalf of Aaron who was unable to attend the meeting, he continues to work on the design standards and is working on the watermain at 250E and Pierceton Road which is projected to start around the 25th. He has also submitted a design for a sidewalk along 12th Street, is working on miscellaneous drainage projects, and working on designing a parking lot across the street from the Town Hall.

**Report from Town Attorney**

* Has been working on the ordinances presented tonight.

**Reports from Supervisors**

* Street Dept./Tim Goshert – Getting ready for leaf season. Tim thanked the fire department for coming out and assisting with the storm cleanup.
* Park Dept./Holly Hummitch – Our grant proposal to the Indiana DNR for the land water conservation fund grant was recommended by the state for $500,000. Although we will still need approximately $100,000, this will have a significant impact on the project. Kristie said they have met with the engineers. Seven items on the plan will be paid for through the land water grant, including the parking lot. Construction is scheduled to begin next March.
* Fire Dept./Mike Raymer– Have done two assists with Zimmer, housed a couple fire chief’s meetings at the station, attended the county fish fry, and have five members in classes. Annual ladder tests are completed for this year and roughly 88 children will soon begin classes on fire prevention.
* Police Dept./Joe Bumbaugh – Nothing to report.

**Additional Topics**

Rick reported we have been awarded $2,500 from the Community Foundation for a sculpture to be placed in the center of the round-about at Winona Avenue and Argonne Rd. Additional fund raising will be needed and more details about the sculpture will be announced later.

Craig shared the following tentative information regarding the pavilion:

* The bonds are expected to close, and the transfer of the property is anticipated to occur in October.
* Soft opening dates are expected in mid-October along with some VIP events and a ribbon cutting.
* A community open house is anticipated on October 21st.
* November 19th is planned for opening day of the pavilion ice skating season, which will probably be a free community event to skate from 12-8pm. The tree lighting will take place on this date as well.

Laurie shared the following information:

* Personalized bricks are available for purchase, which will be placed in the walkway at the front of the pavilion
* 4x8 bricks are $250 and 8x8 bricks are $1,000
* Bricks can be purchased at the Town Hall or on the website MillerSunset@winonalake.net.

**Floor Topics**

* Chris Bougie offered suggestions on the detour routes in place for the round-about construction.
* Clelda Benning reported a woman and a child knocking on doors at the condos asking for a blanket.
* Linda Unruh thanked the street department for helping to clean up a fallen tree.
* Terry White announced Christmas in the Village will be December 11th, at the Winona Heritage Room.

**Meeting adjourned –** Heather motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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RICK SWAIM LAURIE RENIER

PRESIDENT CLERK TREASURER