

**TOWN OF MUNSTER
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
JULY 5, 2016**

A special meeting of the Munster Town Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at the Munster Town Hall. Town Councilors Andy Koulourides, Lee Ann Mellon, David B. Nellans, John P. Reed, and Joseph A. Simonetto were present. Mr. Reed presided. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer David F. Shafer, Accounting Supervisor Patricia L. Abbott, Town Manager Dustin Anderson, Town Attorney David W. Westland, Chief of Police Stephen F. Scheckel, Sergeant Thomas Kuhlenschmidt, and Analyst Kate Lewis-Lakin. The news media were represented by Jim Masters of the *Post-Tribune*, and Mary Wilds of *The Times*.

President Reed began the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

GRADE SEPARATION UPDATE

Robinson Engineering representative Joe Nordman was not in attendance.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Carolyn Kritzer, 8617 Greenwood Avenue, suggested using the revenue generated from the new wheel tax to install curbs on Park Avenue and Greenwood Avenue to improve drainage. She also suggested straightening Park Avenue and the removal of a tree which is located in the middle of the road.

Mr. Bob Mravinac, 621 Cambridge Court #1D, spoke at the June 6, 2016 meeting and was present to provide an update on the situation. Mr. Mravinac expressed his satisfaction with the plans for landscaping the entrance to the development.

On Sunday, June 26, 2016 there was a shooting at the Jewel-Osco store parking lot. The incident happened immediately following the annual festival at St. Thomas More Church located across the street from the site. Numerous residents were present to speak about the incident.

Ms. Heather Levin, 10147 Devonshire Lane, expressed her concern about the St. Thomas More carnival including the escalation of violence each year. She noted that other events in Town do not have these problems.

Mr. Ned Jovanovich, 1820 Redwood Lane, stated he and his family moved to Munster from Chicago two years ago. He stated his belief that the church has a responsibility to the community and that it is inviting an undesirable element into the community and putting the residents at risk. He suggested moving the event out of Town or not allowing it in Munster. Mr. Jovanovich asked the protocol and procedures to ensure the event does not happen again in its current state and suggested another type of event to replace it.

Mr. Bob Cushing, 8003 Forest Avenue, opposed the festival stating it benefits the church and not the Town. He hopes the Town Council does something about it and keeps the Munster Police Department out of it.

Ms. Frances Zahariadis, 9939 Wildflower Lane, asked what the Council will do to prevent a recurrence and why no NIXLE alerts were sent.

Mr. Ed Pilawski, 8827 Madison Avenue, introduced himself as the Festival Chairperson of St. Thomas More and there were other Committee members present. Mr. Pilawski stated the Committee sees what is happening, who is coming in and that multiple meetings with the Munster Police Department were held prior to the event. He stated they want to be good neighbors, that the public's concerns are heard, and how the Committee will move forward is unknown at this time. Mr. Pilawski stated they will bring something that all can agree on.

Mr. George Zahariadis, 9939 Wildflower Lane, expressed his concern about the festival and the use of Community Park's parking lot. He asked who is paying for the damage to the parking lot caused by the spikes.

Mrs. Rosalynn Jovanovich, 1820 Redwood Lane, stated she and her family moved here from Chicago but would not have moved here knowing about the shooting. She expressed concern about the effects of the future resident pool and the need to be very careful if Munster wants to retain its reputation and continue to stand out from other communities. Mrs. Jovanovich stated the carnival was a good idea 25 years ago, but is now outdated. She suggested other family events that would better serve Munster as a whole.

Ms. Mandy Brunetti, 8315 Northcote Avenue, stated she has seen the festival deteriorate year after year. The crowd is too rough and is not contributing to the church fundraiser. Ms. Brunetti asked if there is a maximum number of people allowed at the site and questioned its safety observing the site is fenced in and too crowded.

Mr. Bob Cushing, 8003 Forest Avenue, asked the church to reevaluate the festival and to note that not all residents are church members. He suggested input not just from the church and the Town but from the residents as well.

Mr. Ned Jovanovich, 1820 Redwood Lane, stated if there is an event requiring a metal detector or wand, the event should not be allowed.

Mr. Mark Beetson, 1343 Fran-Lin Parkway, has children who he does not allow to go to the carnival. He stated there is no need to reevaluate, just eliminate it.

Mr. Don Kopenec, 10005 Ivy Lane, is a member of the Festival Committee. He stated that kids from Griffith and Highland attended and had a good time. Mr. Kopenec stated that wandering (metal detection by a hand-held device) is a sign of the times and that he felt safe with noting major happening at the festival. He noted the shooting took place after the festival closed and at Jewel, not at the festival. Mr. Kopenec stated the festival is a good service to the community and should not be closed.

Ms. Heather Levin, 10147 Devonshire Lane, stated her children are no longer allowed to attend.

Mr. Mike Dujmovic, 1833 Tulip Lane, asked if we know that the shooters came from the festival, that there is no good place to park, and Jewel should post signs prohibiting festival parking.

No one else rose to claim the floor, and the floor was closed.

President Reed and each of the Councilors made statements about the issue and informed those present that various forms of communication would be utilized to keep the public informed about the issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 6, 2016

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 20, 2016

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHER REGISTERS

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6P dated 06/17/16 totaling \$27,183.54

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6Q dated 06/16/16 totaling \$909.17

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6R dated 06/20/16 totaling \$26,106.93

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6S dated 06/23/16 totaling \$4,610,127.25

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6T dated 06/22/16 totaling \$1,354.75

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6U dated 06/22/16 totaling \$2,803.15

Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6V dated 06/24/16 totaling \$362,719.67
 Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6W dated 06/24/16 totaling \$293,983.95
 Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6X dated 06/27/16 totaling \$1,530.55
 Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6Y dated 06/30/16 totaling \$262,607.21
 Confirmation of Voucher Register #16-6Z dated 06/30/16 totaling \$16,670.54
 Approval of Voucher Register #16-7A dated 07/05/16 totaling \$98,622.01

WATER BILL ADJUSTMENT 2016-04 AND 2016-05

Staff received a request for an adjustment under the leak adjustment policy adopted by the Town Council on April 8, 2013. The customer has completed the required form and the requests meet all the criteria for adjustments as follows:

Adjustment Number	Average Usage	Actual Usage	Length of Time	Original Bill	Requested Adjustment Amount	Adjusted Bill
2016-18	1,000	20,000	1 month	\$ 58.90	\$ 49.60	\$ 9.30

WATER UTILITY WRITE-OFFS

Resolution 1745 outlines the collection policy to be followed for Water Utility accounts. In April 2008, the Town began using Trustmark Recovery Services to increase our collection efforts. Appropriate collection efforts were made for all accounts but not all were successful. It is unlikely that these receivables would be or could be collected. The following lists, by year, the amounts recommended for write-off.

2011	\$	4,083.31
2012	\$	4,050.81
2013	\$	6,977.70
2014	\$	<u>2,530.11</u>
	\$	17,641.93

Under Ordinance 1248, Town of Munster Water Utility records are excluded from disclosure. Therefore, a detailed listing is not provided, but is available to the Council at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Councilor Simonetto moved, with a second by Councilor Koultourides, to suspend the rules, waive the readings, and adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilors Koultourides, Mellon, Nellans, Simonetto, and Reed voted in favor; none voted against. The motion carried and the Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 1683: CHANGE OF ZONING FOR MUNSTER BUSINESS COMPLEX

Proposed ORDINANCE 1683 is AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF MUNSTER AND REZONING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT. First reading was scheduled for June 20, 2016 but was removed from the agenda without discussion.

The Munster Redevelopment Commission has applied for rezoning of the property commonly known as the Munster Business Complex located at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and 45th Street. On May 10, 2016, the Munster Plan Commission held a public hearing, adopted Findings of Fact documenting that the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) meets the requirements for establishing a PUD, and favorably recommended the rezoning.

Councilor Mellon moved, with a second by Councilor Koultourides, to hear Ordinance 1683 on first reading and set second reading for the July 18, 2016 meeting. Motion carried *viva voce*.

REPORTS

MONON BRIDGE DISCUSSION

Staff presented a memorandum submitted to the Park Board at their June 28 meeting. The memo details the history of the Monon Bridge interlocal agreement with the City of Hammond that was approved by the Town Council on January 28, 2013. Under the terms of the agreement, Munster agreed to pay half of the work on the Monon Bridge. The memo to the Park Board requested using 2015 Park Bond Proceeds to pay the \$373,173.03 invoice for the work. Council liaison to the Park Board asked that the matter be given to the Town Council for discussion.

Councilor Simonetto acknowledged the obligation to the City of Hammond and wants it cleared. He also expressed his hope that the Centennial Park litigation will cover the costs of repairs.

Councilor Nellans also wants the obligation satisfied and asked what the original funding source was as he does not want see it as an obligation of the Park Board.

President Reed stated this is an obligation of the Town and not the Park Board. He noted that the invoice was presented the current budget cycle and that payment may have to be deferred to the next budget cycle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Unless stated otherwise, all meetings of the Town Council begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall.)

The Town Council will hold regular meetings on Monday July 18, August 1, and 15, 2016. The Redevelopment Commission will hold regular meetings immediately following Town Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, and upon a motion by Councilor Nellans, with a second by Councilor Mellon, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

John P. Reed, President

ATTEST:

David F. Shafer, IAMC, MMC, CMO, Clerk-Treasurer