

**TOWN OF MUNSTER**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 21, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Munster Town Council convened at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022. Ordinance 1830 is the basis for holding electronic meetings. The announced meeting location was Munster Town Hall. Councilors, Staff, and the public had the option to participate via Zoom meeting technology.

Councilors Chuck Gardiner, Andy Koultourides, Lee Ann Mellon, Ken Schoon, and Steven Tulowitzki were physically present at Town Hall. President Gardiner presided.

Also present in Town Hall were Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Mis, Controller Patricia Abbott, Town Manager Dustin Anderson, Deputy Town Manager Robin Streets, Town Attorney Dave Westland, Fire Chief Mark Hajduk, and Superintendent of Operations Chris Spolnik. Munster Representative to the Hammond Sanitary District Mike Hawkins was present virtually. The news media were not represented.

President Gardiner opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**PRESENTATION BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ANDRADE**

Indiana State Representative Mike Andrade was in attendance to present congratulatory certificates to the employees of the Munster Public Works Department.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

School Town Representative John Castro was present with the new School Superintendent Bret Heller. Mr. Heller will begin his new role effective July 1, 2022.

**PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE**

Over the past year, Staff has worked with NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC. in the performance of a cost-of-service study. Presentations were made to Council by the consultant over the past few months at public meetings. Ordinance 1857 was drafted to adopt new water utility rates and related fees and Ordinance 1858 was drafted to adopt new stormwater rates and related fees. Each of these ordinances had first reading on February 21, 2022. The required public hearing and adoption are scheduled for this evening.

Once adopted, there will be a thirty-day wait before the rates can be implemented. This allows users the opportunity to prepare for the increase. If adopted, the rates will go into effect with the bills due June 20, 2022, which is for the water usage beginning on or about April 15, 2022. Subsequent rate increases will go into effect with the bills due in March for each of the next three years.

President Gardiner opened the floor for public comment.

There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was adjourned.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Town of Munster accepted public comment submitted both in-person and electronically. The public was informed, via the agenda posted at [munster.org](http://munster.org), that questions or comments about an item on the agenda were to be emailed to [danderson@munster.org](mailto:danderson@munster.org). Mr. Anderson reported that none were received.

Mr. Mike Dujmovic, 1833 Tulip Lane, had several questions about the proposed managed parking at Centennial Park. Staff explained that the Park Board approved moving forward, but there is no contract in place at this time. Mr. Dujmovic asked that something be done about the overflow of vehicles from Dairy Queen onto Ridge Road.

Mr. Michael Goepfert, 10380 Oxford Place, was present virtually and asked how the proposed paid parking at Centennial Park will impact Centennial Village and Cobblestones Park.

Ms. Kim Musch, 10229 Sutton Place, spoke of a recent accident involving a small child and a speeding vehicle. She implored the Council to take action to prevent future incidents. Staff explained the steps being taken to address the problem.

No one else rose to claim the floor.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 7, 2022

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHER REGISTERS**

Confirmation of Voucher Register #22-3E dated 03/10/22 totaling \$24,885.89  
Confirmation of Voucher Register #22-3F dated 03/10/22 totaling \$531,869.25  
Confirmation of Voucher Register #22-3G dated 03/11/22 totaling \$413,416.59  
Confirmation of Voucher Register #22-3H dated 03/17/22 totaling \$306,383.54  
Approval of Voucher Register #22-3I dated 03/21/22 totaling \$167,994.21

Councilor Schoon moved, with a second by Councilor Mellon, to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Councilors Schoon, Mellon, Tulowitzki, Koultourides, and Gardiner voted in favor; none voted against. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE 1857: SETTING WATER RATES**

Introduced ORDINANCE 1857 is AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE "A," A NON-CODIFIED PORTION OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, AMENDING FEES FOR WATER UTILITIES. This matter was the subject of a public hearing earlier this evening.

Lengthy discussion ensued. President Gardiner directed Staff to study the impact of a reduced sprinkler rate.

Councilor Tulowitzki moved, with a second by Councilor Schoon, to adopt Ordinance 1857 on second reading as presented with Option C. Councilors Tulowitzki and Gardiner voted in favor; Councilors Schoon, Mellon, and Koultourides voted against. The motion failed.

### **ORDINANCE 1858: SETTING SEWER/STORMWATER RATES**

Introduced ORDINANCE 1858 is AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE "A," A NON-CODIFIED PORTION OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, AMENDING FEES FOR SEWER AND STORMWATER UTILITIES. This matter was the subject of a public hearing earlier this evening.

Discussion ensued.

Councilor Koultourides moved, with a second by Councilor Schoon, to adopt Ordinance 1858, on second reading as presented. Councilors Schoon, Mellon, Tulowitzki, Koultourides, and Gardiner voted in favor; none voted against. Motion passed and Ordinance 1858 was adopted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GEOTECHNICAL MONITORING AND OBSERVATION**

Staff would like to engage Advanced Engineering Solutions (AES) to provide monitoring and observation of the Clubhouse for future movement. The work will be performed on an hourly basis and could be paid from the Park Fund 204.

Councilor Tulowitzki moved, with a second by Councilor Koultourides, to authorize the Town Manager to engage with Advanced Engineering Solutions for continued geotechnical monitoring and observation. Councilors Schoon, Mellon, Tulowitzki, Koultourides, and Gardiner voted in favor; none voted against. Motion carried.

### **AGREEMENT FOR TELECOM SERVICES**

Telecommunication company T-Mobile has approached the Town to upgrade some of its equipment currently located on the Fisher Street water tower. The Town wants to ensure the new equipment does not compromise the integrity, safety, or condition of the tower. Staff proposes engaging the telecom group at SEH engineering to review the proposed lease, site drawings, antenna information, and specifications.

Antenna site applicants are required by the Town to pay for the reviews and inspections up front. The payment will be placed in the Escrow Fund and will be used to pay SEH once the work is completed. A supplemental agreement has been prepared for a total of \$10,150.00. An additional \$800.00 for plan review iterations and \$1,000.00/visit for field observations will be charged.

Councilor Koultourides moved, with a second by Councilor Tulowitzki, to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a supplemental contract with SEH of Indiana, LLC in the amount of \$10,150.00 for telecommunication review and inspection. Councilors Schoon, Mellon, Tulowitzki, Koultourides, and Gardiner voted in favor; none voted against. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION 2092: MANAGED PARKING AT CENTENNIAL PARK**

Proposed RESOLUTION 2092 is A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGED PARKING AT CENTENNIAL PARK. At their meeting on March 15, 2022, the Park Board voted to implement a paid parking program at Centennial Park. This matter has been discussed extensively over the past two years and the Council wants to express its support for the decision made by the Park Board. Resolution 2092 has been drafted for this purpose.

Discussion ensued.

Councilor Koultourides moved, with a second by Councilor Mellon, to adopt Resolution 2092 on first reading as presented. Councilors Schoon, Mellon, Koultourides, and Gardiner voted in favor; Councilor Tulowitzki voted against. Motion carried and Resolution 2092 was adopted as presented.

## **REPORTS**

### **PORTFOLIO REPORTS**

This portion of the meeting has been added to give elected officials an opportunity to share news about the various boards and commission on which they serve as liaison.

President Gardiner announced the need for each of the Councilors to complete the required NIMS (National Incident Management System) training.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Unless stated otherwise, all meetings of the Town Council begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall.)  
The number of residents able to participate in person will be limited based on the Governor's Executive Order(s) in effect at that time.

The Town Council will hold regular meetings on Monday, April 4, 18, May 2 and 16, 2022. The Redevelopment Commission will hold regular meetings immediately following the Town Council meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, and upon a motion by Councilor Schoon and seconded by Councilor Koultourides, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. by voice vote.

**ATTEST:**

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**Chuck Gardiner, President**

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**Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer**