The Town Council of Winona Lake, Indiana met in a regular session on December 11, 2023, in the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. some attended in person, others by Zoom (video conference).

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Lancaster, Ashley McGinnis, Austin Reynolds, and Barry Andrew

**ABSENT**: President Rick Swaim

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk-Treasurer Heather James

**Opening:** Jim opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Barry said the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Heather stated minutes from the October 26 regular meeting and November 6 special meeting need approval due to date and language error in previously presented minutes. The date was incorrect on the October 26, 2023, minutes and the purpose of the November 6, 2023, minutes was incorrect. Both have been corrected and need approval with the corrections. Ashley made the motion to approve, and Austin seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of claims:** Heather presented the December 11, 2023, claims for approval. Austin made the motion to approve as presented. Barry seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing on Additional Appropriations:** Jim opened the public hearing. He read the request as published in the paper. Comments and questions were heard from the public regarding the need for additional appropriations. Heather explained the need exists because expenses were paid from those funds that were not originally appropriated. Jerry Nelson asked if the bond payment was for a firetruck. Heather answered it was a bond payment for the rink in the amount $610,000.00 in addition to some other expenses. There were additional questions and requests for more details on where the money had been spent. Jim called for any other questions or comments, hearing none he closed the public hearing.

EDIT FUND – 22100152.000 – Capital Expense $250,000.00

TIF FUND

4445001362 – Street Paving $130,000.00

4445001442 – Capital Expense $610,000.00

**Ordinance 2023-12-1 Additional Appropriations**

Due to unanswered questions and the request for additional information that Heather did not readily have available the council decided to table the additional appropriation. Discussion was had on when the council could revisit this ordinance.

**Resolution 2023-12-2 Christmas Bonuses**

Questions were asked including if the budget would allow for the bonuses and how much was available for this purpose. Also asked was which appropriation would the money come from. Ashley asked what the State Board of Accounts’ position is on bonuses. Heather answered there is not a specific amount budgeted for this purpose but there is enough money available for this purpose. She also stated bonuses would come from the same accounts where an employee is normally paid from. Heather said she did not know the State Board of Accounts’ position on bonuses but would ask. Due to these questions, Ashley moved to table this to the next meeting.

**Approval of Bonus for Park Director**

At the November 7, 2023, park board meeting, the board unanimously approved moving the $400 for a park board Christmas party to a bonus for Holly. They are requesting approval from the council for this bonus. Ashley made a motion to approve this bonus and Austin second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Floor Topics:** None

**Adjournment:** At 6:26 p.m. Barry made a motion to adjourn and Ashley second. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Rick Swaim Heather James

President Town Council Clerk-Treasurer